

WATER DISTRICT 11
1999 ANNUAL MEETING
SODA SPRINGS, ID 83276
FEBRUARY 2, 1999

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FEB 08 1999

Department of Water Resources
Eastern Region

The meeting was called to order by Jerry Brown at 2:05 PM. Nominations were opened for chairman. Golden Keetch nominated Lee Ream. Seconded by Kelly Holt. Dean Mathews moved that we accept Mr. Ream by acclamation. Kelly Holt seconded and motion carried.

Mr. Ream opened nominations for secretary. Golden Keetch nominated Jerry Brown, seconded by Joe Larsen. Dean Mathews moved that we accept Mr. Brown by acclamation. Joe Larsen seconded and motion carried.

The minutes of the last meeting were read. Golden Keetch made the motion that we accept the minutes as read. Dean Mathew seconded and motion carried.

Pete Peterson, presented his watermaster report. In 1998 869,500 24 hour second feet of water was diverted from the system. This is 144,000 less than last year. 96,049 24 hour second feet of water was released from Bear Lake in 1998. 3,494 of this amount was charged to Idaho users. The cost in 1998 was \$37,379 or \$.043 cents per 24 hour second foot. The cost in 1997 was \$.036 cents per 24 hour second foot. Releases from Bear Lake started on July 16, 1998. Current lake elevation is at 5919.62. Last year at this time it was 5919.40. Maximum level occurred on July 12, 1998 and was at 5922.85. The low was in March at 5918.73.

Dean Mathews moved that we accept the watermaster's report. Seconded by Golden Keetch, motion carried.

Mr. Peterson presented the proposed budget for 1999 as follows:

Watermaster 104 days at \$27 per day	2,808
261 days at \$36 per day	<u>9,396</u>
Total	12,204
Asst. watermaster 240 days @ \$28 per day	6,720
Other expenses	<u>26,000</u>
Total	44,924

Joe Larsen moved that we adopt the proposed budget. Dean Mathews seconded the motion and motion carried.

Nominations were opened for Watermaster. Virgil Beohme nominated Pete Peterson, Golden Keetch seconded. Dean Mathews moved that we accept Mr. Peterson as Watermaster by acclamation. Joe Larsen seconded and motion carried.

Nominations were opened for Advisory committee. Virgil Beohme moved that we retain the same advisory committee as last year. Golden Keetch seconded and motion carried. Next years committee is Lee Ream, Dean Mathews, Kelly Holt, and Joe Larsen.

Carly Burton indicate that 1998 was a good year for runoff. Almost as good as 1997. The all time high level for Bear Lake is 5923.65. The high for 1998 was 5922.85. Operation of the system was driven by flood control needs. Nearly 1,000,000 24 hour second feet of water was available in the system after irrigation needs were met. Normally there is about one fifth of that amount. The current lake level is 4/10 feet above last year at this time. He expects flows to be more like normal in 1999. The power company is continuing to work on their FERC license. It should be ready for submittal this Fall.

Norm Young discussed the concept of conjunctive management. Surface water and ground water are interconnected. Management of our water must recognize this. He discussed the moratorium on new water applications. Pacificorp and the Bear River water users association have been appealing all applications. IDWR is trying to work on a management plan for the Bear River Basin to see if something can be worked out to the satisfaction of all parties. He also reviewed the method in which water would be delivered when an emergency exists. The state will hire a contractor to evaluate ground water this summer to determine usage and the effects on surface water. He reported that the 1997 legislature passed legislation which would allow water districts the option of assessing budgets for the upcoming year based upon usage the prior year. Currently our district assesses the upcoming budget based upon the actual usage for the previous year. Then a debit or credit (plus or minus) is applied to adjust the prior years assessment to actual usage. Under the new law the districts would not have the apply the debits and credits.

Pete pointed out that IDWR requires measurement devices on all diversions. He reviewed various options for those ditch companies that need to upgrade their devices. To purchase the equipment for 10 diversions it would cost about \$17,000. Norm Young indicated that IDWR could possibly loan the money. He will check and get information back to us. If we went this route the various ditch companies involved would be billed for their annual payment, including interest, by the water district.

Mr. Ream discussed that the Governor is about to appoint a commissioner on the Bear River Commission. Rodney Wallentine has been the commissioner in the past and has represented the interests of the various users well.

Dean Mathews made a motion that the secretary write a letter to the Governor supporting the re-appointment of Rodney Wallentine. The secretary would also request that if the Governor elects not to re-appoint Mr. Wallentine, that we would be given the opportunity for our input before an appointment is made. Pete seconded the motion

and motion carried.

Lee discussed his appointment on the Bear Lake Regional Commission. He encouraged attendance at the monthly meetings in Fish Haven on the first Wednesday of each month.

Virgil Beohme moved that we adjourn. Golden Keetch seconded, motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:23 PM

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