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WATER RESOURCES  
WESTERN REGION

**WATER DISTRICT No 57-C**  
**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING**  
**February 2, 2015**

The meeting was called to order. Blaine Collett was elected as chairman and Nick Nettleton was elected secretary/treasurer. Minutes were read and approved.

Cal Lowe, Mike Lewis and Mike Ihli were selected to be Credentials Committee. Nine Waterusers were reported as eligible to vote.

Resolutions pertaining to the administration of Water District 057-C were adopted and are attached as part of the minutes.

Compensation and budget were fixed as follows: Salary \$50.00 per day when called out, with up to four days per call out, other items \$290.00, with a total budget of \$2590.00.

Mike Ihli, 625 S School, Kuna Id was elected Watermaster.

Mike Lewis, Brian Collett and Cal Lowe were selected to be the Advisory Committee.

It was agreed by the Waterusers that the Watermaster would draft the following to be signed by The Chairman, Secretary/Treasurer/members of the Advisory Committee and the Watermaster:

Letter to Idaho Department of Water Resources in support of Cal Low's application for storage of water.

Letter to Steve Lester in response to his letter of January 2, 2015.

Letter to John Fuquay and Clint Fuquay regarding season of use and duties of the Watermaster.  
(Letters attached)

The 2016 meeting will be held at 1:30 P. M. February 1, 2015, the first Monday in February, at Blaine Collett's residence, 25804 Collett Rd, Oreana ID 83650.

Blaine Collett  
Blaine Collett, Chairman

2-16-15  
Date

Nick Nettleton  
Nick Nettleton, Secretary

2-16-15  
Date

February 10, 2015

Water District 57-C Castle Creek  
C/o Blaine Collett, President  
25804 Collett Road  
Oreana, Idaho 83650-5074

Steve Lester, Interim Western Region Manager  
Idaho Department of Water Resources  
Western Region  
2735 Airport Way  
Boise, Idaho 83705-5082

RE: Your letter dated January 2, 2015

Dear Steve:

At our recent district meeting, we discussed at length the concerns outlined in your letter. Obviously, as the ones who depend on water from Castle Creek to drive our operations, we are also extremely interested in the proper administration of our water rights. As a district, we discussed some concerns of our own, reached some conclusions, and also took some actions in an effort to improve the management of water from Castle Creek.

One major concern is the volume of flow at certain times of the year. Notwithstanding the last two years, creeks like this can experience extremely high flows, either during spring run-off, or during cloudburst events at other times of the year. Keeping a measuring device in place during these conditions is extremely difficult, if not impossible.

We acknowledged that the measurements and estimates of flow made by the Water Master for the purpose of satisfying the various water rights may not be completely accurate under all conditions, but agreed that he would use the best tools and experience that he could, and the water users would have to accept his judgment and discretion. We affirmed this agreement as a resolution included in the minutes of that meeting.

However, also affirmed by resolution, was the right of any party that felt aggrieved as to the water distribution by the Water Master, to install and maintain, at his or her expense, an approved measuring device from which the Water Master must use to obtain the measurements for that diversion.

Another measure that we took, in an effort to be proactive toward an issue that has been somewhat of a trouble spot over the last few years was to notify by letter those water users who have storage rights from Castle Creek as to the dates that they may divert water to storage without regard to prior irrigation rights, and when those unregulated diversions come under the rules of the irrigation season of use.

Something that has helped immensely is the information that you have supplied to the Water Master and to the water users of the district regarding the delivery priority for each water right and the irrigation season of use. Having each water user know and understand where his or her water right stands in regard to other water users is a large part of the management challenge.

In summary, it appears that the cost and effort to install and maintain lockable measuring devices do not offer enough of a benefit to change the system under which we are now operating. As long as the water users in the district can agree and get along to administer their water rights in a cooperative manner, we don't feel the need to require lockable, measurable headgates.

We appreciate your input and your willingness to answer those questions that arise from time to time regarding water administration.

Sincerely,

Blaine Collett, President

Nick Nettleton, Secretary-Treasurer

Brian Collett, Advisory Committee

Mike Lewis, Advisory Committee

Cal Low, Advisory Committee

Mike Ihli, Water Master

February 10, 2015

Water District 57-C Castle Creek  
C/o Blaine Collett, President  
25804 Collett Road  
Oreana, Idaho 83650-5074

Steve Lester, Interim Western Region Manager  
Idaho Department of Water Resources  
Western Region  
2735 Airport Way  
Boise, Idaho 83705-5082

RE: Cal Low application for diversion to storage

Dear Steve:

At our recent meeting of the water district we discussed the application made by Cal Low to divert non-irrigation season flows from Castle Creek to storage for irrigation. The purpose of this letter is to offer our support to the approval of that application, and to offer brief testimony as to the dynamics of the Castle Creek watershed.

As we understand it, Mr. Low is proposing to divert water only during the non-irrigation season, November 15 thru March of the following year. As you know, and as we have all experienced first-hand, the flows in Castle Creek vary widely. At times, there is almost no water in the creek at all. At times there is an overabundance. At these times, which generally (but not always) happen during the late winter and spring, the extra water flows on down to the Snake River rather than being used beneficially. The diversion of a portion of these flows by Mr. Low at this time of year would not affect any users during the irrigation season of use.

Obviously, the water has to be in the creek during that period of time, or there will be no water for Mr. Low to divert, and that will be his risk. He would be subject to any diversion to storage rights with priority dates senior to his. It should be a simple matter that if there is water available during the non-irrigation season of use, he should be able to capture it for beneficial use later on.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Should you have questions for any district member, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Blaine Collett, President

Nick Nettleton, Secretary-Treasurer

Brian Collett, Advisory Committee

Mike Lewis, Advisory Committee

Cal Low, Advisory Committee

Mike Ihli, Water Master

February 10, 2015

Water District 57-C  
Castle Creek

John Fuquay  
18907 Castle Ln.  
Oreana, Idaho 83650-5083

RE: Diversion to Storage and Irrigation Season of Use

To: Holders of storage water rights

The Irrigation Season of Use on Castle Creek as determined by your decree is March 1 thru November 15. On March 1, any diversions to storage become subject to the rights of any water users with irrigation rights that have a senior priority. No diversions to storage may occur until all senior irrigation water rights have been filled.

Starting March 1, all diversions will become subject to monitoring and control by the Water Master. The Water Master, as appointed at the district meeting held February 2, 2015 is Mike Ihli. His phone number is 208-867-5736. Feel free to contact him with any questions you might have.

Thank you for your cooperation in the efficient administration of the waters of Castle Creek.

Sincerely,

Blain Collett, President

Nick Nettleton, Secretary-Treasurer

Brian Collett, Advisory Committee

Mike Lewis, Advisory Committee

Mike Ihli, Water Master

February 10, 2015

Water District 57-C  
Castle Creek

Clinton W. Fuquay  
Hailey Rose Fuquay  
18907 Castle Ln.  
Oreana, Idaho 83650

RE: Diversion to Storage and Irrigation Season of Use

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Blain Collett, President

Nick Nettleton, Secretary-Treasurer

Brian Collett, Advisory Committee

Mike Lewis, Advisory Committee

Mike Ihli, Water Master