

# Payette River Basin, State of Idaho

## Water District No. 65

Chairman: Doyle Fackler  
Vice Chairman: Ron Mio  
Secretary: Chuck Pollock  
Watermaster: Ron Shurtleff

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### Regular Board Meeting

**Date:** February 13, 2012  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Payette River Irrigation Office

**Attending:** Marcia Herr, Fred Coburn, Ron Mio, Norm Collinsworth, Rick York, C. Eugene Parks, Joy Sisler, Jim Standley, Dennis Lammey, Dan Surmeier, Chuck Pollock, Doyle Fackler, Wayne Martin, Roy Maxwell, Jamie White, Recording Secretary and Watermaster Ron Shurtleff

**Guests:** Brian Sauer, Water Conservation Engineer P.E., USBR; Chris Beardsley, US Bureau of Reclamation, Jeff Reavis, US Bureau of Reclamation, Don Miller, Gordon Cruickshank, Valley County Commissioner, Mike Roach, from US Senator Jim Rich Office, Representative Ken Roberts and George McClelland

Chairman Doyle Fackler called the meeting to order and then asked Ron Shurtleff to present the first agenda item concerning Ag Easement Land around Cascade Reservoir.

**Ag Easement**  
**Presentation:**

Ron suggested that since there were so many guests attending the meeting it would be good to have each person introduce themselves and also state their affiliation. Ron then stated the purpose of addressing the subject of Ag Easement land is from a request where the irrigating community might be of assistance to facilitate title transfers of lands around Cascade Reservoir.

After the self introductions Ron introduced Mr. John Caywood, council for the Cascade Easement owners and turned the floor over to him for his presentation on the subject.

Mr. Caywood had prepared a few slides which explained the objective of the group. It is to return 27 agricultural easements lying on about 1,800 acres of land around Cascade Reservoir, back to private ownership. Mr. Caywood displayed a map of the reservoir which depicted several categories of land ownership surrounding the submerged lands. Mr. Caywood explained the Bureau of Reclamation is the owner of the lands and that some private individuals have been granted a limited use to the land by means of an easement. He went on to state that the usage under this arrangement is quite limited. The easement owners have been working to find a method where they could become owners of the land. This would then offer much more ability to utilize the land to its full extent. He then reported many benefits that could be derived if the transfers were accomplished.

Mr. Caywood suggested that since the irrigation space owners of Cascade Reservoir had repaid their contracts back to the Bureau of Reclamation as was intended, then they in essence have become the rightful party that could obtain ownership by transfer. He then

went on to say that this could be accomplished with Congressional Action. After this was accomplished the plan is to then have the irrigation entities sell each property to the easement owners of interest.

Mr. Caywood then asked Representative Ken Roberts to elaborate on some of the benefits that could come if the title transfers were to be accomplished. Representative Roberts spoke of the many benefits to include much needed erosion control caused by high wind events causing wave action on fragile reservoir embankment areas. He also addressed the grazing setback that could help water quality in the reservoir. He mentioned the increased tax revenue to Valley County if the lands were placed back in private hands and spoke about many of his personal interests since he is one of the easement owners now wanting ownership.

Mr. Mike Roach, from Senator Jim Risch's office also spoke to the many benefits that he thought could come from the title transfers and stated Senator Risch has an interest in helping the process if a plan should be assembled.

Mr. Gordon Cruickshank, Valley County Commissioner also spoke briefly and commented on improved water quality and erosion control that could be accomplished if the land were in private ownership.

After the presentation Ron Shurtleff stated that he was skeptical that the Water District No. 65 would be the vehicle to accommodate the transfers and suggested that an entity to represent the group of irrigation space owners may have to be created.

Jeff Reavis from the Bureau of Reclamation was in attendance and he answered some questions relating to the ability of the Bureau of Reclamation to move forward with title transfers. He related that he was not equipped at the time to make any definite statements, aside from the fact that a process is in existence, and has been successful in other areas where transfers were accomplished.

After much discussion the Water District Advisory Board agreed to continue to communicate with the easement owners and the Bureau of Reclamation in regard to this subject.

#### Soil & Water

Conservation: Chairman Fackler turned the floor over to George McClelland who was there to promote and make a contribution request for the upcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sustainable Agricultural Symposium on Thursday, February 16, 2012 at the Four Rivers Cultural Center. Invited speakers will present information about current science and practices designed to improve soil health and investing in long-term sustainability and productivity of resources important for agriculture. Registration begins at 7:45am and George encouraged everyone to attend. **Moved by Dan Surmeier and seconded by Chuck Pollock to give a \$500 contribution to the Payette Soil and Water Conservation Sustainable Agricultural Symposium. Passed.**

#### Minutes:

The December 12, 2011, meeting minutes were presented in written form to all persons in attendance to review. Chairman Fackler asked if there were any additions or corrections.

Two typing errors were pointed out. **Jim Standley moved and Dan Surmeier seconded to approve the December 12, 2011, minutes as corrected. Passed.**

**Financial:**

Chairman Fackler asked Ron to review the financial statement for the district. Ron reported a checking account balance of \$1,995.63 and a balance in the State Treasury Fund of \$188,164.26 resulting in a checking and savings total of \$190,159.89. Total accounts receivable equaled \$47,212.97. The fixed assets total \$72,037.21 producing a total assets balance of \$309,410.07. Ron then reviewed the profit and loss statement and stated that as of February 13, 2012, the District is showing a negative net income of \$40,092.36. Chairman Fackler asked if there were any other questions or concerns. **Ron Mio moved and Wayne Martin seconded to approve the Financial Statement as presented. Passed.**

**USRB Update:**

The floor was then turned over to Brian Sauer, US Bureau of Reclamation. Mr. Sauer presented a slide show and reviewed the Water Supply Outlook. He stated that we are still currently below normal precipitation as well as snow water equivalent for the year but the projected outlook is showing above normal precipitation and an equal chance for near normal temperatures. Brian displayed several charts comparing the snow conditions in relation to other recent La Nina years when precipitation was also below normal. Brian then reported on the present reservoir conditions. He pointed out that the Payette Reservoir System is 69% full, which includes Cascade Reservoir at 71% full and Deadwood at 63%. Mr. Sauer then reported that due to a shortage of funding there will be no monies available this year for the Water Conservation Incentive program.

**Cost Share**

**Report:**

Ron Shurtleff then reviewed the 2012 Cost Share Applications he has received. He stated the district is continuing to offer a budget of \$100,000 to projects which qualify for funding under the program. A total of six projects on a first come, first serve, basis were submitted for the 2012 year: Emmett Irrigation Dist. – Replacing 1400' Chute with pipe for \$50,000; Washoe Irrigation – River Diversion Improvement Project for \$27,019; Noble Ditch Co. – Cost overrun on Barrels Gate Rehab for \$3,412; Bilbrey Ditch – 1200' Lateral Piping Project for \$13,000; Noble Ditch Co. – 7-Mile Slough / Levee Reinforcement for \$1,331; and Black Canyon Irrigation – A-Line Canal, Langley Siphon Project for \$10,000. Total requested equal \$104,762 and it was discussed that the Black Canyon project may have to fund all or a portion from the 2013 budget. One application for a Water Quality Improvement Project was submitted from Black Canyon Irrigation Dist. – Sand Hollow Drain Project for \$1,500. Wayne Martin gave a brief description of the Washoe Irrigation project and the written applications were included in the packets. **Moved by Jim Standley and seconded by Dennis Lammey to approve the six 2012 Cost Share Applications with the possibility of the Black Canyon project being funded in 2013. Passed.**

**Radio**

**Update:**

Ron reported that the BLM Lease Contract permit has finally been obtained for the Radio Communication Repeater Station. It has taken almost two years to receive the permit and will run at no cost for 20 years, till 2031. A couple of things required will be to use steel boxes instead of fiberglass and reflective streamers need to be attached to the guy wires of tower to prevent bird collisions.

Ron said he would like to keep the north tower equipment in place for the Beacon Hill Repeater Station. It cost approximately \$4600. Ron estimates a similar cost for the South Station and he intends to work from the item that has already been approved in the 2012 budget. BLM has stipulated no construction from mid March till June 1<sup>st</sup> to prevent disruption during the nesting season of the Long Billed Curlew. Ron said he will proceed with equipment acquisition and try to be ready so the tower can be put in operation this summer.

**AVR:** Ron Shurtleff provided pictures and information on an Aquatic Vegetation Rake from Maximized Water Management, LLC. Ron stated he visited with the representative at the IWUA Convention and was impressed with the results from this machine.

**Adjournment:** Chairman Fackler asked if there was any further business that should be considered at this annual meeting. Hearing none the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

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Ron Shurtleff, Watermaster

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Jamie White, Recording Secretary

**Water District No. 65**  
**Balance Sheet**  
 As of March 2, 2012

	Mar 2, 12
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Checking/Savings	
Checking - Water District	2,649.60
State Treasurer	182,164.26
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	184,813.86
Accounts Receivable	
A/R - Assessments	1,592.24
Acct. Rec. - Rental Pool	44,690.17
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	46,282.41
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	231,096.27
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
Office Equipment	20,724.56
Field Equipment	24,012.65
Vehicles	27,300.00
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	72,037.21
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	303,133.48
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Payroll Liabilities</b>	
Federal Withholding	464.00
FICA	
Company FICA	303.02
Employee FICA	205.27
<b>Total FICA</b>	508.29
Medicare	
Company Medicare	70.87
Employee Medicare	70.87
<b>Total Medicare</b>	141.74
FUTA	42.00
State Withholding	228.00
SUI	93.84
<b>Total Payroll Liabilities</b>	1,477.87
Printing Expense Payable	902.72
Payable - Lessor-Out of Basin	33,040.00
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	35,420.59
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	35,420.59
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	
	35,420.59
<b>Equity</b>	
Equity - Equipment	72,037.21
Retained Earnings	243,446.25
Net Income	-47,770.57
<b>Total Equity</b>	267,712.89
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	303,133.48

**Water District No. 65**  
**Profit & Loss**  
 January 1 through March 2, 2012

	Jan 1 - Mar 2, 12
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Interest Income	173.42
Total Income	173.42
Gross Profit	173.42
Expense	
Payroll Expenses	
Salary - Watermaster	9,775.00
Payroll Taxes	
Company FICA Expense	606.05
Company Medicare Expense	141.74
Company Fed Unemployment Tax	42.00
Company State Unemployment Ta	93.84
Total Payroll Taxes	883.63
Benefits - Medical Insurance	1,406.62
Benefits - Retirement	977.50
Total Payroll Expenses	13,042.75
Office Rent	1,150.00
Office Assistance	800.00
Postage and Delivery	58.56
Postage Reimburasal Account	0.00
Office Supplies	270.55
Telephone	233.84
ArcGIS License Maintenance fee	3,600.00
Professional Fees	
Accountant Fees	2,500.00
Total Professional Fees	2,500.00
Automobile and Mileage	457.31
Dues and Subscriptions	500.00
IWUA Basin Members Dues	23,208.80
Water Education	
Contributions	500.00
Total Water Education	500.00
Internet Services	69.85
Meeting Expenses	55.41
Travel and Training	
IWUA Convention Expense	175.00
Total Travel and Training	175.00
Interest Expense	
Interest Exp.- Rental Pool	624.65
Interest Expense - Other	19.95
Total Interest Expense	644.60
Insurance	500.00
Equip. Purchases, Office & Field	177.32
Total Expense	47,943.99
Net Ordinary Income	-47,770.57
Net Income	-47,770.57