

**Hearing Regarding the Proposed Revision of the Boundary for Water District 13M  
to Include Stockton Creek, Battle Creek and Cottonwood Creek**

**Franklin County Ag Extension Office, 561 W Oneida, Preston, Idaho  
July 30, 2014 at 1:00 pm**

**Summary of Testimony**

**Attendees:**

James Cefalo (IDWR presiding officer)  
Scott Blaisdell  
Ron Blaisdell  
Aaron Larsen  
Brent Hoffner  
Brad Shumway  
Miles Geddes

Clenden Christensen  
Vaughn Gregerson  
Paul Davis  
Lynn Davis  
Brent Abbott  
Glen Merrill  
Brad Linhardt

**Persons Offering Testimony:**

Ron Blaisdell  
Brent Abbott  
Miles Geddes

**Ron Blaisdell  
Blaisdell Cottonwood Grazing Corp  
3960 W 1000 N  
Malad Id 83252**

Ron: What our concern is, here you are going to form another district and bring another water district in. My concern is, I know a lot of the water rights are not updated. They are still in the old decrees and they've always talked about re-adjudicating the area. I've always wondered if some of the decrees are right. Because there is a lot more water on a good year up there, there are more shares than there is water. I think all of that should be straightened out before any of this is done.

We got our water rights updated and what was bad is when we went in and re-filed with the water resources we had about 6.0 cfs and when they got through with us we ended up with 1 ½ to 1 ¾ cfs because there was not enough water to supply everybody. I am pretty sure that was what was stated to us. Ever since, I have been pretty concerned that nobody has updated, a lot of them haven't updated up in that country and the water ain't there. I don't know where all this water is going. Right now, I know that in Battle Creek there is no water. That is one of my big concerns is getting things updated and getting everything done right, maybe it will be worth it, I don't know.

James: So you are with Cottonwood Grazing Corp.? Is that what you said?

Ron: Yes, I am the president,

James: You have irrigation rights then too?

Ron: Yes we do.

James: What is the priority date of your irrigation rights, do you know?

Ron: 1888 is the earliest.

James: That is a pretty good priority. You guys divert out of Cottonwood Creek presently?

Ron: Cottonwood, Shingle, Louis, we have 4 different diversions.

James: Do some of these other smaller creeks, are they tributary to Cottonwood, too?

Ron: Yes.

James: So you guys are probably up in the highest, the upstream part of cottonwood drainage.

Ron: Yes.

James: How do you guys do your irrigation? Is it mainly pasture, flood-type irrigation?

Ron: Flooding.

James: How long ago was it that you guys came in and updated your water rights?

Ron: 1995, when we formed the corporation.

James: So it's been a while?

Ron: That is a lot of our concern. I mean, they took a lot water. They wrote us a letter stating that wasn't right. And I know I have looked through the stuff. There is a lot of water up there on that map. That is about all I have to say.

James: Do you guys divert in either of those other drainages, in the Stockton Creek drainage or the Battle Creek drainage?

Ron: No. Ours all comes out of Shingle and Cottonwood, what goes down there. I don't know where that goes. They divert it in our field.

James: So you are right up at the main headgate for the Treasureton Canal?

Ron: Yes. Where they put the pipeline in.

James: Have you been regulated by the 13M Cottonwood Creek watermaster in the past?

Ron: Yes we have.

James: So you have been assessed and have been part of that water district up to this point.  
Okay, Good. Thank you Mr. Blaisdell, for your comments. The next person I have on the list is Brent Abbott. Mr. Abbott, go ahead.

**Brent Abbott**  
**PO Box 60**  
**Swan Lake, ID 83281**

Brent: I wasn't going to say a lot, I was not sure I was going to be here today, but I kind of wrote a letter. All I said is, I will just read it and leave it here for the record. I, Brent Abbott, live at Box 60, Swan Lake, Idaho 83281. I own 3.5 cfs water rights in Stockton Creek. I have them enclosed. All I say is I am very much in favor of the proposed combination of Water District 13M in Stockton Creek.

James: Okay, thank you. The last one I have is Mr. Geddes.

**Miles Geddes**  
**2806 W 7400 N**  
**Preston Id 83263**

Miles: I am the President of Strongarm Irrigation District. The other two directors are here: Clenden Christensen and Brad Lindhardt. So our total directorship is here today. Just like to go on record stating that we are very much in favor of this and appreciate the opportunity to become active with something that I feel like fits so well. I appreciate those who saw this as they looked at the Stockton, and, the way I understand it, looked at bringing Stockton Creek why not bringing Battle Creek in, which includes us.

One of the main reasons I am in favor of this and I don't think it would diminish anything in 13M as it exists, to it bring both Stockton and us in. I don't think it won't diminish them but it will certainly help us because we will then be getting put on record each year as to usage in the State Office. We have a lot of nice records that are in our secretary's desk and in our water master's pocket, and they are nice records. But, when things change, as they do, we won't go into any examples, but there are many in the life time I have had, those records they get lost. As a watermaster, I have been the watermaster for 13M for 6 years, I know what goes in to making that record, sent into the state, and it's record in the state and it's kept. It's on the record, which will prove the fact that we have actually owned that water, if there are any protestants in the future or anybody coming in. That is what I am excited about it. We have talked about it a little bit and getting active and stuff, just one of those things let's get active - oh no we have to go bail hay now. So, it's a great opportunity as far as I am concerned. That is about it, that's the way we feel. Strongarm Irrigation folks coming in.

James: You guys have a reservoir on Battle Creek, and divert Cottonwood Creek all the way down into the reservoir, too?

Miles: Some of Cottonwood Creek.

James: Are there diversions out of Battle Creek below the reservoir? Are you aware of any below the reservoir?

Miles: There's a couple that they are not in our district that are individuals. I assume they might be here today. They are clear down by the river.

James: Knowing the geography of the area like you do, how easy will it be for Cottonwood Creek watermaster now to extend to down into the Battle Creek drainage? Are all those headgates pretty easily accessible?

Miles: There are a couple that will be out of the way a little but, that would down by the river, it would Byven, and his neighbor, maybe Bosen. I can't remember, I am not positive exactly who has that little bit and who was down there. Except for them, it would be fairly good. Go up one canyon, down the other. Go into Cottonwood, you go through Stockton anyway and then you come down Battle Creek. It would really fit nicely.

James: Ok, is there a lot of diversion up stream of your reservoir in the Battle Creek drainage?

Miles: Brad (Shumway) lives there, there's not that many, are there?

James: A few?

Miles: I don't know, water rights, who's got any? Other than us, well you have one. We got one on Battle Creek and Brad's Creek both.

James: Ok, ok. Good.

Miles / Brad: That was one of the questions I had, Brad, sounds like you, well, I figured people probably pump out of that, the head of it. I don't think so, I don't know of any. Not that you know of.

James: Good, anything else Mr. Geddes? I appreciate the comments with all of you here.

# Persons Testifying at Hearing

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Ron Blaylock	3549 W 1000 N
Grant Abbott	Box 60 Swan Lake, Id 83281
Miles Hedden	2806 W 2400 N Preston ID <sup>83203</sup>