

Water District 29-D Users Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2012

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Department of Water Resources
Eastern Region

The annual meeting of the Water District 29-D Users was held on March 13 at the Pocatello City Hall Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by current chairman, George Chandler.

George Chandler was elected to serve as chairman for this meeting, and Mary Spinner was selected to serve as secretary for the meeting.

The Advisory Committee members and the IDWR representatives were introduced. Tim Luke is the representative for IDWR, and the Advisory Committee members are Matt Rendace, Lyndon Smith, Eliese Teton (representing the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe), Joyce Rendace, Ethlene Rock, Dean Tranmer (representing the City of Pocatello), and Marshall Wheatley – Water Master.

Minutes: The minutes from last year's meeting were given to users in attendance, and time was given to read the minutes. A correction was made that Joyce Rendace's name was misspelled. A motion was made to accept the minutes as corrected and the motion passed.

Financial Report: Ethlene Rock reported there were \$16,280.28 in assessments, \$81.04 in late fees, for an income of **\$16,361.32**. There were expenses of **\$11,045.39**. There is an ending balance for 2011 of **\$8,309.00**.

Water Master Report: Marshall Wheatley commended the users in attendance for coming. He reported that most of his work this year had been on the Portneuf River from McCammon to Pocatello. Marshall said it was hard to keep up on changes of ownership. He said he also did some work with temporary permits. Marshall also reported he did research on water rights.

A question was raised on what happens to users who don't pay their assessments. Tim Luke stated they could have their water shut off or it could go to district court. The Advisory Committee had decided to contact owners/users. Tim thinks it mostly is ownership issues. There were 202 assessments. An option that was considered is that there would not be an assessment, but users would pay if they called the Water Master.

A question was asked about people who use water who don't have water rights. They can be sent a notice of violation. There is a penalty of \$300/acre. There are issues regarding junior water rights users and senior users. When there are questions, the Water Master should be contacted. Marshall said most of the users in District 29-D are pump users, and the cfs on the pumps need to be set correctly. The use on ground has to be consistent with the water rights. Marshall reported there was one illegal use in the Gibson Jack area. More calls are expected this year because it will probably be a low water year. The Advisory Committee recommended that the Water Master measure water routinely and estimate use.

Another question was asked if there has been any effort to measure sediment in the Portneuf River. The Water Master doesn't do this. Tim Luke said the DEQ might have sampling reports.

An additional question was asked on what the Water Master does until a metering system is established. Marshall said he documents his time. He also worked on diversion. Tim Luke said one of the reasons the water district was created was because there used to be a lot of calls and complaints. The Water Master was needed to help resolve disputes. The water district was also created because the Snake River Adjudication decreed the creation of water districts.

If water supply is over appropriated, it can be curtailed. If a water right is not used over a period of time, it can be forfeited, but use can be resumed.

If a user puts water in the water bank, the minimum assessment is still paid. Water can be rented from the water bank at a rate of \$14 an acre foot. The water supply bank is run by the IDWR. The state gets \$1, and the owner gets \$13. The water supply bank helps owners avoid forfeitures. Enlargements can be a violation. Some parts of the state have "storage water rental pools". Water in District 29-D is fully appropriated.

Presentation and Adoption of Proposed Resolutions: Tim Luke reviewed the proposed resolutions. (See attachments.) The resolutions were adopted. The 2013 annual meeting will be held on March 5.

Presentation and Adoption of Proposed Budget: Ethlene Rock and Joyce Rendace reviewed the proposed budget. They proposed a 12% decrease in the budget. The proposed budget would leave \$9,000.00 at the end of the year. Joyce and Ethlene explained the reason for the increase in the cost of bookkeeping and accounting services. This is due to the time involvement. The budget proposes income of \$14,080 and expenses of \$13,442.00. The proposed budget was adopted.

Election of Water Master: A motion was made and seconded to elect Marshall Wheatley as the Water Master again. The motion passed.

Selection of Advisory Committee: A motion was made and seconded to keep the Advisory Committee as it is. The motion passed.

Election of Treasurer: A motion was made and seconded to keep Ethlene Rock and Joyce Rendace in the position of Treasurer. The motion passed. Ethlene & Joyce work together. Both of them have authorization to do checks.

Other items of business: There were no other items of business.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.