

WATER DISTRICT 11
2003 ANNUAL MEETING
SODA SPRINGS, ID 83276
FEBRUARY 3, 2004

RECEIVED
JUN 16 2004

Department of Water Resources
Eastern Region

The meeting was called to order by Jerry Brown at 2:00 PM. Nominations were opened for chairman. Lee Ream nominated Dean Matthews. Seconded by Kelly Holt. Pete Peterson moved that we accept Mr. Matthew's nomination by acclamation. Lee ream seconded and motion carried.

Mr. Matthews opened nominations for secretary. Lee Ream nominated Jerry Brown, seconded by Virgil Boehme. Pete Peterson moved that we accept him by acclamation. Kelly Holt seconded and motion carried.

The minutes of the last meeting were read. Lee Ream made the motion that we accept the minutes as read. Keene Rigby seconded and motion carried.

Pete Peterson, presented the watermaster report. In 2003 Bear Lake County irrigators were charged for 28,709 second feet, Caribou County irrigators were charged for 31,303 second feet, and Franklin County irrigators were charged for 30,729 second feet. Total charged to irrigators was 90,741 second feet. Pacificorp was charged for 453,912 second feet. total cost for last year was \$45,239.41. The cost per second foot was 8 cents. Irrigators were charged \$8,771 and Pacifcorp was charged \$36,468.

Keene Rigby moved that we accept the watermaster's report. Seconded by Connely Baldwin, motion carried.

Mr. Peterson presented the proposed budget for 2004 as follows:

Watermaster 106 days at \$33 per day	3,498
260 days at \$42 per day	<u>10,920</u>
Total	14,418
Asst. watermaster 160 days @ \$33 per day	5,280
Other expenses	<u>29,902</u>
Total	49,600

Virgil Boehme moved that we adopt the proposed budget. Keene Rigby seconded the motion and motion carried.

Nominations were opened for Watermaster. Connely Baldwin nominated Pete Peterson, seconded by Bill Robinson. Virgil Boehme moved that we accept him by acclamation. Keene Rigby seconded and motion carried.

Nominations were opened for Treasurer. Lee Ream nominated Jerry Brown and moved that we accept him by acclamation. Keene Rigby seconded and motion carried.

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

Mr. Peterson presented 4 year lake elevation statistics which are summarized as per attachment #1. He also reviewed a copy of a recent newsletter from the Bear Lake Watch, Inc. which are attached to the minutes as attachment #2. He also led a discussion on the priority dates and the procedures to be followed if a call on the river is made. He indicated that things could be ugly if a call is made.

Connely Baldwin representing Pacifcorp presented the information on the attached handout which is attachment #3. The allocation from Bear Lake this year is expected to be between 50,000 and 55,000 acre feet. This is about 1/3 of what was used last year. He suggested that the later we can wait to begin pumping the better. 133,930 acre feet evaporated in 2003. He indicated that the lake level could drop to below 5904 because of evaporation. All things considered it does not look good for 2005.

There were no representatives from the IDWR at the meeting this year.

Keene Rigby made the motion that we adjourn, seconded by Lee Ream, and motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM
wd04

Attachment #1

SUMMARY OF 1999 - 2003 BEAR LAKE ELEVATION'S

[1999]	Max. Elev.	Low Elev.	Elev. Change	Storage Gain
7-05-99	(5922.69)	4-01-99 (5919.02)	-3.67'	
[2000]				
5-22-00	(5919.78)	11-12-00 (5915.41)	-4.37'	+0.76'
[2001]				
4-21-01	(5916.71)	10-31-01 (5911.15)	-5.56'	+1.30'
[2002]				
4-21-02	(5912.20)	11-16-02 (5907.58)	-4.62'	+1.05'
[2003]				
5-28-03	(5908.75)	11-17-03 (5904.10)	-4.65'	+1.17'
<u>4 YEAR AVERAGE</u>			<u>-4.80'</u>	<u>+1.07'</u>

[2004]

5-02-04 {5905.17} 6-28-04 {5904.00} -1.07'

@ ELEV. 5905.17 there is 55,000A.F. of IRRIGATION STORAGE LEFT

2000 had released 55,000af of storage by 6-26-00

2001 had released 55,000af of storage by 6-20-01

2002 had released 55,000af of storage by 7-02-02

2003 had released 55,000af of storage by 7-10-03

4 YEAR AVERAGE for 55,000af of STORAGE RELEASE IS

{JUNE 28 }

ON THE LEVEL



Published by Bear Lake Watch Inc.

Winter 2004

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Years Past and Year To Come

As one year ends and a new one begins, it is a good time to look back and ask yourself "Have I done any good? Have I made a difference?" This applies to us as individuals as well as to us as an organization. Bear Lake Watch does not, and should not, exist just to be an entity that is self-serving or whos main focus is to perpetuate itself. Bear Lake Watch was organized for a worthy cause - "To Protect and Preserve Bear Lake." Have we made a difference? Are we closer to that goal?

With Bear Lake Watch now in its tenth year, we felt it would be a good time for a little retrospection. So, for the few who have been in from the beginning and for the many who have joined the fight along the way, we have provided a look back at what we've done. (Most of the following items are quotes from previous issues of *On the Level* with some editing for space requirements).

The Beginning: - "As the level of Bear Lake fluctuated over the years, many grew increasingly concerned as the severe drought of the late 80's and the early 90's sucked the waters down to near record lows. There are a lot of special people who love Bear Lake and a few of them gathered at Jerry Phelps's home in Garden City in the summer of 1993 to see if there was some way that they could help. Bear Lake Watch was born out of those discussions. One thing that we all agreed on was that we could not just sit by and watch the lake drop even further. We had to do something."

Merlin Olsen

1993 Summer - Legal Help Found and Group Formalized: The Boulder, Colorado based, Land and Water Fund (LAW Fund) offered to provide pro bono representation for the citizen's efforts to restore and protect Bear Lake. Bear Lake Watch was organized and ready to recruit members and take action.

1993-1994 - Making Our Voices Heard: Bear Lake Watch leaders pressed for forums and meetings to open up communications. Some included the Governors and leadership of both Idaho & Utah as well as with PacifiCorp and the Irrigators.

1994 - Video Project: Work was under way on a video, "A lake in crisis, the Bear Lake Story" which will help to define the problems facing Bear Lake.

1995 January - Lawsuit Has Impact: The LAW Fund lawsuit forced the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to suspend permission for the dredging of Bear Lake ... any dredging will now have to await the Corps' completion of the Section 404 permitting process.

1995 Spring - Progress: "The action is definitely heating up at Bear Lake, and I truly believe that our efforts are having an impact. For the first time in memory there is an opportunity for serious negotiations on a recovery plan for Bear Lake." *Merlin Olsen*

IN THIS ISSUE

Years Past

Bear Lake Settlement Agreement

Pumping Below 5904 ft.

Attachment #2 Pg 2 of 2

How Low Can Bear Lake Go?

(Pumping Below 5904?!)

Many Bear Lake residents, home owners, summer visitors and downstream water users have been asking if Bear Lake can be "pumped" below 5904. The quick answer is "Yes it's possible - and legal."

The more precise answer is contained in the Bear Lake Settlement Agreement signed in 1995 by PacifiCorp, the Irrigators and the Bear Lake Group consisting of Emerald Beach, Bear Lake East and Bear Lake Watch. Among the many other things that the agreement achieved was the formation of the Bear Lake Preservation Advisory Committee and a voluntary agreement called the Bear Lake Storage Allocation and Recovery Plan.

The Preservation Advisory Committee is the means by which all interested parties can have a voice in the use, operation and management of Bear Lake. The committee meets every year in March to discuss and resolve matters of mutual concern. It also establishes the "calculated elevation" of Bear Lake by adding the forecast storage runoff to the lake level as of March 1st of the current year. This calculated elevation then determines the Annual Irrigation Allocation.

The Storage Allocation and Recovery Plan conserves water in the lake by reducing the irrigation allocation when the lake level drops below 5914.7 ft. The further the lake drops, the more the irrigation allocation is reduced. For example, when the lake is above 5914.7 ft. the irrigators can request as much as 245,000 acre feet of water although a normal allocation is 230,000 af. At 5912 ft. (for the 2002 season) the allocation was 215,000 af. or 93 % of normal. Last year, in the 2003 irrigation season, the allocation was 181,000 af. or 79% of normal. Below 5904 ft. there is no irrigation allocation!

Has the Storage Allocation and Recovery Plan worked? You wouldn't know it by looking at the lake today, but without the plan there would, conservatively, be 4 ½ to 5 ft. less water in the lake. In other words, there would have been no water for irrigation last year! Between the recovery plan and the conservation efforts of the irrigators using less than their allocation, enough water was saved for a whole year of irrigation.

So how can the lake water be pumped below 5904? A theoretical situation and a few "what if's" will help explain. If, for example, the calculated elevation in March 2004 is 5906 ft, the irrigation allocation would be 104,000 af. This by itself would draw the lake down to 5904. The amount of water between 5904 and 5902, is reserved to allow for evaporation. In an average summer approximately 125,000 af. of water (equal to 1 ½ to 2 feet in elevation) will evaporate. The thing to remember is that Mother Nature **does not wait** until all 104,000 af have been pumped out to start the evaporation process. They happen simultaneously. Therefore the pumps could still be pumping the **irrigation allocation** after the lake level hits 5904.

There are a lot of questions and "what if's" when the lake gets this low. Hopefully we'll get a really good snow pack and a wet spring to bring the lake level up to where the irrigators will have enough water and the property owners won't have to worry about pumping below 5904 ft.

Attachment #3

**SUMMARY OF BEAR LAKE/BEAR RIVER OPERATION FOR 2003
AND PROJECTED RUNOFF FOR 2004
BASED ON FEBRUARY 2004 CONDITIONS**

2003 Bear Lake Operation

Low elevation (fall of 2002)	5907.58	November 2, 2002
March 1, 2003 elevation	5908.12	
High elevation for spring, 2003	5908.75	May 28, 2003
Low elevation for fall, 2003	5904.10	November 10, 2003
Bear Lake storage allocation	181,000	Irrigation allocation
Rainbow Inlet Canal (April-July)	10,446 Ac. Ft.	
Outlet Canal-period of release	May 29 to Sept. 21	
Outlet Canal total release	196,350 Ac. Ft.	
Outlet Canal storage release*	173,884 Ac. Ft.	

*Per State of Utah model amounts

2004 Bear Lake Operation

Bear Lake elevation Feb 1, 2004	5904.36	
Lake increase since fall low	0.26 Ft.	
Feb. 1 runoff forecast	29,000 Ac. Ft. (13%)	– April through July
Projected runoff-Feb. & March	18,000-25,000 Ac. Ft.	
Estimated High elevation**	5904.90	(includes tributary flows)
Estimated allocation based on projected high:	50,000 Ac. Ft.	

**Estimated high elevation is based on estimated February and March storable flows and forecasted April-July flows which must be bypassed downstream for irrigation