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Department of Water Resources
Eastern Region

WATER DISTRICT #11 BEAR RIVER

Minutes of Annual Meeting

February 7, 2023 In Person and Via Zoom

Attending

Connely Baldwin
Alan Smith
Lyle Hoffman
Scott Holliday
Buffi Morris
Nolan Crowther
John W Rowley
Bill Robison
Guy Robbins
Trent Htie
David Miles
Ryan Merrill
John Jensen
Bill Henesh
Rusty & Wendi Young
Ethan Geisler
Heidi Smith
Christopher Holmes
Jill Woodhouse
Koby Allen
Bryce Lamont
Janean LaMont
Jason Westover
Paul Nelson
John Fuqua
Josh Hanks
Austin Moses

Representing

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

Pacificorp

Read Lane Irrigation
Black Otter Canal
Thatcher Small Irrigators
A & R Hughes Grazing
Last Chance
West Cache Irrigation
Green Acre

IDWR
IDWR
IDWR
IDWR

Cub River Irrigation
Preston Montpelier Irrigation Co.

Water Master
Treasurer

Connely Baldwin opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. and asked for introductions, then nominations for meeting chairman. Ryan Merrill 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 8, 2022 annual meeting. John Jensen moved to approve the minutes. David Miles seconded. Motion carried.

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

advisory board. Bill Robison moved to add Paul Nelson from the Central Division to the Advisory Board. John Jensen seconded. Motion carried.

Water Master Election. Paul Nelson moved to approve Josh Hanks as Watermaster. Scott Holliday seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer Election. Ryan Merrill moved to retain Austin Moses. Alan Smith seconded. Motion carried.

Josh Hanks presented the annual Water Master Report. The 24 hr/CFS usage for irrigation was 103,707 and 433,230 for power generation with a cost of \$.17 per 24 hour CFS. Natural flow was not good but early and late precipitation slowed the use of storage considerably. The flow model ran through the end of October in order to determine stock water usage. The Bear River Canal in Tremonton Utah continued to take water during this time. Two new telemetry stations will be added this year. David Miles moved to accept the watermaster report. John Jensen seconded. Motion carried.

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 is at 5913.69 ft. and projected peak level will be approximately 5914.3 ft. The forecast for 2023 is that 216,000 acre ft will be available. Current snowpack is at 145% of normal with average soil saturation.

Ethan Geisler of IDWR indicated that 2022 water rights accounting model started on June 11, 2022. Central Division water regulation started on May 6, 2022. Monitoring of the Bear River Wild Life Refuge usage continued through October 2022 since their water right stipulates through October. Only natural flow was used. He noted that the outlook for this year is good.

Financial results. Austin Moses reported that the District ended the year with \$20,490 cash in the bank. This is a decrease of approximately \$5,000 and is the targeted reserve amount for the District. A small payable of payroll tax of \$75 is the only liability. The total expenses for the year were \$92,941. Paul Nelson moved to approve the financial report. Alan Smith 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 increase from \$88,000 to \$97,000 in order to maintain the reserve and provide for the additional expenses. John Jensen moved to accept the budget and proposed assessment. Scott Holliday seconded. Motion carried.

Review of unpaid assessments totaling \$68, noting that this was the lowest it had been in many years. A credit of \$250 represents prepaid assessments by two users.

Other business: Connely noted that Pacificorp was researching and making application for the Mud Lake pumping project which would use excess power generated during low

usage times to pump water to a high lake which could then be reversed for power generation at peak usage times.

Chris Holmes of IDWR stated that IDWR has set up a Preston office to handle adjudication of water rights in the Bear River Basin. Notifications for water rights applications in the area north of Montpelier to Soda Springs have been sent out with initial filings due by October of this year. The next area of focus will be the Preston/Grace area starting next winter. Irrigators were told that they would need their service boundaries and irrigated acreage numbers for the applications.

John Jensen asked if the Utah action concerning the Great Salt Lake would affect water users of the Bear River. Connely responded that they are watching activity by the legislature and at this point it appears no action will come before 2024. It could affect the usage from Bear Lake if handled the way it is proposed.

Next meeting will be held February 6, 2024 at 2:00 pm at Soda Springs City Hall if possible.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:50 p.m.