



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

900 N. SKYLINE DR., SUITE A, IDAHO FALLS, ID 83402-1718

PHONE: (208) 525-7161 FAX: (208) 525-7177 WEB SITE: www.idwr.state.id.us

EASTERN REGION

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor

KARL J. DREHER
Director

June 10, 2005

Jerry Brown, Secretary/Treasurer
P. O. Box 378
Soda Springs, ID 83276

RE: Water District No. 11

Dear Jerry:

We acknowledge receipt of the Minutes of the Annual Watermaster's Election Meeting held in your district. The Watermaster Certificate will be sent under separate cover.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dennis Dunn
Senior Water Right Agent

DD:jk

RECEIVED

FEB - 8 2005

DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

WATER DISTRICT 11
2005 ANNUAL MEETING
SODA SPRINGS, ID 83276
FEBRUARY 1, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Jerry Brown at 2:05 PM. Nominations were opened for chairman. Lee Ream nominated Bill Robinson, seconded by Pete Peterson. Joe Larsen moved that we accept Mr. Robinson's nomination by acclamation. Pete Peterson seconded and motion carried.

Mr. Robinson opened nominations for secretary. Lee Ream nominated Jerry Brown, seconded by Pete Peterson. Marc Gibbs moved that we accept him by acclamation. Joe Larsen seconded and motion carried.

The minutes of the last meeting were read. Paul Keetch made the motion that we accept the minutes as read. Don Harris seconded and motion carried.

Pete Peterson presented the water master report. In 2004 Bear Lake County irrigators were charged for 26,072 cfs, Caribou County irrigators were charged for 23,210 cfs, and Franklin County irrigators were charged for 19,565 cfs. Total charged to irrigators was 68,847 cfs. PacifiCorp was charged for 221,580 cfs. Total cost for last year was \$48,526. The cost per cfs for last year was approximately 17 cents. The cost in 2003 was about 8 cents. Irrigators were charged \$12,592 and PacifiCorp was charged \$35,930. For the previous year Irrigators were charged \$8,771 and PacifiCorp was charged \$36,468.

Lee Ream moved that we accept the water master's report. Seconded by Joe Larsen, motion carried.

Mr. Peterson presented the proposed budget for 2005 as follows:

Water master	105 days at \$34 per day	3,570
	260 days at \$43 per day	<u>11,180</u>
	Total	14,750
Asst. water master	160 days @ \$34 per day	5,440
Other expenses		<u>34,823</u>
	Total	55,013

Steve Meek moved that we adopt the proposed budget. Connely Baldwin seconded the motion and motion carried.

Nominations were opened for Water master. Connely Baldwin nominated Pete Peterson, seconded by Joe Larsen. Don Harris moved that we accept him by acclamation. Steve Meek seconded and motion carried.

Nominations were opened for Treasurer. Pete Peterson nominated Jerry Brown, seconded by Joe Larsen. Steve Meek moved that we accept him by acclamation. Marc Gibbs seconded and motion carried.

Nominations were opened for Advisory committee. Mark Gibbs made the motion that the advisory committee consist of Lee Ream, Joe Larsen, Dean Mathews, and Connely Baldwin. Pete Peterson seconded and motion carried.

Mr. Peterson presented a summary of Bear Lake statistics from 1999 through 2004. A copy is attached to these minutes. He also provided a memorandum and requested that the person responsible for each diversion contact him to

set up and appointment for him to inventory each diversion. The secretary was instructed to mail a copy of the attached memorandum with each water district billing. The last time the system was inventoried was in 1981. This process will serve to protect the water user's right. This will document the location of the diversion. Roger Warner (IDWR) indicated that this is something that is mandated by law. Connely Baldwin asked that a measurement be done by the water master at least every 6 weeks on unrated diversions.

Connely Baldwin reviewed the attached two page Summary of Bear Lake and Bear River Operations. He reviewed the charts contained therein which show the lake level, outlet canal flow, Bear Lake inflow, and Bear Lake net local inflow. He indicated that the State of Utah is moving closer to having their diversions monitored and usage documented. Mr. Baldwin also reviewed the range of forecasts of Bear Lake elevation and possible irrigation storage allocations. His information is based on the January 1st snow pack. The amount of the allocation will hinge on the amount of precipitation during February and March. The type of spring snow melt also contributes to what will be available. October 2004 rains have saturated the soil which should enhance the runoff.

Mr. Peterson feels that 2005 could be worse than it was in 2004. He bases his opinion on historical data for the past several years as well as data from the thirties when the Lake level and snow pack were similar to now.

Roger Warner discussed the need to have a biannual financial review when the budget exceeds \$50,000. We will need to budget this into the costs for the 2006 or 2007 budget.

George Ream has attended the Idaho Water Users Convention. He passed out the attached handout concerning the SRBA. He discussed the Snake River Basin Adjudication. Since the SRBA is winding down perhaps now would be the time for Bear River Users to begin thinking about and planning on having the Bear River adjudicated. The request must come from the water users through their legislators. This process would inventory all water rights in the basin and adjust water rights to historical beneficial use. The rights would be allocated by priority date.

Roger Warner stated that adjudication would adjust water rights to historical use rather than decreed right. It would also update the names of the owners of the right, set the location for diversion, and provide for the number of acres covered by the right. He feels that adjudication would be beneficial to the Bear River Users. He indicated that now is the time to begin the process as people are in place and experienced from the SRBA. He indicated that if the basin is adjudicated and someone failed to prove their right they would lose it.

George Ream suggested that everyone discuss this with their water companies and get the process started so that the legislature could be approached next year. He also reviewed the Nez Pierce agreement which basically is an agreement to mitigate the claims the Tribe put on all of the tributaries to the Snake River. They would give up their claim on the tributaries in exchange for 427,000 acre feet of water to flush the salmon to the ocean. This water would be purchased from willing sellers. George also reviewed an issue with modifying stream channels including placing structures, such as culverts, on streams that empty into the river system. This would include canals that empty back into the river. A permit is required before construction. One company on the west end of the state was fined for not getting the proper permit from the Corp of Engineers.

Bill Robinson the motion that we adjourn, seconded by Lee Ream, and motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM