

1919



BUREAU OF WATER RESOURCES
WATER APPROPRIATIONS
CAREY ACT DEVELOPMENT

STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF RECLAMATION
W. G. SWENDSEN, COMMISSIONER

D. W. DAVIS, GOVERNOR

Idaho Falls, Idaho,

October 1, 1919.

Mr. W. G. Swendsen,
Commissioner of Reclamation,
Boise, Idaho.

Dear Mr. Swendsen:

At an open meeting held in the Court House at Idaho Falls on Monday, September 29 and attended by Messrs. F. A. Banks, D. H. Blossom and J. H. Thomson, the members of the special finance committee appointed by you to represent the water users of District No. 36, the Directors of the Farmers' Protective Irrigation Association and a number of representative water users from both the North Fork and the upper main river in addition to Mr. Epey and myself, a resolution was passed to the effect that it was the sense of the meeting that in view of the decreased need for irrigation water and in order to cut down the administration expense, the services of the river riders and deputy water masters should be discontinued at the end of September but that the services of the water master, Mr. John Epey, should be continued during such portion of the month of October as might seem necessary.

Following this meeting a circular letter was sent to representatives of the different canal companies in the upper valley. A copy of this letter is included herewith for your information.

Daily reports of the river situation will, therefore, no longer be prepared and during the next week the time of the remaining organization will be largely occupied with the preparation of such data as are necessary in order to prepare the annual report of the water master. Since the county commissioners of many of the counties meet and allow bills only once in three months, and one of these meetings comes on October 13, 1919, it is desirable that this report be prepared, approved by you and submitted to the respective counties on or before the preceding Saturday (October 11) as required by law in order that these bills may be acted upon and the money made available with which to reimburse the Normal Flow fund which was advanced by the two Twin Falls Companies and by the two water users associations of the upper valley. There is a large amount of work involved in the preparation of this report but if arrangements can be made to get quick action in your office, probably on October 10, or sooner if we can get it ready at an earlier date, I believe it will be possible to get it into the hands of the respective counties on Saturday, October 11.

I am writing this at this time in order that you may be advised of the urgency of this matter and may arrange to be in Boise either in person on that date or that you may specifically authorize Mr. Baer or some other deputy to approve this report when it is submitted, affix the seal of your department and otherwise legalize the approval as may be required by law.

In this connection, the special finance committee above referred to decided that an estimate of the Normal Flow portion of the expense of the winter organization consisting of Miss Klemm, Mr. Howell and myself and a few miscellaneous expenses should be prepared and that same should be included in the water master's bill or report for the past season, this amount to be payable to the State of



D. W. DAVIS, GOVERNOR

STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF RECLAMATION
W. G. SWENDSEN, COMMISSIONER

BOISE

BUREAU OF WATER RESOURCES
WATER APPROPRIATIONS
CAREY ACT DEVELOPMENT

W.G.S.—2

Idaho and later to be paid out on submission of proper vouchers in much the same manner as the stored water portion of the expense during the past season was handled. This decision was reached on the ground that most of the work of this winter organization would be the preparation of the annual report summarizing the work of the past season and in consequence, the expense belongs rather to this year's bill than to that of the succeeding season. The precedent for this action on a small scale was established during the year 1918 when the amount of \$250.00 was included in the bill to cover in part at least the cost of preparing the report for the 1918 season.

It is understood that the law does not specifically provide for any such procedure but since the arrangement appears to be just and apportion the cost against the interested water users in accordance with their natural flow diversions of the past season, it is believed that little objection will be raised on the part of any of the counties particularly interested. Should any of the counties, however, refuse to pay the bill on account of the inclusion of this item, they can still have no excuse for not paying the bulk of their assessment and such failure would only necessitate further arrangements on the part of this finance committee or specially interested water users to make provision for the advance of the necessary money to continue the winter organization.

Since under this plan, if no objections are raised, it will be possible as soon as the counties have settled their respective bills to reimburse those interests who advanced money for the creation of the Normal Flow Fund at the beginning of the season in full and further, since some delay will be avoided, in the completion of this program, I am proposing to suggest to the North and South Side Canal Companies that they settle their portion of the bill direct rather than submit it to the respective counties in which their headgates are located. I believe that both Mr. Wheelon and Mr. Shepherd will favor this plan. Should there be any objection on your part or should there be anything in the State law which makes the submission of this report direct to the county obligatory, please notify me immediately.

Very truly yours,

G. Ely de Baldwin

Special Deputy

CC :: J. R. Thomson
D. H. Blossum
Min. Project Mgr.,
J. C. Wheelon
R. E. Shepherd

Boise, Idaho.
June 17, 1919.

Re: District 36.

Mr. R. S. Wilkie,
Driggs, Idaho.

Dear Sir:

In reply to yours under date of June 14th will say that your interpretation of Chapter 236 does not seem to be correct. The Three Water Divisions of the state of Idaho were done away with at the 1915 session of the Legislature and individual divisions were made by this department throughout the state.

The Teton Valley is in District No. 360 and John Hagey of Idaho Falls was elected watermaster of District No. 36 at the meeting held some time in March. He has the authority to appoint deputies over the various streams coming within his district. If you find it necessary you may get in touch with him, either by 'phone or wire at Idaho Falls. We will gladly give any other information desired.

Very truly yours,

W. G. SWEDSON,

Commissioner of Reclamation.

By

SWB/MB
360 ✓

May 14, 1919.

Re: Water District 36.

Mr. D. H. Blossom,
Eccles Hotel,
Blackfoot, Idaho.

Dear Sir:

In order to facilitate the work of the Committee of Nine which has been appointed and which has already done some work in connection with the arrangement of the new department to handle the distribution of Snake River water in District No. 36, it seems advisable that a Committee of Three be appointed to be known as an executive committee, which committee will be charged with the duty of working out the details of this new arrangement and clothed with the power to call together the Committee of Nine for consultation on all matters outside of the ordinary work and which may involve the establishment of general policies. This plan seems advisable because of the difficulty in getting the entire committee together.

I have therefore, decided to appoint the following persons on this committee. Mr. Banks to represent the Minidoka and Milner Canal Systems, together with the various stored water interests, has been appointed a member of this committee and is made Chairman thereof. You have been appointed a member of the committee to represent the Protective Association and you are made ex-officio chairman. Mr. Thompson has been appointed the third member of the committee to represent the water users on the North Fork. These other committeemen are being this day notified by letter. I take it that Mr. Banks will communicate with you in the near future and arrange such meetings as he sees fit.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner of Reclamation.

WCH/MB
36

W. G. SWENDSEN

State of Idaho
Department of Reclamation
CAPITOL BUILDING
Boise

May 3, 1919.

To the Committee of Nine
Representing Water Users in District No. 36, State of Idaho.

Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of a copy of your letter of April 28 transmitting minutes of your meeting of that date in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

The plan and recommendations outlined therein meet with the approval of this office. However, upon discussing the matter with Mr. Baldwin, the following modifications seem to be advisable for the reasons stated:

(1) The fact that Mr. Baldwin is now employed as District Engineer of the United States Geological Survey should be utilized if possible to persuade the Director of that Bureau to establish and place Mr. Baldwin in charge of a new office of the Geological Survey located at Idaho Falls, Idaho.

You are already aware of the fact that the last Session of the Idaho Legislature appropriated the sum of \$20,000.00 for co-operative work in connection with the United States Geological Survey in doing hydrometric work on the various streams throughout the state, and that a part of this money is and will be expended on the Snake River. In view of this fact, it seems desirable that the plan outlined in this letter be adopted so that we might avail ourselves more directly of the information obtained through the expenditure of such portions of this \$20,000.00 fund as will properly be allowed to the Upper Snake River.

This plan would facilitate the desired centralization of supervision of water problems in district No. 36, would give all strictly hydrometric data obtained a better official status as permanent records and in addition should result in a slight decrease in the total net cost of the work to the water users through contributions of money, instruments, stationery, etc., from the funds made available for cooperative work in Idaho by the State and the Geological Survey. It would also make the organizations more flexible in regard to personnel and would doubtless eventually eliminate the necessity for office rent expense at Idaho Falls by obtaining quarters for the organization in the Federal building there.

(2) Referring to the paragraph of the minutes of your meeting relating to payment on a mileage basis for the use of privately owned automobiles: In order to avoid the difficulty and expense of purchasing cars for the official use of hydrographers it appears to me desirable to make the rate of reimbursement high enough to encourage these employees to provide their own cars. I have recently made some inquiries in regard to this matter and find that the average cost of operating cars (mostly Fords) including depreciation amounts to about 10½ cents per mile upon the Minidoka project of the United States Reclamation Service and to about 12 cents per mile in the use of the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Co. and about

C. of N. 5-3-1919 #2.

11 cents per mile in use of State of Idaho, Department of Reclamation.

I therefore suggest that you agree to 10¢ per mile as a uniform rate for reimbursement on account of the use of personally owned cars used on this work by either Mr. Baldwin or any of his hydrographers.

It should be understood that your plan for assessing the cost of this work against the different water users in district No. 36, including the water users on the North Fork, will still apply even though the strictly hydrometric work should be carried on under the supervision of the United States Geological Survey and that the total cost to the water users will not be materially different under either plan although under my suggested modification some saving should result and in addition it should be possible to have the Idaho Falls organization carry on practically all strictly hydrometric work in water district No. 36 which would not be possible under your original plan. It should also be understood that during the months of June, July, August and September, Mr. Baldwin would have to be furloughed from the United States Geological Survey in order to accept the appointment as my special deputy and thus comply with the State law regarding the transmission of stored water.

You will, of course, understand that if this plan is adopted the records thus obtained will become public records and will be kept on file at the branch U. S. Geological Survey office which this plan contemplates opening at Idaho Falls, in addition to being on file at the office of the Department of Reclamation at Boise, Idaho, where access may be gained thereto at any time by any of the interested parties desiring information concerning the same.

In order to avoid the necessity of calling a meeting of your committee and losing the valuable time that would be necessary in getting you together, it has occurred to me advisable that Mr. Baldwin arrange to meet each of the members of your committee for the purpose of thoroughly considering the final plan as now outlined and as herein suggested, and I trust that you will give Mr. Baldwin such time as is necessary to a thorough consideration of this matter and hope that the plan as outlined will meet with your approval.

This plan is acceptable to the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

Christian Anderson
WGS/MB

Parley J. Davis
Alfred Riets
J. Fisher
J. R. Thomson

W. H. Kelton
H. S. Shepard
H. T. Bank

Commissioner of Reclamation.

April 17, 1919.

Mr. John Pincock,
Sugar City, Idaho.

Dear Sir:

It is my understanding that you are an official of one of the Protective Water Users Associations in the Upper Snake River. I desire to notify you that there has been a meeting called at Idaho Falls on Wednesday, April 23d, shortly after the arrival of the morning train from the south, for the purpose of considering the matter of distribution of the Snake River waters for this season, at which time it is highly desirable that the various organizations interested in this matter be represented.

If I am correct in assuming that you are interested, I hope that you will be present and wish that you would be good enough to notify any other persons whom you think should be present.

Very truly yours,

WGS/MB
36

Commissioner of Reclamation.

Idaho Falls, Idaho, April 28, 1919.

36
Commissioner of Reclamation,
Boise, Idaho.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of the resolution passed at your meeting here in Idaho Falls on April 23rd, the Committee of nine appointed by the North Fork Protective Association, the Farmers Protective Association and the projects diverting below Blackfoot met here today and took action as set forth in the minutes enclosed.

On account of the fact that the proposed program follows very closely the system in force in the past, and in view of the fact that the organization and general scheme of management meets the approval of the associations represented, which associations comprise a majority of rights in each district, and on account of the expense of elections, it is not thought necessary to put this matter to a vote of the water districts involved.

Yours truly,

[Signature]
Secretary of Committee.

RECEIVED

APR 30 1919

DEPARTMENT OF RECLAMATION

Minutes of Meeting of Committee of Five appointed at State
Engineer's Meeting at Idaho Falls on April 28, 1919.

Idaho Falls, Idaho, April 28, 1919.

was
This meeting held in the Court House in Idaho Falls
on April 28, 1919. John Empey was appointed Chairman and
John Lee Secretary.

The representation was as follows:

J. T. Fisher	}	North Fork Protective Association
Alfred Rioks		
J. R. Thompson		
Christian Anderson	}	Farmers Protective Irrigation Association
P. J. Davis		
D. H. Blossom		
J. C. Wheelon	}	Minidoka & Twin Falls Projects
R. E. Shepherd		
F. A. Banks		

The call of the meeting was read by the Secretary.

Motion: by J. C. Wheelon; Second: by F. A. Banks. That it
be the sense of this meeting that the Commissioner of Re-
clamation establish a department at Idaho Falls and appoint
a competent engineer as deputy who shall be employed by the
year at a compensation to be agreed upon by this committee.

Unanimously carried.

Minutes - page 2

Motion: by E. E. Shepard. Second: by P. A. Banks. That the resolution passed at the meeting of April 23rd, be amended to read as follows:

It is moved and seconded, that a committee of three be appointed by the Water Users Association on the North Fork of Snake River, and a committee of three be appointed by the Farmers' Protective Irrigation Association, and a committee of three be appointed by the various Water Users, diverting water from the Snake River below Blackfoot, which committees, consisting of nine persons, shall devise a plan for a permanent organization, to handle the distribution of the water of Snake River and to collect such hydrographic information as would be necessary.

That a plan be formulated for this organization. The said committee will consult the various canal companies, and Water Users and their respective districts, and take such steps and action as may be necessary in securing the necessary funds in which to carry on the work.

After having devised such a plan, the said committee or committees, shall report their findings to the Department of Reclamation, together with a general plan for meeting the expenses of the work, and that the committee shall also recommend the name of some competent engineer to the Department of Reclamation, which engineer will be considered by the Commissioner of Reclamation, and if found satisfactory, the said engineer will be appointed to discharge the duties of Deputy State Engineer as now provided by law.

Unanimously carried.

Motion: by D. H. Blossom. Second: by J. C. Wheelon. That the organization for the distribution of stored and natural water

Minutes - Page 3

in Snake River be continued as in the past during the present stored water season and that the special Deputy and one hydrographer be employed throughout the year; the extra expense of such employment to be proportioned between the stored water and natural water interests in the same ratio as the cost of delivering stored water bears to the cost of delivering natural flow during the same year.


Unanimously carried.

Motion: by F. A. Banks. Second: by J. T. Fisher. That this committee recommend to the Commissioner of Reclamation that he appoint Mr. G. C. Baldwin as Special Deputy for Water Dist. No. 36.

Unanimously carried.

Motion: by F. A. Banks. Second: by J. T. Fisher. That the Commissioner of Reclamation fix the salary of the Special Deputy at not to exceed \$3600.00 plus his actual expenses when absent from Idaho Falls. It is understood that the Special Deputy will furnish his own automobile and will be paid at the rate of 7c per mile for the use of the car including all cost of operation and maintenance of same.

Unanimously carried.


Secretary of Committee.

May 14, 1919.

Re: Water District No. 36.

Mr. F.A. Banks,
c/o U. S. Reclamation Service,
Burley, Idaho.

Dear Mr. Banks:

Reference is had to the matter of the arrangement for the distribution of the waters of Snake River in District No. 36.

In order to facilitate the work of the Committee of Nine which was appointed to work out the details of a permanent organization to handle the distribution of Snake River water in District 36, it seems advisable to provide for a committee of three, selected from the nine committee men already in existence, to take charge of the practical working out of the details of this proposed plan and give authority to call together the nine committee men for a consultation on all important matters and matters of policy.

With this in mind, I am therefore appointing the following committee, to be known as an executive committee. Mr. D. H. Blossom has been appointed a member of the Committee to represent the Farmer's Protective Association on the Snake River proper, including the South Fork, and Mr. Thompson has been appointed a member of the Committee to represent the farmers and water users from the North Fork of Snake River. And you are hereby appointed a member of this committee to represent the Minidoka and Milner Canal systems, as well as the stored water interests, and you are hereby appointed chairman of this committee.

In selecting these committeemen, I have endeavored to have representatives from the various territories, and I trust that the men selected will be satisfactory to all of the interested parties and I hope that they will see fit to serve and lend their assistance towards successfully carrying out this plan.

It is my idea that one of the early and important details of this committee should be to arrange definitely the handling of the financial end of this work.

In order that funds may be available for the immediate needs of this new department, I have asked the Twin Falls North Side and the Twin Falls South Side Companies, each to advance the sum of \$2500.00, which sum will be credited to their account. I have reason to believe that this sum will be forthcoming without delay. Mr. Baldwin advises me that he will be able to take up his duties in the very near future.

Please advise me whether or not you will accept this appointment and perform the duties connected therewith.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner of Reclamation.

May 14, 1919.

Re: Water District No. 36.

Mr. J. R. Thompson,
c/o John Bapay,
Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Reference is had to the matter of the arrangement for the distribution of the waters of Snake River in District No. 36.

In order to facilitate the work of the Committee of Nine which was appointed to work out the details of a permanent organization to handle the distribution of Snake River water in District 36, it seems advisable to provide for a committee of three, selected from the nine committeemen already in existence, to take charge of the practical working out of the details of this proposed plan and give authority to call together the nine committeemen for a consultation on all important matters and matters of policy.

With this in mind, I am therefore appointing the following committee, to be known as an executive committee. Mr. Banks to represent the Minidoka and Milner Canal systems as well as the stored water interests, has been appointed as chairman of such committee. Mr. D. H. Elsson has been appointed a member of the committee to represent the Farmer's Protective Association on the Snake River proper, including the South Fork, and you are hereby appointed a member of the Committee to represent the farmers and water users from the North Fork of Snake River.

In selecting these committeemen, I have endeavored to have representatives from the various territories, and I trust that the men selected will be satisfactory to all of the interested parties and hope that they will see fit to serve and lend their assistance towards successfully carrying out this plan.

It is my idea that one of the early and important details of this committee should be to arrange definitely the handling of the financial end of this work.

In order that funds may be available for the immediate needs of this new department, I have asked the Twin Falls North Side and the Twin Falls South Side Companies, each, to advance the sum of \$2500.00, which sum will be credited to their account. I have reason to believe that this sum will be forthcoming without delay. Mr. Baldwin advises me that he will be able to take up his duties in the very near future.

J. R. T. 5-14-19 #2.

Please advise me whether or not you will accept this appointment and perform the duties connected therewith. Mr. Banks will undoubtedly call this committee together in the near future.

Very truly yours,

WG²/MB
36 ✓

Commissioner of Reclamation.

Kelly-
here to
back

AKB