

**WATER DISTRICT MEETING NOTES
DISTRICT # 65B, PORTER CREEK**

Steve Lester 

3/5/2014

Vicky Music and I attended the annual meeting today in Horseshoe Bend after a brief tour of the district. Good turnout for the meeting, which far more lively than anticipated compared to recent annual meetings.

Watermaster Lynn Gramkow resigned last fall.

RESULTS

Officers: New chairperson Randy Heffner, secretary continues as Jo Ashbrook acting for Don Rumsey, elected Jo for treasurer because Boise County told her the county will no longer handle money issues for the district (county is essentially broke).

Prior chairperson Steve Dobson conducted the meeting under the mistaken assumption that electing a new chairperson this year is not effective until next year. However, no harm done in this small, informal group.

Watermaster's Report: No deliveries last year, nothing to report. Should be paid \$50 to cover paperwork etc. as agreed by the members in previous years.

Watermaster: Local resident Mike Tambini was suggested as a good watermaster candidate. Follow-up was delegated by members to Advisory Committee, IDWR will coordinate with them once have a definite candidate.

Advisory Committee: J.C. Fry, Gene Hess & Steve Dobson (latter replaced Cliff Bledsoe).

Funding: Current balance minimal, will not cover all outstanding 2013 expenses.

Budget: Adopted \$650 budget for mandatory workers comp insurance (increased to about \$300/year), Watermaster at \$50 minimum or \$60 per day (set by director some years ago) if delivery calls made this year.

Assessments: Voted to assess each owner \$50 per attached list. This will raise \$650. Jo will send billing and handle the money etc. A couple overdue ownership changes remain incomplete.

DISCUSSION

Considerable discussion about a number of water diversion/use matters, rights being diverted in priority and for appropriate uses, possible water available for late season irrigation (prepare ground for next season), wasting water, workers comp insurance, temporary rights (county trucks), how to address water problems and so on.

New application 65-23557 (Jones) for a domestic/stockwater spring tributary to Porter Creek was discussed. New chairperson Randy Heffner signed the watermaster comment form on behalf of the district, endorsing the application.

IDWR PROVIDED THIS INFORMATION:

Water problems: 1st contact Watermaster, then Advisory Committee if not satisfactorily resolved, then IDWR if still not resolved.

IDWR will help in securing and training a Watermaster, including hands-on field inventory and related support.

IDWR legal will see if can persuade county (Rana Klinger in Finance?) to resume collecting assessments, similar to problems a few years ago in Gem County that IDWR helped resolve.

Per their questions, explained how current assessments should be based on Watermaster deliveries to determine pro-rata shares of total costs based on annual volume of water delivered in previous year -- often does not occur this way. District can assess each right owner a minimum fee not to exceed \$50/year. If delivery-based billing and minimum fee billing both used, owner pays the greater amount.

District can call another meeting this year if unexpected events outpace their budget, allowing a second assessment for 2014 to be levied.

2015 MEETING

They set the next annual meeting for 1st Wednesday of March, 11:00, Horseshoe Bend (same time and place as usual).

Then the meeting adjourned.