

# Payette River Basin, State of Idaho Water District No. 65

Chairman: Wayne Martin  
Vice Chairman: Marc Haws  
Secretary: John Hartman  
Treasurer: Ron Mio

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Watermaster: Ron Shurtleff

## 2020 Annual Meeting

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WATER RESOURCES  
WESTERN REGION

**Date:** January 15, 2020  
**Time:** 1:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Emmett Church of the Nazarene, Aubrey Hall

**Attending:** Neil Shippy, EID, John Hartman, BCID, Marcia Herr, Letha, Justin Jones, Smith Ditch, Norm Collinworth, F&N Maintenance, Dan Tilson, FCC & Enterprise, Ron Mio, NDC, Jim Standley, EID, Dan Surmeier, BCID, Doyle Fackler, LCDC, Jason Brown, Bain/Butler, Martin Walker, Independent, Dyke Nagasaka, LPDC, Mark Haws, Letha, Stewart Russel, EID, Wayne Martin, Washoe, Warren Budell, Montour Farmers, Lucus Budell, Montour Farmers, Ed Parsons, LPDC, Ken Mineard, LPDC, Paul Standley, EID, Winfield Smith, Letha, Korth Elliott, EID,

**Guests:** Bryan Horsburgh, USBR, Kate Huelsi, IDWR, Allen Bradbury, IDWR, Kurt Folke, Quest CPAs PLLC, Kara Ferguson, IDWR, Shalynn Novak, IDWR, Alecia, Kaiser, IDWR and Kresta Davis Butts, Idaho Power Co.

**Welcome:** Watermaster Ron Shurtleff welcomed everyone and introduced several guests that were in attendance. Mr. Shurtleff then announced the first order of business is to elect a meeting chairman and a recording secretary to conduct this meeting.

### **Elect Meeting**

**Officers:** Jim Standley nominated Marc Haws as the meeting Chairman. **Ed Parson moved the nominations be closed and that we cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Haws. The motion was seconded by John Hartman, and the motion carried.**

Marcia Herr nominated Betty Knox at the meeting recording secretary. **Marcia then moved that the nominations cease and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Betty Knox as recording secretary, the motions was seconded by John Hartman, and the motion carried.**

### **Review**

**Minutes:** Meeting Chairman Marc Haws called the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Water District No. 65 to order. He directed attention to the minutes of the previous year's Annual Meeting starting on the second page of the meeting packet. Mr. Haws asked everyone to review the minutes of the 2019 Annual meeting in preparation for their approval. A few minor corrections were noted. **Doyle Fackler moved to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2019 Annual Meeting. Stewart Russell seconded the motion and the motion carried.**

### **Audit**

**Report:** Chairman Haws introduced Mr. Kurt Folke, from the Quest Accounting Firm and stated he is here to report the result of the recent financial audit of the District and

its current financial status. Mr. Folke asked everyone to turn to pages 9 through 13 of the handout packets.

Mr. Folke thanked the Watermaster for having a complete and clean set of financial records prepared for the audit. Mr. Folke reported the audit had been conducted in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and to standards applicable to Government auditing. He reported he had audited the financial statements of the major funds of the Water District as of December 31, 2019 and believed them to be correct and accurate. Mr. Folke explained the values on the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position page of the report. He noted the District entered 2019 with a net position of \$434,021 and ended with a net gain of \$74,574 resulting in an ending position of \$508,595. Kurt reported the increase in Administration fees from Rental Pool activity is the major reason for the increase in position. Mr. Folke asked if there were any questions about the Audit.

Chairman Haws thanked Mr. Folke for his thorough report. Chairman Haws asked everyone if they were ready to accept the financial report. **Doyle Fackler moved to approve the financial report as presented by Mr. Folke. The motion was seconded by Stewart Russell and the motion carried.**

**USBR**  
**Update:**

Chairman Haws introduced Mr. Bryan Horsburgh, Middle Snake Field Office Manager for the Bureau of Reclamation. Mr. Horsburgh reported the Department of the Interior is continuing to reorganize and consolidate regions for efficiency. He said this has not resulted in much of a change for the Northwest region other than some small boundary adjustment and the name, now called the Columbia Northwest Region. Bryan reported that after a period of time under a continued resolution, the passage of the Farm Bill has resulted in a budget for the Bureau of Reclamation. The Columbia Northwest Region receiving 82 million of that budget. Mr. Horsburgh said the Region also receives funding from the Bonneville Power Administration which is in addition to the Bureau's budgeted funds.

Bryan stated the Columbia River Treaty is a place where our regional staff is investing a lot of time. He reported our Regional Director Lori Lee is working closely with the United States chief negotiator on this very important treaty. Bryan briefly reported the treaty involves flood control for the Columbia River, an agreement between Canada and the United States.

Bryan said in our local basin the Bureau is planning to replace the trash rack at Black Canyon Dam and in addition install an automated trash rake. Currently removing trash from the rack is quite difficult and not a very safe operation. Emmett Irrigation District will be asked to pay a portion of the cost. The team is back to the drawing board on that project but will later announce the allocation of costs. Land use around Cascade Reservoir is also a topic of concern for the Bureau. Brian reported some of the homes are in trespass and the Bureau is

working on strategies to resolve these issues. Mr. Horsburgh said he is also standing in for Mr. Ryan Hedrick and will be giving his presentation today.

**Field Office**  
**Report USBR:**

Mr. Horsburgh began by showing the Payette Basin's watershed area consisting of 2,230 square miles. He noted an elevation range from 2,300 feet to 10,700 feet with an average elevation of 5,800 feet above sea level. Bryan reported in 2019 the Payette River flow rate peaked on April 9<sup>th</sup> with a rate of 29,200 CFS. He reported a total annual yield for 2019 of 2,211,999 acre feet resulting in 118% of the 30 year average amount of 1,873,172 acre feet. Bryan displayed a chart of the Natural flow compared to the actual flow of the Payette River measured at the Horseshoe Bend Gage. He pointed out the flood control benefit that was provided by Cascade and Deadwood reservoirs, resulting in the highest peak flow at this gage only reaching 15,000 CFS. Mr. Horsburgh displayed the hydrographs for Cascade and Deadwood reservoirs and explained the flood control actions which were taken, and the Flow Augmentation releases that continued through the month of August. Bryan then displayed the current conditions of Cascade and Deadwood Reservoirs at 61% of a full condition. He reported on the Basin's Snow Water Equivalent for January 14<sup>th</sup> an amount equal to 86% of the 30 year median. Bryan noted the recent storms have raised the snow water equivalent 18% over the past four days. He concluded the presentation with fill rate charts of Cascade and Deadwood reservoirs. Mr. Horsburgh asked if there were any questions, and thanked Chairman Haws for his time on the agenda.

**Matthew**  
**Anders**  
**IDWR:**

Chairman Haws invited Kara Ferguson, Hydrology Technician, IDWR to present a review of the past seasons water supply accounting. Ms. Ferguson began by displaying a composite chart for the Payette basin's SNOTEL reporting stations. Ms. Ferguson noted 2019 was an above normal snowpack year with a peak value of 114%. Kara reported the Day of Allocation for the basin was July 17<sup>th</sup> about one week later than the average date. She displayed a summary of reservoir activity noting a 100% fill resulting in 834,703 acre feet of total storage available with 788,001 acre feet allocated to spaceholders. Total usage in 2019 was 327,732 leaving 453,127 acre feet of carried over water in the system. Kara displayed the natural flow volume for the year comparing it to the years 1990 to 2019 and noting it to be well above the average. Ms. Ferguson then showed a Storage Use chart for the past 10 years indicating the usage in 2019 was the third lowest over the last decade. Kara displayed an evaporation comparison chart where 2019 ranked among the lowest. Operational losses however ranked higher than most years by a large margin. Kara concluded with the storage accounting reconciliation report. This report showed after subtracting the total storage used amount from the total storage available, the accounting indicates a balance of 503,119. When compared to the measured amount of water remaining in the reservoir the difference is 2509.6 acre feet. Kara reported this is an acceptable

value for a system as large as the Payette, referring to it as an averaging error. Ms. Ferguson asked if there were any questions, and thanked Chairman Haws for the opportunity to report.

**Watermaster Report:**

Chairman Haws turned the floor to the Watermaster, Ron Shurtleff and asked for his 2019 Watermaster Report: Mr. Shurtleff displayed a natural flow comparison chart for the years 2015 through 2019. He noted that natural flow for 2019 was the second best for those years. Ron explained the flow demand on the river and that when natural flow drops below demand, then it is necessary to supplement the river with water released from the reservoirs. He explained how storage usage was a lessor amount in 2019 largely because natural flow supplied all the demand until the 17<sup>th</sup> of July. He noted that only one water right in the accounting system drafted storage usage on the 17<sup>th</sup> then many more water rights began using stored water on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July. Ron displayed many figures pertaining to storage usage and carryover amounts per entity. He asked for questions, and then moved on to the District's Cost Share Program.

Ron fist displayed a listing of eleven facility improvement projects, and one request for a water quality project. He explained the original budget earmarked \$100,000 for facility improvement projects and \$3,000 for water quality projects. At the March meeting of 2019 however it was reported that there were projects in the previous budget year that were withdrawn and about \$40,000 would be left in the District's cost share payable account. The Advisory Board decided in March to increase the Facility Improvement Budget to \$125,000 making it possible to fund all of the applications submitted for the program. Ron displayed photos of most of the Cost Share projects, which included several piping projects, and many structures and automated control points. Ron then moved to the watershed and reservoir conditions mentioning this subject has already been reported and he asked if there were any question.

**Budget Committee:**

Chairman Haws asked, Budget Committee Chairman Jim Standley for the Budget Committee Report. Mr. Standley directed attention to page 29 of the information packets. He pointed out the budget for the completed year of 2019 was listed in the left column, and the proposed budget prepared by the budget committee is listed in the right column. Mr. Standley pointed out the change in projected revenue for 2020 along with increases to three expenditures categories. These included an increase in the Professional Fees, the River Gage Operation and Maintenance item and the interest paid to out-of-basin storage assignors. Mr. Standley also reported the committee is recommending the usual amount for the Cost Share Budget, \$100,000 for Facility Improvement, and \$3,000 for Water Quality Projects. Mr. Standley stated the committee prepared this budget, presented it to the Advisory Board, and now submitting it before the District with a recommendation for approval. He stated when approved, it should become Attachment A to Resolution No. 2 of the District's Resolutions. **Doyle Fackler moved to approve the Budget as presented by the committee and to attach it to the Resolutions as Attachment A. The motion was seconded by Stewart Russell, and the motion carried.**

**Nomination  
Committee:**

Chairman Haws asked for the Nominations Report. Committee Chairman Jim Standley directed attention to page 31 of the information packets. He noted there are several changes to the list of Advisory Board Member due to retirements and other reasons. He mentioned one more name that has become ineligible since the committee has met and recommended removing that person. He asked if there should be any other adjustments to the list. Ron Shurtleff noted two names that should be removed leaving two vacancies one in the Washoe Irrigation and Water Power, and one in the Lower Payette Ditch Company. It was noted that the status of two names should be reversed the alternate becoming the Member, and the Member becoming the alternate. Mr. Standley then brought attention to the nominations for Advisory Board Officers. He noted Wayne Martin is nominated for Chairman, Marc Haws for Vice Chairman and John Hartman nominated for Secretary. He also stated this year we are nominating a Treasurer. He asked Watermaster Shurtleff to explain why this change has occurred. Ron explained that the Water District has not been following Idaho Code as closely as it should, and the Code states districts with a budget larger than \$7,500 will have a treasurer designated to oversee the funds. Ron further explained that this position will be more consistent and not be involved with the traditional two year rotation of the other three officers. Mr. Standley reported Mr. Ron Mio is nominated for the position of Treasurer. Mr. Standley directed attention to the Nominating and Budget Committee Member list. He reported two names were changed this year due to the changing list of Advisory Board Members. Mr. Standley stated now that these changes have taken place he would submit this as the 2020 list of nominations for the Advisory Board and Officers. **Stewart Russell moved, to approve this list of nominations as amended and to attach it to Resolution No. 6 of the Districts list of Resolutions. Doyle Fackler seconded the motion, and the motion carried.**

**Resolutions:**

Meeting Chairman Haws stated now is the time to act on the District's resolutions. He asked the water users if they wished to vote on each resolution individually, or if they would be willing to adopt the entire 16 resolutions with one inclusive motion. Chad Henggeler asked Watermaster Shurtleff, if there are any changes to the resolutions since they were approved last year. Ron directed attention to Resolution No. 16. He stated this resolution when presented last year, included much more detail directing how water orders should be conducted and relayed. However it was not acceptable with the Bureau of Reclamation. As a result that resolution was trimmed back to only include the first sentence, as you see it presented today. After some discussion it was concluded the group would prefer to adopt the resolutions in one motion. **Doyle Fackler moved to adopt the resolutions, No. 1 through No. 16 with the attachments A and B and as presented in the information packets. The motion was seconded by Korth Elliott and the motion carried.**

**Next Annual Meeting Date:**

Meeting Chairman Haws announced it is now necessary to set the date and time for the next annual meeting, and also to select a location for that meeting. After some discussion about which date would suit the most people, **John Hartman moved to set next year's Annual Meeting date for the second Wednesday of January 2021 at 1:30 PM. This motion was seconded by Doyle Fackler, and the motion carried.**

After some additional discussion about choosing a meeting place, **Doyle Fackler moved to meet next year in this same location, The Emmett Church of the Nazarene, Aubrey Hall. Stewart Russell seconded the motion and the motion carried.**

**Adjournment:**

Chairman Haws asked if there is any other business that should be brought before this 2020 Annual Meeting of the Water District No. 65. Hearing none Mr. Haws thanked everyone for their participation and declared the meeting adjourned at 3:02 PM

Respectfully Submitted

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ron Shurtleff, Watermaster

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Betty Knox, Recording Secretary