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DEPARTMENT OF  
WATER RESOURCES

Excerpted pages of the  
“Minutes of Meeting No. 4-72”  
(Idaho Water Resource Board)  
(Jun. 13, 1972)

CECIL D. ANDRUS, Governor



DR. ROBERT R. LEE, Director

BOARD  
JOHN F. STREIFF, Chairman, Lewiston  
GEORGE L. YOST, Vice Chairman, Emmett  
FERRIS M. KUNZ, Mompeller  
CHARLES J. MARSHALL, Jerome  
JOSEPH H. NETTLETON, Murphy  
THOMAS OLMSTEAD, Twin Falls  
SCOTT W. REED, Coeur d'Alene  
EDWIN C. SCHLENDER, Melba  
R. KEITH HIGGINSON, Boise  
Ex-officio Member  
(Director, Department of  
Water Administration)

## STATE OF IDAHO

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

STATEHOUSE  
BOISE, IDAHO 83707

**CONFIDENTIAL**

### MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 4-72

Idaho Water Resource Board

Twin Falls, Idaho

June 13, 1972

Meeting No. 4-72 of the Idaho Water Resource Board was called to order by Vice Chairman George L. Yost at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 13, 1972, in the Holiday Inn, Twin Falls. (Reel 75, Sides 1 & 2, and Reel 76, Side 1.)

#### PRESENT:

George L. Yost, Vice Chairman

Ferris M. Kunz, Member

Joseph H. Nettleton, Member

Scott W. Reed, Member

Charles J. Marshall, Member

Thomas Olmstead, Member

Edwin C. Schlender, Member

R. Keith Higginson, ex-officio Member  
(Director, Department of Water Administration)

#### ABSENT:

John F. Streiff, Chairman

#### STAFF PRESENT:

Director: Dr. Robert R. Lee

Counsel: Nathan W. Higer

Secretary: V. F. Sullivan

Other Staff Members: W. T. Haas, V. G. King, A. C. Robertson, L. E. Trumbull,  
W. P. Gotsch, M. C. Edson, W. D. Reynolds.

OTHERS PRESENT: Representatives of the Press; Clair Loosli, Bonneville Power Administration; Hal K. Hall, U.S. Geological Survey, Boise; Lee Woods, Department of Administrative Services; C. E. Brockway, University of Idaho; R. B. Porter, Utah Power and Light; Wes Coryell, Idaho Power Company; W. G. Jenkins, Oneida County Water Resource Board; John Rosholt, of Parry, Robertson, Daly & Larson, Twin Falls; Ella Nelson, League of Women Voters, Twin Falls; John Pastoor, and Elmer Parrott, of Salmon River Canal Company; and others.

On Thursday, June 12, 1972, the Board and Staff toured the Thousand Springs Area.

#### Agenda Item No. 1. Approval of minutes of Meeting No. 3-72 of the Idaho Water Resource Board.

It was moved by Mr. Olmstead, and seconded by Mr. Kunz, that the draft minutes of Meeting No. 3-72 be approved as circulated. Motion carried by voice vote; Mr. Streiff absent. (ATTACHMENT NO. 1.)

Roll call vote resulted as follows: Kunz, Aye; Marshall, Aye; Nettleton, Aye; Olmstead, Aye; Reed, Aye; Schlender, Aye; Yost, Aye; Streiff, absent. 7 Ayes, 1 absent. Motion carried. (ATTACHMENT NO. 4.)

Agenda Item No. 4. Development Program Status Report.

Tamarack Project.

Mr. King reported on the Tamarack Project which will be a major recreation development near Council, Idaho, that also provides supplemental irrigation water for approximately 4,000 acres. The application for an EDA Technical Assistance Grant for a feasibility study of this project was still in the EDA Washington office on June 2, 1972.

Snake Plain Pilot Recharge Project.

Mr. King reported that the Snake Plain Pilot Recharge Project, located near St. Anthony is the forerunner of a massive recharge project that will provide general public benefits. A contract agreement with the St. Anthony Union Canal Company on the Snake Plain Pilot Recharge Project was completed on May 3, 1972, and an agreement was also completed with William L. Roan on May 18, 1972, to do aerial topographic work of the recharge site. The water permit should be issued soon. A special use permit from the Bureau of Land Management for construction of the project is at the Idaho Falls District Office where it will be approved with stipulations.

Mr. Higginson stated that in the last Board meeting in Boise when the pilot recharge project was discussed, the Chairman seemed to be quite concerned about some prior studies that had been made of areas adjacent to the planned areas of study under the pilot recharge project. When he was asked if the Department of Water Administration has information concerning the infiltration rate in the general area, he said the Chairman seemed surprised that the information is available. For this reason, Mr. Higginson requested that the minutes indicate that the data he has are from a study made largely by Mr. Mundorff of the U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The study was made in about 1960, and two areas were studied—one is the present Egin Lakes, which all the Board Members have seen. The water level in the lake was determined, test holes were drilled, and the seepage rate from the lake was determined to be .256 acre feet of water per acre of surface area per day, which is therefore recharged to the groundwater system. A similar test was conducted by pumping water from a well just a mile or a mile and a half south of the proposed area of the Board's pilot recharge project. In that area, the seepage rate was .29 acre feet of water per acre per day. Mr. Higginson requested that the foregoing be entered in the record.

Dr. Lee replied that staff is aware of that data and, in fact, the test well is shown on the second chart, but we are concerned about whether or not the recharge rate would be the same for that area as for pond number one. The area is somewhat variable with fractured basalt and sands. One test well in the number two area cannot be relied upon to go ahead with any major structural investment in recharge facilities that might follow this initial, very small diversion into Egin Lake, and into the recharge pond.



Mr. Reed stated that although he had not attended the last Board meeting, based on the information contained in the minutes, he understood that Mr. Higginson felt the recharge project was a waste of money. He asked if this were still Mr. Higginson's view; Mr. Higginson replied in the affirmative.

Dr. Lee said he thought it best to ask why. Mr. Higginson said he thought we already have all the information to be gained by a pilot recharge project, and he did not feel that the Board should spend any additional public funds to duplicate the information we already have. Mr. King explained that as much as 85,000 acre feet in one year might be recharged through this pilot project and at the same time we would be able to gain some additional information which is needed and helpful in preparing for the larger recharge project.

Mr. Higginson said he did not intend to debate the advisability of the project—he only wanted to insert in the record the two figures that Chairman Streiff seemed surprised that we had. The information is a result of prior studies that have been made in areas adjacent to the one we have been talking about.

Mr. Reed said he did not intend to debate the advisability of the project either, but just wished to note again for the record, that in view of what Mr. Higginson has said, had he attended the previous Board meeting he would have voted against the project.

Dr. Lee said he thought it was important again, for the people to know the relationship of this recharge project to the Thousand Springs area and to the long-run picture of water management in the entire Upper Snake System. This really represents an alternative to capture waste water that is now spilling down the Snake—water that does no one virtually any good, and at this time it is causing a lot of damage downstream. It is an alternative to future dams in the area. The St. Anthony recharge area is tributary to the Thousand Springs, which has an important trout industry.

Mr. Marshall remarked that just because a recharge project works in one area, does not mean that it will work in all areas, because of obstructions, it must be tried in the respective areas.

Dr. Lee said if the project does not work out it means we will have invested \$2,500 of Board funds in the project.

#### Swan Falls-Guffey Project.

Mr. King reviewed the Swan Falls-Guffey joint-venture hydro-power project to be constructed on the Snake River Southwest of Boise. Efforts are being made to gather additional information needed to complete the environmental study by Utah State University, and the recreational study by the Parks Department is underway. The study is being made by a consultant, Don Partridge. The information required for the FPC license application will be prepared and the license application completed by December 1, 1972.

Legal action for testing the legality of the joint-venture contract with the Idaho Power Company, as questioned by the Attorney General's office during the past legislative session, will be ready for filing with the District Court about August 1, 1972, and a request to the Internal Revenue Service for a ruling on the tax exempt nature of the revenue bonds for this project will be ready by August 1, 1972.