

MAR 11 2022

WATER DISTRICT #11 BEAR RIVER

Department of Water Resources
Eastern Region

Minutes of Annual Meeting

February 8, 2022 In Person and Via Zoom

Attending

Connely Baldwin
Alan Smith
Lyle Hoffman
Scott Hennings
Mark Mathews
Don Meek
Pete Peterson
Matt Curry
Buffy Morris
John Rowley
David Miles
Guy Robbins
John Jensen
Glenn Transtrum
Laurie Harris
Ethan Geisler
Michael Holliday
Josh Hanks
Austin Moses

Representing

Pacificorp Energy & Advisory Board
Cub River Irrigation & Advisory Board
West Cache Irrigation

Last Chance
Riverdale Preston
Double I7 Ranch
Bear River Small Irrigators
Pacificorp
Read Lane Irrigation
Last Chance
Thatcher Irrigation
Green Acre
Sorensen Ditch
Gentile Valley Canal
IDWR
IDWR
Water Master
Treasurer

Connely Baldwin opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. and asked for introductions, then nominations for meeting chairman. Mark Mathews moved to have Connely Baldwin act as Chair and Austin Moses act as secretary. Alan Smith seconded. Motion carried.

Austin Moses read a summary of the minutes of the February 2, 2021 annual meeting. David Miles moved to approve the minutes. Mark Mathews seconded. Motion carried.

Advisory Board Election. John Jensen moved to nominate Connely Baldwin, David Miles, Alan Smith, Lyle Hoffman, Keith Jorgensen and Laurie Harris to serve on the advisory board. Motion carried.

Water Master Election. Alan Smith moved to approve Josh Hanks as Watermaster. David Miles seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer Election. Mark Mathews moved to retain Austin Moses. Alan Smith seconded. Motion carried.

Josh Hanks presented the annual Water Master Report. The 24 hr/CFS usage was 90,613 with the cost of \$.13 per 24 hour CFS. It was a low moisture year with more storage used. The larger irrigators reduced their usage considerably which helped to reduce storage use.

Connely Baldwin reported on the distribution from Bear Lake with usage for irrigation and power supply. He noted that with the current level of the Lake and projected runoff the peak level will be approximately 5914.6 ft. Natural flow was very low with the Rainbow diversion at 23% of normal. The forecast for 2022 is that 218,000 acre ft will be available. The expected low point of the Lake this fall will be 5,909 ft.

Ethan Geisler made a presentation of the Bear River Water Right Accounting program that starts at the Wyoming border and goes to the Utah border. 2021 was the lowest year since 2001 but still is not considered a sustained drought. There was a lot of storage usage and an emergency was declared early in the season for the Central Division. Soil moisture is much better to start this year off therefore runoff should be better. Mark Mathews complimented Mr. Geisler on the timely response and water measurement accounting during last season.

Michael Holliday spoke about the commencement of the Bear River Basin adjudication which began last year. He reported that due to U. S Government intervention, the process was currently on hold since July 1, 2021. The adjudication may require that domestic and stock water rights be adjudicated as well as irrigators which is different than the Snake River Basin Adjudication. It is anticipated that an office will be set up in Preston. The State is currently posting job offerings for positions.

Financial results. Austin Moses reported that the District ended the year with \$25,154 cash in the bank with \$214 in assessments receivable. A small payable of payroll tax of \$70 is the only liability. The total expenses for the year were \$84,174. David Miles moved to approve the financial report. John Jensen seconded. Motion carried.

Budget. Austin Moses presented the proposed budget indicating that it showed an increase in salary and medical insurance of 5% for the watermaster. Assessments would total \$88,000. Austin noted that much of the telemetry equipment was approaching 10 years old and \$4,000 was put in to repair/replace that equipment. Alan Smith questioned if it was enough but it was concluded to replace it a little at a time with the \$4,000 this year. Alan Smith moved to accept the budget and proposed assessment. Mark Mathews seconded. Motion carried.

Review of unpaid assessments totaling \$214, noting that this was the lowest it had been in many years.

Next meeting will be held February 7, 2023 at 2:00 pm at Soda Springs City Hall if possible.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.