

RECEIVED

DEC 20 1968

COMMITTEE OF NINE MEETING
Ponderosa Inn - Burley, Idaho
December 20, 1968

Department of Reclamation

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Chairman Graham.

Present were: Leonard Graham, Chairman; Al Peters, C. N. Scoresby, Leo Murdock, Lynn Loosli, R. Willis Walker, Lavon Christensen, Lester Saunders, Burdell Curtis and alternates, Clyde Greenwell, Leon Grieve for William Kerner, Glenn Simmons.

Representing Bureau of Reclamation: Glenn Simmons, Jim Skiles, Terry Gulley, Jay Cravens, Henry Eagle and Arthur Larson from Water District 36. Attorney, John Rosholt and Tim Hopkins, and about 20 representatives of waterusers.

Report of Power Loss Committee was given by Douglas Finkelburg. Report was adopted. Copy attached.

Terry Gulley reported on Reservoir and River operations. The snow pillow was moved from Glade Creek to Lewis Lake. A new metal pillow replaced the damaged Butyl pillow. A leak in the system will prevent receiving reliable data this year.

Gulley stated that increased in flow to reservoirs following August rains allowed storage in American Falls in August. Reservoir holdovers were large. Heavy releases have been continued thruout the fall at American Falls and Palisades. Water level at American Falls will soon be up to 8-foot level requiring further spill until after ice goes off. Copy attached.

Jim Skiles reported on maintenance work of 5-man reclamation crew. Work included: repairs to American Falls radial gates, maintenance and painting at No. 2 penstock at Minidoka, core drilling at American Falls dam, well drilling on Michaud Flats and building a pipe line, erosion control along American Falls shoreline, rebuilding stilling basin at Grassy Lake, repairs to concrete at Jackson Lake dam, cavitation repairs at Palisades.

Henry Eagle reported that as of this date, the outlook for the 1969 water supply is good. The reservoir carryovers in 1968 were among the greatest of record. Heavy fall precipitation has provided excellent ground moisture. Snow accumulation is probably normal or better.

Glenn Simmons presented budget estimates for reservoir operations for 1968-69. A copy is attached to original minutes. A summary follows:

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>1968 Costs</u>	<u>1969 Estimate</u>
Jackson Lake	\$31,950	\$39,400
Island Park	12,750	12,600
Grassy Lake	36,200	39,000
American Falls	37,050	29,000
Minidoka Dam	26,200	30,400
Palisades	35,650	32,100

1968

Weather prevented the attendance of Harold Nelson. In his absence, Glenn Simmons introduced the American Falls Dam report. Consultants suggested possibility of placing an earth fill section below present dyke section. Rebuilt section to replace present gate and spilling section. Bureau wants to submit revised suggestions to Board of Consultants. Such suggestion would be sent to this Board in the near future if it can be made available to continue the present study.

A general discussion on the subject of water pollution followed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m. for no-host meat loaf dinner

Meeting convened at 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Willis L. Burnham, District Chief, U.S. Geological Survey presented a proposed modification of the Aberdeen-Springfield Water-level Monitoring Program. The waterusers accepted the proposal. This will involve an expenditure of \$900 annually instead of the past \$1,500 or \$1,700.00. It involves a reduction in the number of wells observed, the frequency of observations and scope and frequency of written reports. Copy attached.

A motion was passed requesting the Bureau of Reclamation to make a filing with the State Reclamation Engineer for the Ririe Project.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

C. N. Scoresby,
Secretary

MINUTES OF MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF NINE

Stardust Motel - Idaho Falls

Aug. 6, 1968

The Committee of Nine met in executive session at 11:05 a.m. General meeting started at 11:25 a.m.

Present were: Chairman, Leonard Graham, Al Peters, Vice-chairman, C. N. Scoresby, Secretary, Doug Finkelnburg (for Les Saunders); R. Willis Walker, Clyde Greenwell, Leo Murdock, Lavon Christensen. Advisory members: Glenn Simmons, F. C. Gillette, Burdell Curtis.
From Bureau of Reclamation: Harold T. Nelson, Richard Lindgren, James Braman
Solicitors Office: William Burpee
Henry Eagle, watermaster, Arthur Larson, assistant watermaster
Attorneys: John Rosholt, William Holden, Tim Hopkins, Mary Smith
Idaho Water Resources Board: LeRoy Stanger, Robert Lee, Jack Sullivan
Idaho Reclamation Engineer: R. Keith Higginson
Russell Holm, Mike Beckman, Walter Chapple, Mert Gray, Kenneth Edwards, John Poole, Aden Hyde, Jake Isaak, Frank Brock.

Leonard Graham referred to recent news articles quoting Mr. Higginson as viewing irrigation practices in the Snake River above Milner as wasteful and out-of-date.

Harold Nelson presented a report "Status Report, Workings of Palisades Water Savings Agreement". (Report attached to minutes).

Glenn Simmons reported on a study of the allocation of costs of Palisades operations. The project office now has more authority than in former years to recommend division of costs. It is likely that the irrigation charges can be held to 23%.

The State of Wyoming is hosting the meeting of the Western State Engineers in September. The Committee of Nine has been requested to host a refreshment stop for this group at Palisades Dam on September 12.

Russell Holm will work with the Water District office in arranging for this affair.

LeRoy Stanger complimented the Committee of Nine and the Water District for their organization and methods of operation.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m. for a smorgasboard luncheon at the Stardust.

During the luncheon, Harold Nelson awarded a 30-year service pin to James Braman, Jackson Lake Reservoir superintendent.

Meeting re-convened at 1:25 p.m.

William Holden complimented the Bureau of Reclamation for the excellent status report presented at the morning session.

Mr. Holden reviewed the history of developments on the Colorado River and the progress of legislation.

The 10-year moratorium on studies of trans-basin diversions should give Idaho time to complete studies on future water needs. Time runs in favor of Idaho. Progress is being made in studies of weather modification, desalinization and determination of surplus waters in Northern California.

Leo Murdock moved that both the Bureau of Reclamation Status report and Mr. Holden's report be accepted and included in the minutes. Seconded by Gillette.

It was agreed that copies of the minutes be sent to the Idaho Congressional delegation.

John Rosholt explained that the Supplemental Decree for April 1, 1939 rights on Snake River ties down various matters that have been uncertain since the signing of the Palisades contracts. The watermaster will now have more definite guidance in the river operations. We still need to scrutinize present practices and be willing to make changes that will result in a more beneficial use of water. Mr. Higginson withdrew his intervention and objection to the above decree and they have now been approved by the Twin Falls court. Similar approval is expected soon in the upper valley.

Harold Nelson reported that work is progressing in obtaining data for the Board of Consultants studying American Falls Dam. Their report is expected in about 60 days. The Bureau of Reclamation will incorporate this report in the study now in progress and present a recommendation on American Falls Dam to the waterusers and to the State of Idaho.

Keith Higginson noted that he had withdrawn his objection to the 1939 decrees but had felt he should make a public statement to make his position clear. He now considers the matter closed.

Robert Lee stated that the Water Resources Board will be considering at early meetings the following: Salmon River and Middle Snake River; Lucky Peak-Twin Springs; Water Quality Standards; a proposed budget.

A comprehensive study of the Upper Snake River is planned. The cooperation of the Committee of Nine and Snake River waterusers is solicited.

Burdell Curtis moved that the Committee of Nine prepare a statement relative to the Bureau Status report and press releases concerning water practices in the Upper Snake River. Motion seconded by Walker. Carried.

The general meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

The following statement was approved by the Committee of Nine for presentation to the press. This statement was made in answer to a previous release by R. Keith Higginson, State Reclamation Engineer, charging that wasteful and outdated practices in the use of water were prevalent in the Snake River area above Milner.

Statement

Water District 36 which embraces that stretch of the Snake River upstream from Milner Dam has an enviable record among the water-users in the development and use of the water resources of that area. This unique history of cooperation has resulted in obtaining the highest benefit and most efficient use of the water resources of the district. Water users of the district have always welcomed and put into practice new methods and techniques for conserving water and putting it to the most beneficial use. The Board emphatically stated that under today's standards and practices, there is no wasting of our valuable water resources.

C. N. Scoresby, Secretary

STATUS REPORT

WORKINGS OF PALISADES WATER SAVINGS AGREEMENT

U. S. Bureau of Reclamation

Boise, Idaho
August 5, 1968

STATUS REPORT
WORKINGS OF PALISADES WATER SAVINGS AGREEMENTS

This is a status report on important gains in the efficiency of total water use in the entire Upper Snake River Basin through the workings of Palisades water savings and exchange agreements that were entered into by some 57 water user entities as a part of the Palisades Dam Project authorization package.

The report also brings out (1) the complex nature of surface-ground water relationships existing in the entire Upper Basin, and (2) the necessity for evaluating individual project hydrologic operations as part of an integrated whole. The characteristics of the Upper Snake River hydrologic regimen are unique in Idaho, as well as the Northwest, and without consideration of the above-listed factors, certain indicated diversions for the purpose of manipulating ground water levels may appear to be excessive when related to irrigation diversion in the traditional manner.

The Palisades Project was initially authorized in 1941 as the Palisades Dam Project by the presentation to the President and the Congress of a report and findings of feasibility by the Secretary of the Interior on December 9, 1941 (H. Doc. No. 457, 77th Congress, 1st Session), under the provisions of section 9 of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 (53, Stat. 1187). That finding incorporated the report of the Commissioner of Reclamation to the Secretary of the Interior, dated November 1, 1941. The supporting engineering and economic report of the Bureau of Reclamation was the product of investigations begun by the Bureau in 1932 to study means of providing urgently needed supplemental storage in the Upper Snake River Valley.

The report of the Commissioner of Reclamation to the Secretary of the Interior, noted above, stated that the success of the Palisades Reservoir would depend on the conservation of 135,000 acre-feet of water annually then being lost to the reservoir system because of winter diversions for stock and domestic purposes. The Bureau of the Budget, speaking for the President, approved the project with the reservation that submission of estimates of appropriations needed for construction be withheld until local interests had given satisfactory assurance to the Secretary of the Interior that winter diversions in certain areas above American Falls Dam would be eliminated.

A thorough investigation of water uses and requirements in the Upper Snake River Valley was made by the Bureau of Reclamation during the 1940's subsequent to the time the project was first authorized. The primary purpose of this investigation was to provide factual information to serve as a basis for the negotiation of agreements with water users of the Valley covering the elimination of water loss caused principally by winter operation of canals. An associated objective was to gather factual material from which to determine a proper distribution of the 433,593 acre-feet of reserved space in American Falls Reservoir. When the American Falls Reservoir, 120 miles downstream from Palisades, on the main stem of the Snake, was completed in 1927, the contemplated use of that space was for new land developments. For a number of years shortly following completion of American Falls Dam, the reservoir failed to fill because of an unprecedented drought. The reserved space was, therefore, leased to existing water users.

A report covering the results of the above investigation, entitled "Water Supply for Palisades Reservoir Project, Idaho" (Project Planning Report No. 1-5.17-1), was issued by the Bureau of Reclamation in October 1946. The report presented the results of extensive water supply studies of the Upper Snake River Valley, together with a proposed winter water-saving program and a plan for development of new land. After the issuance of this report, the Bureau of Reclamation carried on lengthy negotiations with the water users in an effort to obtain the maximum possible conservation of water and also to obtain agreement as to an equitable distribution of the reserved space in American Falls Reservoir.

The practice of diverting water into the canals in winter for stock and domestic purposes, established many years ago, was deep rooted and difficult to alter. Various proposals were made by the United States, out of which a compromise evolved. The compromise involved these principal points: (1) the elimination by the water users at their own expense of winter diversions in order to conserve water for storage in Palisades and American Falls Reservoirs; (2) the curtailment of the use of water for power generation at Minidoka Dam for the financial account of the Minidoka Project to conserve additional water for storage in American Falls, Island Park, and Palisades Reservoirs; (3) the coordinated operation of the reservoir system for maximum storage water yields; (4) the establishment of uniform storage holdover privileges in all reservoirs; (5) a permanent exchange of contract storage rights between American Falls and Jackson Lake Reservoirs to reduce storage delivery losses; (6) the distribution of American Falls Reservoir space as follows: 315,000 acre-feet to existing lessees, 47,593 acre-feet to the North Side Pumping Division of the

Minidoka Project, and 71,000 acre-feet to the Michaud area; (7) the recognition of existing rights to the diversions made during periods of flood flow; (8) the commitment of Palisades users to allow that reservoir to be pooled with the next 300,000 acre-feet of storage added to the system; and (9) the clarification of storage and diversion rights in connection with American Falls Reservoir.

The winter water-saving program involves the elimination of the long-standing practice of supplying domestic and stock water to farmsteads by operating irrigation canal systems throughout the year. A substantial portion of the water diverted into the canals during the winter percolates to the underlying groundwater reservoir which is not tributary to the Snake River above Milner Dam. Hence, the elimination of winter seepage losses from the canals in such nontributary areas increases the amount of water available for storage. State of Idaho water rights to divert water in winter for stock and domestic purposes were clearly established by actual use over many years. Reliance on the canals for domestic and stock water was continued for many years because of the high cost of drilling deep wells and pumping water from them and because it is more convenient to water livestock from canals than from wells. Furthermore, there was no real incentive to save water until Palisades Reservoir was constructed on the Snake River because the water would otherwise spill past Milner Dam. Since the water users involved in the winter water-saving program incurred considerable expense in equipping their farmsteads with wells and lost the convenience of watering livestock from canals, it was understood among all prospective participants that those water users who make possible the saving would be entitled to a special right to store the saved water to the extent required to fill their share of the storage capacity in American Falls and Palisades Reservoirs.

By coordinating the operation of all reservoirs in the system, the maximum volume of storage water can be carried over in the reservoir system from wet cycles to dry cycles. The amount of that carryover is substantially greater than would be the case if Palisades were operated independently from the existing system. Through this coordination, Jackson Lake can be operated primarily as a holdover reservoir, and only limited irrigation water is drawn from it until Palisades Reservoir has been emptied. The additional, usable return flow made available from application of this holdover storage will augment further the supply of irrigation water during drought periods. Operation studies of the reservoir system, taking account of these factors, show that storage in Palisades Reservoir and the elimination of winter diversions and curtailment of power at Minidoka Dam would have made enough additional water available to eliminate all shortages on existing projects during the past 79 years, except those in the extremely

dry years of 1934 and 1935. Even in those years, however, an appreciable reduction would have been made in the shortages.

Resolutions giving assurance that the water users would agree to water saving provisions which would satisfy the conditions of the authorizing document for Palisades Dam were obtained in 1949 from the governing bodies of the interested water user groups. On the basis of these resolutions some preliminary construction contracts were executed late in fiscal year 1949. In the early 1950's, these resolutions were confirmed by formal contracts with the water users. Over 50 contracts, generally referred to as the "Palisades Contracts," were negotiated over a period of several years. In addition to the annual water saving of 135,000 acre-feet, established as a prerequisite to the beginning of construction of Palisades Dam, these contracts provide a basis for possible maximum annual savings of 276,000 acre-feet by curtailment of winter diversions by canals diverting at Milner Dam.

Under the contracts each of 41 irrigation districts and companies agreed to eliminate winter diversions for a period of 150 consecutive days during the November 1 through April 30 period each year. The estimated average annual saving from such curtailment is 143,000 acre-feet, of which 135,000 acre-feet is attributable to curtailment by canals above American Falls Dam and 8,000 acre-feet by those diverting below that point. Under the contracts, such curtailment was to begin with the 1958-1959 storage season. Partial curtailment of winter diversions actually began 4 or 5 years prior to this time and increased gradually throughout this period. The full annual saving of 143,000 acre-feet has been accomplished each storage season, beginning with the 1958-1959 storage season.

In addition to the mandatory annual savings of 143,000 acre-feet above, the contracts provide a basis for an additional savings by curtailment of winter diversions by the North and South Side Twin Falls canals diverting at Milner Dam. The possible maximum annual savings is estimated to be 276,000 acre-feet. Although this water saving is exercised only at the option of the two companies, winter diversions have been substantially reduced each winter, beginning with the winter of 1960-61. It appears that the companies' decision to exercise this option during the 1960-61 storage season was prompted by the low storage levels in the reservoir system at the end of the 1960 irrigation season. This decision was indeed timely in view of the fact that streamflow in 1961 was much below normal, the reservoir system failed of filling by a substantial amount, and a number of areas experienced irrigation water shortages. Without Palisades Reservoir and winter water saving actually accomplished, the shortages would have

been much more severe. Had the curtailment of winter diversions at Milner Dam been started in 1959 the water shortages in 1961 would probably have been eliminated.

Winter diversions at Milner Dam have been substantially reduced each winter since 1961. The amount of the reduction varies from year to year, ranging from a maximum of 260,000 acre-feet in the winter of 1961-62 to a minimum of 198,000 acre-feet in the winter of 1965-66. In addition to the obvious benefits from saving water for storage in the reservoirs the maintenance of the canal system is more effective and less costly when the canals are shut off in winter. For this reason, it is expected that such savings will be increased in future years and eventually the maximum annual savings of 276,000 acre-feet will probably be realized with the canals shut off from November 1 to April 1 in all years.

Under the Palisades contracts the water saved by curtailment of winter diversions is first credited to the company or district making the saving until the reservoir space owned by the particular district or company is filled. When this occurs the saved water accrues to the remaining unfilled space in the reservoir system. Thus, the water saving program provides benefits to the entire irrigated area which has interests in the reservoir system.

The Palisades contracts have a third water saving feature. These contracts provide for limiting the use of water for power generation at American Falls and Minidoka Dams below the amounts that would accrue to rights for power production at these two dams. Such curtailment in the exercise of power rights at Minidoka Dam will result in a loss of generation of units 1 to 6 of that powerplant but will result in saving of water for storage for irrigation use. The water so saved is credited to American Falls, Island Park, and Palisades Reservoirs. In compensation for such losses in power generation, replacement power is provided to the Minidoka Power system, and, based on a moving average of the net annual amount of replacement power and energy required, the costs thereof are charged to the beneficiaries of the resultant water saving and the financial benefit is credited to the water users of the Minidoka Project. This provision for sharing the cost by water users actually benefited provided an equitable solution to a long-standing controversy.

The extent of water savings from curtailment of power rights varies from year to year. The saving is fully effective only during prolonged cycles of low streamflow when the available streamflow is insufficient to fill the reservoirs and the water can be stored and used. In a number of years there is enough streamflow to fill the reservoirs without any water saving.

During a prolonged cycle of low runoff such as occurred 1930-35, it is estimated that the effective saving from curtailment of power rights would be 2,700,000 acre-feet or an average of 450,000 acre-feet annually.

The water saving from curtailment of power rights actually overlaps the water savings from curtailment of winter diversions at Milner Dam to the extent that power releases can be used to satisfy diversion requirements at Milner Dam. Out of the estimated average annual saving of 450,000 acre-feet from curtailment of power rights during low runoff cycles up to a maximum of 276,000 acre-feet may be creditable to curtailment of winter diversions at Milner Dam. Thus, the net annual increase in storable water from curtailment of power rights is 174,000 acre-feet.

The Palisades contracts provide for maximum annual water savings during prolonged cycles of low streamflow as follows:

	<u>Acre-feet</u>
Elimination of winter diversions above American Falls Dam and at Minidoka Dam	143,000
Curtailment of winter diversions at Milner Dam	276,000
Curtailment of power rights at Minidoka Dam	<u>174,000</u>
Total annual savings	593,000

Thus, the potential savings for a six-year drought period such as occurred 1930-35 would be in excess of 3.5 million acre-feet.

It was recognized in the negotiations that led to the water savings and exchange arrangements necessary for the construction of Palisades Reservoir that these arrangements would require adjustments in the court decrees that govern the distribution of water in the Upper Snake River Valley, Water District 36. All the water users agreed to the arrangements on the basis that this would be accomplished and that all the compromises agreed to in the negotiations would be included in the resulting court decree.

Records of irrigation diversions in the Henrys Fork Valley indicate annual diversion rates in excess of 10 acre-feet per acre in many areas. To those not understanding Upper Snake River surface water-ground water relationships, these high diversion rates may appear unreasonable and imply poor management and inefficient application of water. It should be recognized that present practices evolved from past failures in attempting

to irrigate the area by conventional means and that so far subirrigation is the only method fully demonstrated to be practical in this area. If reuse of return flow and the use of groundwater in the nearby Mud Lake area is considered the overall diversion rate compares favorably with those elsewhere on the Snake River.

The present heavy use of water in the Henrys Fork Valley results from subirrigation of about 70,000 acres of land in that area. An additional 40,000 acres is irrigated by conventional surface irrigation. The practice of subirrigation was established during the early stages of development, after irrigation by customary surface methods proved a failure. A wide variety of crops is grown by maintaining the water table within reach of the plant roots during the summer instead of by spreading water on the surface of the ground in the usual manner. The hydraulic properties of the underground reservoir permit the raising and lowering of the water table by varying the flow of water in the canals. The canals must be operated at partial capacity during winter to hold the water table at a level from which it can be raised to the plant roots in the spring after the ice and snow in the canals have melted. Present schedules of annual diversion to the subirrigated lands have been evolved through the experience of over 60 years in manipulating the water table to give maximum crop production during the relatively short growing season in that area.

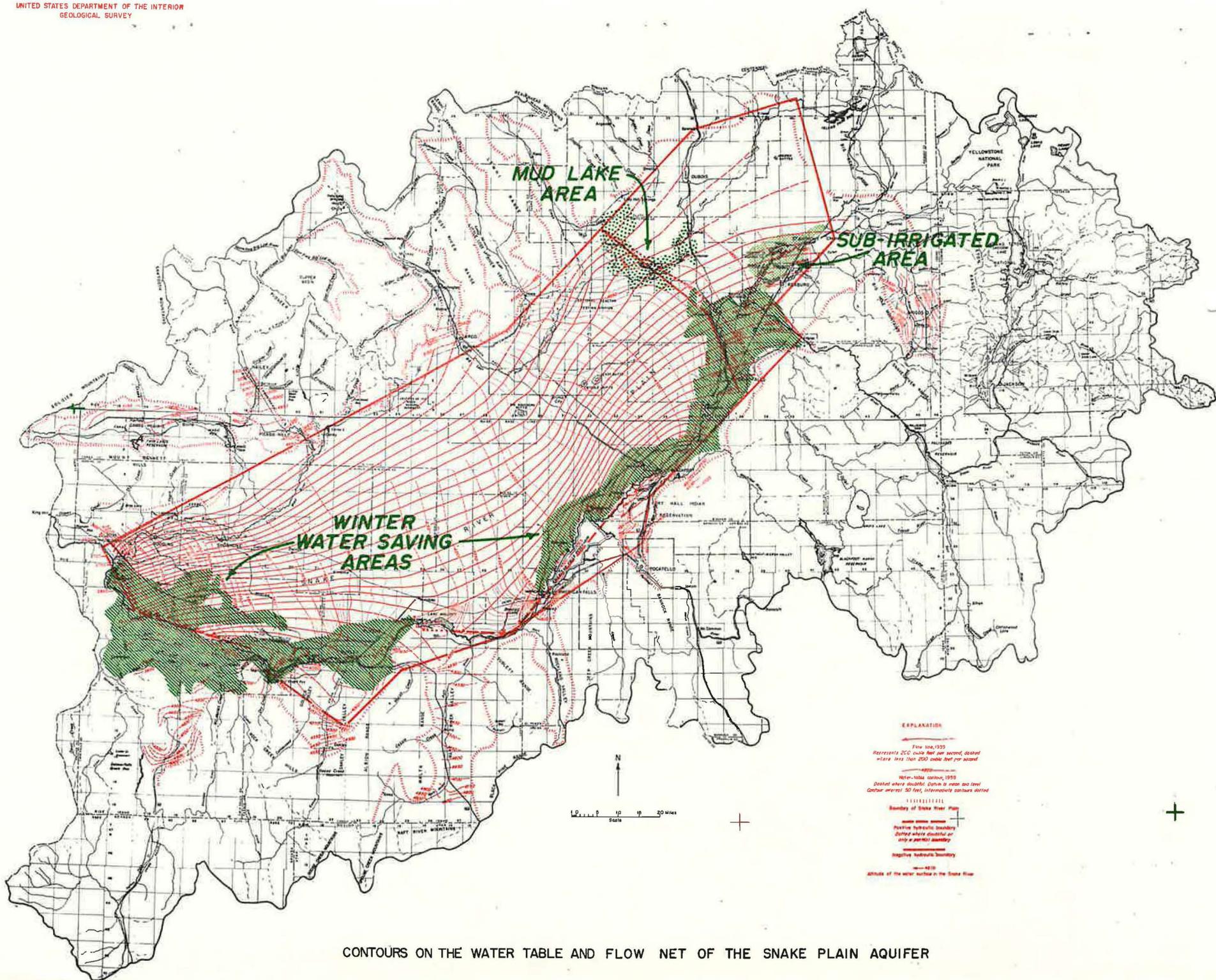
Hydrographic studies have shown that relatively large quantities of groundwater move westward toward Mud Lake as a result of maintaining high water tables in the Henrys Fork Valley. This is well illustrated by the attached chart, "Contours on the Water Table and Flow Net of the Snake Plain Aquifer." This groundwater movement has caused a phenomenal increase in the inflow to Mud Lake since 1900 and is the major source of supply for approximately 75,000 acres now irrigated in that area. If in addition to the approximately 110,000 acres actually irrigated in the Henrys Fork Valley credit is also given for the 75,000 acres irrigated in the Mud Lake area and for reuse of return flow in the Henrys Fork Valley, the overall diversion efficiency is comparable to that elsewhere on Snake River. For example, the total diversion from Fall River, Henrys Fork River, and Lower Teton River during 1967 was 1,017,000 acre-feet. The irrigation season return flow was 186,000 acre-feet. On this basis, the net diversion for 185,000 acres in the general area, including Mud Lake, was 4.35 acre-feet per acre. In view of these facts, any alteration in the present use of water in the Henrys Fork Valley would affect not only the established irrigation economy in that valley, but also that in the Mud Lake area.

Summary

From the very inception of Water District 36 (1916) and the Committee of Nine (1919) the area can be credited with many innovations of progressive water management which can best be summarized as a water banking operation. These include operation of storage reservoirs as a system rather than a collection of individual reservoirs. Although there is a strict paper accounting of water accruals to individual reservoirs by priority dates, advantage has been taken of the physical diversity of the system by holding carryover storage as far upstream as possible to the advantage of all. Much litigation was avoided and a smooth-running operation resulted from agreement on such factors as evaporation and conveyance losses and bank storage. The area pioneered water exchanges in Idaho, culminating in a future ground water-surface water exchange imbedded in the Lower Teton Project authorization. A continuation of this principle will be the salvation of the Salmon Falls, Oakley Fan, and other water-deficient areas in Upper Snake River Basin.

The elimination of winter water runs for stock and domestic use, the establishing of uniform storage water holdover privileges, the coordinated system-wide operation of reservoirs, the subordination of winter power production to conserve storage, and the exchange of storage space to effectuate its use closer to points of diversion, all have resulted in better distribution and utilization of the waters of Snake River. These water conservation practices will provide a water savings in excess of 600,000 acre-feet annually to augment dry-year supplies. This is a significant step in the direction of obtaining full use of the available water supplies in Snake River. In the future more needs to be done in water saving through added cooperation among all water users. These include additional reservoirs, canal lining programs, further water exchanges, including ground water, improved management of water distribution, and increased efficiency of on-farm application and use of water.

This is the situation as it exists today. However, as our technology of water use continues to expand and our available water supplies become more fully utilized, better and more efficient methods of irrigating the lands in the Snake River Valley can be developed. Certainly we should endeavor to make the most efficient use of all our natural resources and as new and better techniques are developed we should put them to their maximum use. The accomplishments so far have resulted from the cooperative effort of the entire area. Future developments for the conservation and use of Idaho's land and water resources will require similar mutual understandings and cooperation by all concerned parties.



CONTOURS ON THE WATER TABLE AND FLOW NET OF THE SNAKE PLAIN AQUIFER

RECEIVED

		INI.	DATE
1	DIRECTOR		2/26
✓	CHAIRMAN		
✓	BOARD		2/11
2	PLANNING		
3	ENGINEERING		
	ECONOMICS		
4	HYDROLOGY		
	LAND CLASS.		
	REPORTS		
	DEVELOPMENT		
	FILE		

MINUTES OF MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF NINE
 March 3, 1968
 Bonneville Hotel Idaho Falls, Idaho

MAR 7 1968

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

The Committee of Nine met at the Bonneville Hotel at 7:30 p.m., on March 3, 1968.

Members present were Leonard Graham, Chairman; Al Peters, C. N. Scoresby, Lavon Christensen, Leo Murdock, Lynn Loosli, R. Willis Walker, and Clyde Greenwell. Advisory members Burdell Curtis, Glenn Simmons and William Kerner. F. C. Gillette called from the hospital and asked to be excused. Henry Eagle, Watermaster.

The Committee approved the report of the Committee of Nine as prepared by the watermaster.

Resolutions Nos. 1-9, 11 and 12 were discussed and adopted for presentation to the annual meeting.

Burdell Curtis presented a plan for obtaining four sets of water samples of the lower Snake River in cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation on a cooperative basis. Contribution of about \$20,000 from waterusers to be matched with \$20,000 from Bureau of Reclamation.

Norman Moore explained the possibility of water enforcement by Water Pollution Control Agency. The above survey would determine what effect irrigation has on water quality.

Henry Eagle discussed river operation during the winter season. With large reservoir holdovers, releases were high at both Palisades and American Falls during October through January period. These were reduced in February to assure the filling of reservoirs. It is not the best operation to cut discharges too low early in storage season and later spill large quantities to waste.

Glenn Simmons discussed operation of the Burley office. Terry Gulley explained the present status of reservoir storage. The ice should leave American Falls in a few days. Jim Skiles talked about some of the construction and maintenance work done during the past year.

The public meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Resolution No. 10 was discussed in further detail. The Resolution was tabled until next meeting.

Adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

(over)

The Committee of Nine met at 12:00 noon, March 4, in the district court room.

Present: Leonard Graham, Lavon Christensen, Al Peters, Leo Murdock, Burdell Curtis, Lynn Loosli, Willis Walker, C. N. Scoresby, Glenn Simmons, William Kerner, Clyde Greenwell, Charles Marshall representing Lester Saunders, and Henry Eagle, Watermaster.

Willis Walker moved that Leonard Graham be elected chairman for the coming year. Seconded by Lynn Loosli. Carried. Al Peters was elected vice-chairman, and C. N. Scoresby elected secretary.

Leo Murdock moved a revised resolution No. 10 be approved by the Committee. Seconded by Lynn Loosli. Carried.

All of the above resolutions are recorded as a part of the Annual Water meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

C. N. Scoresby, Secretary

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MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF WATER DISTRICT NO. 36
Idaho Falls, Idaho, March 4, 1968

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Bonneville County District Courtroom by Watermaster, Henry Eagle, with about 250 waterusers present.

Leonard Graham was elected temporary chairman.

Clifford Scoresby was elected temporary secretary.

The minutes of the annual meeting of March 6, 1967, were read by C. N. Scoresby. Merton Grey moved that the minutes be approved as read. Seconded by Armin Schroeder. Carried.

Ed Phillips moved that an expression of appreciation for use of the courtroom be sent to Judge Martin. Seconded by Russell Holm. Carried.

The Chairman declared a recess for the caucus of the various sections of the river for selection of members to Committee of Nine, Committee on Organization and Order of Business, and Committee on Credentials. The following committees were chosen:

Committee of Nine: Lavon Christensen, Leo Murdock, Leonard Graham, C. N. Scoresby, Alfred Peters, Lester Saunders, Burdell Curtis, R. Willis Walker, Lynn Loosli. Advisory members: Clyde Greenwell, William Kerner.

Order of Business: Merton Grey, Armin Schroeder, Jim Kemper, Alvin Munns, A. Lovell Holyoak, Saul Moore, E. A. Finkelnburg, Russell Mohlman, Frank Ives, D. D. Rydalch.

Credentials: Milo Beckman, Ted Cook, Frank Kinghorn, Ed Phillips, Bert Stevenson, Douglas Finkelnburg, Ed Reichert, Ed Smith, Reed Oldham, Louis Rasmussen.

The committees on Organization and Order of Business and on Credentials were excused to conduct their business.

Jim Kemper made the report for the Committee on Organization and Order of Business:

1968 Report of Committee on Organization and Order of Business

We, your Committee on Organization and Order of Business, desire to report the following:

We recommend that the temporary organization be made permanent and the following be adopted as the order of business of this meeting:

1. Appointment of a temporary organization
2. Reading of minutes of previous meeting
3. Recess for caucus
4. Roll Call

5. Report of Committees
6. That the temporary organization be made permanent
7. Financial report of District
8. Election of Committee of Nine
9. Resolutions
10. Election of Watermaster
11. Unfinished business
12. New business

We, the committee on Organization and Order of Business recommend that the Committee of Nine act as a permanent resolutions committee, and anyone desiring to present a resolution be requested to present it to the Committee of Nine.

James Kemper, Chairman

The report was accepted.

Reed Oldham made the report of the Committee on Credentials:

1968 Report of Committee on Credentials

We, your committee on Credentials, recommend the following for your consideration:

1. That the representatives of different rights be determined by roll call in advance of voting.
2. That the companies or other organizations owning decreed water rights shall be entitled to vote through their duly elected officers or by written proxy. Each stockholder of any company not represented by duly elected officers or by written proxy shall be entitled to vote the stock held by them.
3. That in case two or more officers are present from any canal company they shall select one man to vote the stock of said company.
4. That power rights be not recognized in the voting.
5. That no person be elected to membership and service on the Committee of Nine unless he be a landowner and wateruser in the Canal Company or Irrigation District which he represents during the term of his office.

Reed Oldham, Chairman

The report was accepted.

The roll call of canals entitled to vote was read by C. N. Scoresby. Rights of 31,260 second-feet were represented.

Reed Oldham moved that the rules be suspended and that the Committee of Nine as listed above be unanimously elected. Seconded by Lowell Hix. Carried.

Henry Eagle presented the report of the Committee of Nine, including the financial report. John Poole moved acceptance of the report. Seconded by Walt Chapple. Carried.

Morland Nelson, Snow Survey Supervisor, reported on present snow conditions. Snow pillow installation on Glade Creek is working. Butyl rubber is now being replaced with maleable steel pillow. These are more economical and durable. Prospect is for about a 95% runoff for Snake River near Heise for the April to September period. In a year or two it might be advisable to include one or two more snow pillows. This is still experimental equipment and is costing less as improvements are made.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

Norman Moore, Acting Regional Director, expressed Harold Nelson's regret at not being present. He introduced Ed Neal, Glenn Simmons, Mark Spanogle, Virgil Bruce, Terry Gulley, Jim Skiles and Bob Pittard. He reviewed the Bureau program on Snake River with use of colored slides. Future projects include the one on Teton River (to be built in two stages). An exchange between ground water wells and surface water supplies will be involved. Construction may start in 1969.

The Salmon Falls Division will involve supplemental water for about 50,000 acres and a new supply for 10,000 acres. Water will be pumped from Milner reservoir. Pumping from ground water and replacement pumping will be needed.

Observation of American Falls Dam indicates that deterioration of the dam requires that it be replaced. A board of consultants has been appointed to make an independent analysis of the dam. The Board includes Wallace L. Chadwick, who was formerly Chief Civil Engineer and Vice President of the Southern California Edison Company, Raymond E. Davis, Professor of Civil Engineering, Emeritus, and Director of Engineering Materials Laboratory, Emeritus, at the University of California in Berkeley, and Julian Hinds, formerly Chief Engineer and General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The board has requested additional cores from the dam. A report is expected from the board in several months.

Studies on the Lynn Crandall Project indicate the reservoir would store about 1,600,000 acre-feet and back water up to Palisades. A dam at Clark Ranch would provide regulation of the Lynn Crandall releases. A report should be available within a year.

The possibility of augmenting the Snake River Plain groundwater reservoir by artificial recharge is being studied. A report should be available by the end of 1969.

Additional water is needed on Raft River, Oakley fan and other areas. Studies are being made.

Water pollution is becoming increasingly a matter of concern. Some have concluded that the irrigators are contributing to water pollution. Idaho has adopted water standards which have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior. We need to find out where pollution is originating. The Bureau of Reclamation is proposing to make some tests to determine the amount of pollution which may be caused by irrigation.

Glenn Simmons invited waterusers to take part in the reservoir tour each fall.

Jim Skiles reviewed maintenance activities during the past year. Several gates have been improved. Protective work has been done along American Falls Reservoir. A new bridge was built at Grassy Lake.

Terry Gulley reviewed river operations during the past storage season. All reservoirs are expected to fill.

Ed Neal expressed his pleasure at being present. He first attended a Water District 36 meeting in 1930. He urged attendance at the coming Ditch Rider Workshops.

Henry Eagle stated that the water outlook is about the same as that in 1964. Regulation should not be required before the middle of June. He introduced his assistants, Arthur Larson and Ira Virgil.

C. N. Scoresby read resolutions 1 - 12. Each was regularly adopted.

Resolution No. 1

That the following transmission losses be charged on stored water: 1.7% Moran to Palisades; 0.8% Palisades to Heise; 4.4% Heise to Lorenzo; 0.5% Lorenzo to Woodville; 6% Woodville to Blackfoot; 4% Henrys Lake to Island Park; 2% Island Park to Warm River; 0.5% Warm River to Ashton.

Resolution No. 2

That in an attempt to establish pre-reservoir conditions, stored water when released from reservoirs shall be charged a reasonable amount to cover lag and river bank storage, said amount to be repaid to stored water by natural flow before the close of the irrigation season.

Resolution No. 3

We recommend that Henry C. Eagle be elected Watermaster for the ensuing year, at a salary of \$15,540 per annum.

Resolution No. 4

Resolved: That the duties of the Watermaster shall begin on this date and continue for a full period of one year.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR WATER DISTRICT NO. 36
for year beginning April 1, 1968

Engineers, Hydrographers and office employees:

1 Watermaster	1 year	\$15,540	
1 Hydraulic Engineer	1 year	13,180	
1 Hydraulic Engineering Aid	1 year	4,700	
2 Hydrographers	4 mos. @ \$500	4,000	
1 Hydrographer	6 mos. @ \$500	3,000	
1 Clerk	1 year	<u>7,200</u>	\$47,620

River Riders, including mileage:

2 Henrys Fork & Teton R.	4 mos. @ \$20 day	4,800	
1 Henrys Fork	2 mos. @ \$20 day	1,200	
1 Heise Division	4 mos. @ \$15 day	1,800	
1 Rigby Division	4 mos. @ \$15 day	1,800	
1 Idaho Falls Division	60 days @ \$16 day	960	
1 Blackfoot Division	4 mos. @ \$15 day	1,800	
1 Swan Valley Division	100 days @ \$14 day	1,400	
1 Upper Fall River	4 mos. @ \$160 mo.	640	
1 Leigh Creek	450 hrs. @ \$2.25 hr	<u>1,000</u>	15,400

Miscellaneous:

Gage Readers	700	
Transportation - 30,000 miles @ 10¢ a mile	3,000	
Transportation - Government car, 1 year	2,200	
Telephone & Telemark	800	
Government travel expense	900	
Supplies and Equipment	2,000	
Construction, repairs and maintenance	2,000	
Social Security, Bond Premium & Insurance	1,200	
Groundwater studies	1,700	
Retirement & Insurance (Federal)	3,300	
Miscellaneous (postage, interest, subsistence)	800	
Snow pillow	<u>250</u>	18,850

Total	\$81,870
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Estimated State & Federal Funds	<u>36,400</u>
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Balance paid by Waterusers	\$45,470
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Salary @ \$10.00 per day and expenses of upper valley members of Committee of Nine, to be paid by upper valley canals	<u>\$1,000</u>
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\$46,470

The Watermaster is hereby authorized to prepare a statement at the close of the 1968 irrigation season covering actual expenses incurred during the preceding year chargeable to the waterusers, and same shall be pro-rated among the various canals in proportion to the amount of water diverted by each, and he shall then collect same; and he is further authorized to withhold deliveries of water in 1968 from any canals that have not paid their pro-rata share of 1967 costs until such time as said costs are paid.

Resolution No. 6

We recommend that the Committee of Nine be continued with nine regular members. The members representing the Burley and Minidoka Irrigation Districts to be alternated between the two districts as they may arrange. In addition, advisory members representing the Bureau of Reclamation, Teton Basin, Gooding Canal, and a member from the Burley or Minidoka District, whichever is not currently represented on the regular committee. Any canal company or district desiring to have representatives attend meetings of the Committee of Nine should notify the Watermaster, who will then advise them of dates and times of Committee meetings so that they may have an opportunity to attend such meetings.

Resolution No. 7

WHEREAS, in the operation of Water District No. 36 it is necessary to borrow money at times to meet expenses of operation prior to collections from the canal companies at the close of the irrigation season,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Watermaster, or acting Watermaster in case of his absence, is hereby authorized to borrow from time to time during the year ending March 31, 1969, such sums as are necessary to pay outstanding bills, signing notes as authorized officer of District No. 36 as security therefor, the total amount of any such outstanding indebtedness at any one time not, however, to exceed \$20,000.00.

Resolution No. 8

WHEREAS, the operation of the storage pool committee in past years has proved to be of valuable assistance to the watermaster in providing an orderly distribution of rental water.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a pool committee again be appointed by the chairman of the Committee of Nine for the following purposes:

1. To determine general policy regarding source of rental water;
2. To assist the watermaster in the allocation of rental water;
3. To consult with the watermaster on ways to most fully utilize available storage water.

Resolution No. 9

WHEREAS, it has long been the policy of Water District No. 36 to urge and promote orderly development of the water resources of the State of Idaho and the commencement, when practicable, of development of the upper stretches of our rivers to prevent waste by flooding and to obtain maximum use of the water as it flows through our state; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Lynn Crandall project, on the South Fork of the Snake River near Burns Creek, is a project designed for multiple use, to provide, among other things, much needed supplemental water for irrigation of lands now under cultivation as well as to provide water for arid lands which are not now irrigated, and, at the same to serve as a reregulating reservoir for the Palisades Project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Waterusers of Water District No. 36, at their annual meeting held in the City of Idaho Falls, Idaho, this 4th day of March, 1968, that they urge the early authorization by the Congress of the Lynn Crandall project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this group urge the early construction of the Lynn Crandall Project by the Bureau of Reclamation, in keeping with the long established policy of favoring upstream development in order to permit the greatest use of water as it flows through the state.

Resolution No. 10

WHEREAS, officials of the Bureau of Reclamation have previously advised that it is imperative that the present American Falls Dam be replaced as speedily as possible; and that the upper eight feet of storage in the present reservoir cannot be filled under certain ice conditions, with the consequent possibility of loss of storage in some years, and

WHEREAS, owners of space in the reservoir have consulted with independent engineers and have their opinion along with that of the Bureau of Reclamation, that there is some deterioration in the dam, and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Reclamation has recently engaged the services of an independent consulting group to make tests and analyses to determine the structural strength of the American Falls Dam and the need for immediate replacement, and

WHEREAS, the top engineering officials of the Bureau are firm in the opinion that under present conditions there is too much risk involved to permit complete filling of the reservoir under certain ice conditions and the owners of space are of the opinion that the reservoir must be completely filled each year if losses of storage water are to be avoided, and

WHEREAS, a condition precedent to the construction of this dam was that contractors for space should pay in cash in advance before construction, and consequently, various canal companies and irrigation districts paid in the order of Four Million Dollars for 840,000 acre-feet of space, or approximately one-half of the total capacity of 1,700,000 acre-feet; substantially all of said money having been obtained by the sale of bonds bearing interest in the amount of 6% or more, all of which bonds and interest were paid in full by the water users, and

WHEREAS, other subsequent contractors for space have since entered into repayment contracts and have paid varying amounts, depending on their individual contracts, toward the repayment of the construction cost of said dam, and

WHEREAS, all of such payments were made, and all of such contracts were entered into, under the belief that the Bureau of Reclamation had

designed, and that there would be, or had been, constructed a safe and adequate structure which would have a normal life period for a dam of that type and character, and

WHEREAS, by reason of all of said payments aforesaid and the extensive other payments made in maintaining the structure and in protecting and increasing the flowage easements for the reservoir thereof, all of said entities who have contracted for space in said reservoir claim vested ownership therein and prior and superior rights to the waters stored in their respective contractual spaces therein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Water District No. 36 at its annual meeting in Idaho Falls, Idaho, this 4th day of March, 1968, that:

(a) The Bureau of Reclamation be commended for engaging the services of an independent consulting group to thoroughly analyze the structural strength of the American Falls Dam and to make recommendations concerning the need and urgency for replacing the dam, and

(b) Any replacement of the American Falls dam shall be of the same size and capacity as the present reservoir, and

(c) That the rights of all parties in and to the present reservoir shall be precisely and identically the same in the new reservoir, and

(d) That the status quo of the said contract holder shall remain unchanged in the new reservoir in all respects, with their contracts the same as to priority, excess land law requirements and in all other respects, and

(e) That those companies or districts which have paid in full, or have partially paid and are in the process of paying for construction costs shall have the full and unrestricted right to assert before the Interior Department, the Executive Department or Committees of Congress their respective rights for credits upon, or freedom from payment for the proposed replacement dam as their respective rights may appear.

Resolution No. 11

WHEREAS, the United States Congress is currently considering legislation which would call for the exportation, and the study of exportation, of water from either or both the Snake River Basin and the Columbia River Basin into the Colorado River Basin; and

WHEREAS, the water resources of the State of Idaho are essential not only to the state's existing economy, but also to the state's future development and growth, any exportation of the waters of this state, either from within the state or from the Columbia River Basin which would require a contribution of water from Idaho rivers, prior to the maximum use of the water in Idaho, could stunt and stifle the future development and growth of our state;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the waterusers of Water District No. 36 at their annual meeting held on the 4th day of March, 1968, in the City of Idaho Falls, Idaho, that they oppose with all of their

force and energy the planning by federal agencies for exportation into the Colorado River system of any of the waters of the State of Idaho, or of the Columbia River Basin of which Idaho is a part, until the area or areas seeking importation of water shall first conclusively establish that it or they are conserving, developing and putting all of the available water within their own areas to its highest feasible use; until such time as they have exhausted all other potential sources of water supply, such as desalinization, weather modification and importation from California; and until such time and such time only as the State of Idaho and the other states of origin of the waters in question have:

1. Completed their water inventory;
2. Determined what their present and future water needs and requirements for all purposes will be;
3. Determined that there is a surplus of water over and above their present and future water needs and requirements for all purposes; and
4. Secured federal legislation guaranteeing their existing water rights, and reserving to such states of origin their full future water needs and requirements for all purposes.

Resolution No. 12

WHEREAS, the operation and maintenance costs allocated to irrigation for the Palisades Dam and Reservoir are paid by waterusers in Water District No. 36; and

WHEREAS, the Committee of Nine acts as an Advisory Committee under the Palisades contracts to the United States on such matters as will have a substantial bearing on the costs of operation and maintenance of the Palisades Dam and Reservoir allocated to irrigation water storage; and

WHEREAS, during the interim period of operation of the Palisades Dam and Reservoir, operation and maintenance costs allocated to irrigation were 20% of the total, less a flood allocation credit, and the allocation appeared to be closely correlated to the actual cost of operating and maintaining a dam and reservoir for storage of water for irrigation; and,

WHEREAS, under the present allocation costs allocated to irrigation shall be 31.57% of the total operation and maintenance cost, which percentage is correlated to the participation of irrigation in the payment of construction costs of Palisades and is not correlated to the costs of operating and maintaining Palisades as a storage reservoir for irrigation water from which irrigation obtains its benefits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Committee of Nine take immediate action to obtain a review of the present allocation and the facts and reports upon which this allocation has been made or take such other immediate action as it deems necessary, including the proposal

of remedial legislation, to obtain an allocation to irrigation of operation and maintenance costs of the Palisades Dam and Reservoir which is correlated to the costs of operating and maintaining Palisades Dam and Reservoir as a water storage facility for irrigation purposes.

Motion was made by Reed Oldham that the rules be suspended and Henry Eagle be unanimously elected Watermaster for a period of one year. Seconded by Lowell Hix. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

C. N. Scoresby, Secretary