

WATER DISTRICT #11 BEAR RIVER

Minutes of Annual Meeting

February 5, 2024 In Person and Via Zoom

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DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES
EASTERN REGION

Attending

Connely Baldwin
Alan Smith
Scott Holliday
John Rowley
Dave Bosen
Don Meek
Scott Rapish
Delyle Barrington
Keith Jorgensen
Alan Skinner
David Miles
Ethan Geisler
Heidi Smith
Kara Ferguson
Thomas Lafortune
Christopher Holmes
Jose Pacheco
Bryce Lamont
Janean LaMont
Paul Nelson
John Fuqua
Josh Hanks
Austin Moses

Representing

Pacificorp Energy & Advisory Board
Cub River Irrigation & Advisory Board
Water user
Read Lane Irrigation Co.
Preston
Riverdale/Preston
Nelsen Ditch
Nelsen Ditch
Last Chance
City of Soda Springs
Last Chance
IDWR
IDWR
IDWR
IDWR
IDWR
IDWR
IDWR
IDWR
Bear Grove, Lamont
Bear Grove, Lamont
Preston Montpelier Irrigation Co.
Water user
Water Master
Treasurer

Connely Baldwin opened the meeting at 3:30 p.m. and asked for introductions, then nominations for meeting chairman. Alan Smith moved to have Connely Baldwin act as Chair and Austin Moses act as secretary. David Miles seconded. Motion carried.

Austin Moses read a summary of the minutes of the February 7, 2023 annual meeting. Scott Holliday moved to approve the minutes. John Fuqua seconded. Motion carried.

Advisory Board Election. John Rowley moved to retain the current advisory board members to serve. Scott Holliday seconded. Motion carried.

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

Treasurer Election. David Miles moved to retain Austin Moses. Scott Holliday seconded. Motion carried.

Josh Hanks presented the annual Water Master Report. The 24 hr/CFS usage for irrigation was 90,550 and 540,374 for power generation with a cost of \$.14 per 24 hour CFS. Natural flow was good and runoff helped Bear Lake rise more than 7.5 ft. Only 15,400 acre-ft was pumped out of the Lake which will be a big benefit for the 2024 season. Keith Jorgenson moved to accept the watermaster report. Scott Holliday seconded. Motion carried.

Ethan Geisler of IDWR indicated that 2023 water rights accounting model started on July 11, 2023 and ended on September 30, 2023. 2023 snow fall was well above average. Storage use was well below the median which helped Bear Lake considerably. He noted that the outlook for this year is good with areas of snow pack at 109% of normal.

Connely Baldwin reported on the distribution from Bear Lake with usage for irrigation and power supply. He noted that present level of the Lake was at 5917.21 ft. There have been no flood control releases this winter and snow moisture is high also. No decrease in allocations for 2024. The pump storage project above Oneida and Cutler are progressing and information concerning this project is available at Pacificorp.com/storage.

Chris Holmes of IDWR reported that adjudication for the Bear River Basin is on track with commencement notices starting in March. Users will have 6-10 months to file a claim. The western side will start first, then the eastern. By summer IDWR will start examining water rights. Field exams may start this summer also. It is projected to take from one to three years to complete the adjudication and send to the court.

Financial results. Austin Moses reported that the District ended the year with \$27,122 cash in the bank. This is \$7,000 above the targeted reserve amount for the District. A small payable of payroll tax of \$80 is the only liability. The total expenses for the year were \$90,448. John Rowley moved to approve the financial report. David Miles 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. Also a new portable flow meter is budgeted at a cost of \$15,000 but the watermaster feels that it can be obtained for less than \$12,000. Assessments would increase from \$97,000 to \$108,000 in order to maintain the reserve and provide for the additional expenses. After some discussion, it was decided to reduce the budget by \$3,000 and assess \$105,000. Alan Smith moved to accept the budget and proposed assessment. John Rowley seconded. Motion carried.

Review of unpaid assessments totaled \$986, noting that three significant users had not paid in 2023. Austin and Josh will work on collecting this amount prior to the new season.

Other business: Keith Jorgensen asked Connely if the extra release through Black Canyon for recreational kayaking would take place this year. Connely responded that it would but the dates were not yet set. He noted that the extra release will not have an overall effect on the water available to irrigators. He also noted that the Company is studying the sediment problem through the Gentile Valley Canal.

Next meeting will be held February 4, 2025 at 2:00 pm at Soda Springs City Hall if possible.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:15 p.m.