

DRAFT  
Water District 27  
Advisory Board Meeting  
January 7, 2015 – 1:00 p.m.  
IDWR – Idaho Falls Conference Room

Chairman Bob Reid called the meeting to order @ 1:08 pm. Board members in attendance were: Bob Reid, Marvin Yancey, Trish Arave, and David Bollinger (BIA). Others in attendance were: Jami Farris, Brandon McKean, Clifford Buckskin, Lyle Swank, Wendy Murphy, Robert Keller and Craig Chandler.

The minutes from the January 7, 2014 Advisory Board were read by Wendy Murphy. The spelling of Trish Arave's name was corrected in the first paragraph. Marvin Yancey moved to approve the minutes as corrected; the motion was seconded by Trish Arave and the minutes were approved as corrected.

Lyle indicated 2014 was the first complete year of operating under the Blackfoot River Water Management Plan. The 2014 operations kept under the primary volume limitation and a summer intern was employed to assist with measurements. Lyle asked for feedback if improvements need to be made. Rob Keller circulated a summary of the Blackfoot River water right accounting. There was an issue with getting water to the lower basin around July 1<sup>st</sup>; the USGS had a poor shift that affected the online data of water flow. The management team is requesting more documented communication on the releases past Fort Hall North but also at the reservoir. David Bollinger recommended calling the office rather than a specific person. Mr. Bollinger also recommended calling Thursday for Friday changes. The Primary Volume was 35,336 acre-feet after reductions.

Rob Keller then discussed the options available for data collection for the district. The current budget of \$1500 only covers the replacement of the current pressure transducers in the field. Currently the pressure transducers need to be downloaded once a week and the data needs configured in the office for calculation of the average daily gage heights. Other options could include a device that would communicate to the water district office via cellular network and allow it to be published on the Water District 1 website for water user access. Both methods would still require a periodic monthly measurement to determine the gage height shift. A current transfer request by the Miner's Ditch would require the cellular device to be installed on the Corbett Slough. This would allow daily communication to coordinate the Corbett Slough and the Fort Hall North to improved water regulation to the lower Blackfoot area. A goal could be to replace units with the better system, one per year, at a cost of \$3500. The device last longer than the 5 year lifespan of the current pressure transducers. Bob Reid recommended bringing this up before the water users at the annual meeting with the boards approval.

Lyle reviewed the resolutions noting date changes from the previous year. The proposed budget for 2015 was also presented with increases in the Water District 1 Contract, and reduction in travel. The board recommended increasing the equipment expense from 1,500 to 3,500. The maximum minimum charge was increased in Idaho Code last legislative session. Lyle was

recommending a slight increase in the minimum to \$45.00. The draft final and proposed assessments were also presented, recognizing these will change based off the increase in the budget and potential water use changes. The board recommend presenting the proposed resolutions to the water users at their annual meeting.

Old Business:

Rob Keller indicated Bear Lake Grazing completed the head gate compliance at the beginning of 2014.

Lyle Swank indicated the district received a couple letters for the board's review. The first is from Linda Warburton regarding disputes on Sand Creek. The department recommends a lateral ditch organization be formed by the users to handle the regulation in the lateral. No action was needed by the board. Lyle read a letter from Vicki Enders Hansen regarding the 2011 water charges for their farm. Head gates were washed out due to record flows in the spring. She was petitioning the board for a credit on the water charges based off the washed out head gates and the flood waters that fed into the Blackfoot River. Marvin Yancey moved to credit Ms. Hansen the final 2011 charge of \$325.03. David Bollinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Rob Keller felt the head gate compliance was keeping Basin 27 within the Primary Volume.

New Business:

Lyle will provide a water supply report at the annual meeting but currently the Snow Pack is in good shape for 2015. Best shape since 2011. The Blackfoot Reservoir is 45% full.

It was noted a security check was started at the court house this year. Other locations were discussed for future meetings. Wendy would review the other locations and get information to the board.

The excess water use will be reviewed in the fall and determine if there is a cost associated with it. This money from excess use charges will be used to build a fund in case the equitable adjustment water is needed.

Marvin Yancey moved to adjourn, Trish Arave seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 3:03 pm.

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Wendy Murphy, Secretary

Water District 27  
Advisory Board Meeting  
September 4, 2015 – 1:30 p.m.  
IDWR – Idaho Falls Conference Room

Chairman Bob Reid called the meeting to order @ 1:35 pm. Board members in attendance were: Bob Reid, Marvin Yancey, Trish Arave (by phone), Mark Pratt, and David Bollinger. Others in attendance were: Tim Gardner (BIA), Lyle Swank, Robert Keller, and Craig Chandler.

The minutes from January 7, 2015 Advisory Board were read by Robert Keller. There was a brief discussion regarding the annual meeting location. Marvin Yancey moved to accept the minutes as read; they were seconded and unanimously approved.

Rob Keller indicated the Miner Ditch transfer is requiring a measurement device in the Corbett Slough to assist with water regulation of Fort Hall North. This would be the top priority for the first telemetry station that was budgeted to be put in. It will likely be installed in October at the location of the Corbet Slough. Because of accessibility, thought needs to go into the placement to minimize vandalism potential.

Rob discussed the primary volume and indicated that it is currently 36,537 acre-feet. He also offered two projections. The first projection assumes everyone continuing to irrigate as they currently are and the Fort Hall project irrigating until October 31, this projection would be 47,000. Since the project has not diverted beyond October 15 the second projection keeps the Northside users at their current diversion rate but the Fort Hall project stops on October 15, this projection is 44,730 acre-feet. Rob felt the projections were inflated and anticipated the primary volume to be closer to 40,000 acre-feet.

Questions were asked about the inflows. There has been regulation on Slug Creek. There just hasn't been the flow for the water rights on the creek. Other regulation occurred for water rights that end on July 1<sup>st</sup> and keeping water users within their season of use. Cedar Creek also had a low flow for 2015. If the water wasn't used by the upper water user the flow didn't reach the second water user.

Lyle reviewed the YTD Excess Use for the water users in Water District 27 as of September 2, 2015. He felt it would be good to discuss if there should be charges for excess use to build a reserve fund for potential future rental. A charge would also encourage efficient water use. Without continuous data, a water user data is interpolated between measurements. The water use is not averaged between days on and days off when compared to their water rights. It was noted to review the data for the Stecklein pump as it was more than their pump could divert. It was noted underuse was not taken into account when reviewing the overuse. The consensus of the board was to monitor for blatant abuses but currently there is no need to take action at this time.

Marvin requested that the website display measurements and shifts. Rob agreed and indicated that it would be possible to post them the same way that Water District 1 does. There was also discussion regarding forfeiture of water rights. It was also noted the typical timeframe the courts looks at for forfeiture is 5 years. Use also gets checked if a transfer is filed by a water user.

David Bollinger made a motion to adjourn; it was seconded by Mark Pratt. The meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.