

Water District 120
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2005

Tim Deeg called the Water District 120 quarterly meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. Other advisors in attendance were Scott Clawson, Walter Gay, Marla Tribble, Stephanie Mickelsen, Kevin Michaelson, Neal Powell, Terrell Sorenson, and Gaylen Van Orden. Ron Carlson, Lewis Rounds, and Gene Hansen of IDWR, Lynn Tominaga, Bruce Wright, and Terry Klipfel were also in attendance.

Tim Deeg asked Terry to read the minutes from the last meeting. Kevin Michaelson made a motion to accept the minutes as written, and Stephanie Michelson seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted as written by unanimous vote.

Next, Tim asked Lewis to give the water master report. Lewis began by announcing a public meeting concerning the creation of Water District 110. He said specific meeting information was enclosed with meeting materials. He talked about the Director's Report for Basin 27, stating it is due November 29th, but may be ready before that. Portions of basins 25 & 27 should be moved into Water District 120 before the annual meeting. Lewis also spoke briefly about an enclosed map that includes the boundaries of the proposed Water District 100.

Lewis discussed the district audits, stating that all had gone well, and that there were no major problems. Audits covered approximately 10% of the measured wells in the water district. He said that in addition to providing WMIS data for his annual report, he is now required to submit a written report. Because of this, he is requesting that reports from each of the ground water districts be submitted no later than February 1st. Lewis said he would need to know the number of diversions measured by each district besides those measured by Water District 120.

Lewis and Gene talked about water level measurements that had been done on approximately 20 wells. A few showed declines in water levels, but wells in the Hamer-Montevue were mostly stable. Wells in the Aberdeen American Falls area were mostly stable or showed slight increases in water levels, with the Idaho Falls area showing small increases. Gene Hansen provided graphs showing water level measurement comparisons. Lewis said the results show the downward trend seems to have stopped, or even reversed in some cases. Terrell Sorensen asked if the Bureau's well level measurements were included in the data. Gene told Terrell they were not, but said the information is available on their website. Lewis advised folks to wait until the spring measurement data was done before drawing conclusions about well measurements.

Next Ron talked about his retirement from IDWR and his plans to work with the Pearl House Project. Tim Deeg emphasized how much he and others appreciate all of Ron's hard work and dedication to IDWR and the water users. Tim then commenced with the chairman of the water district report.

Tim talked about meetings with the Surface Coalition, stating that they had not been fruitful in reaching a solution that would allow users to enter into an agreement. He said it would take some time before there would be further negotiations because the surface users always want the ground water users to give more. He said they had put forth a good effort, but the ground water users are not willing to give up any more than they felt they had generously offered. He talked about the Bureau and a potential agreement that they might present, but Tim said the ground water users were not willing to do anymore at this point in time.

Next, Lynn Tominaga gave an overview of water cases pending before the courts. There was significant discussion about these cases, and the potential for curtailment should the judge decide in favor of surface users. Lynn stated they were in the process of putting together information to provide to the judge. Ron said this is all reminiscent of the "Musser" case.

Next Tim talked about securing water for next year. He was unsure of the exact amount obtained, but said it was something just less than 40,000 acre-feet. Tim asked for a report on reservoir levels to date. Lewis said that there were 1.4 million acre-feet in the reservoirs, with the system 34% full at this point. Last year at the same time, there were only about 800,000 acre-feet and the system was 20% full. The difference is about 540,000 acre-feet more this year. Ron said that the system delivers about 8 million acre-feet per year with about 40% going to the surface water coalition.

Tim Deeg asked if there was any other business. Lewis said that the snow pack to date is about 130% of normal, but that could change significantly by April.

Tim asked Lewis how bringing in wells from basins 25 & 27 might affect WD 120. Lewis said there would not be much of an affect, but said when WD 100 is created, we will lose some wells to that district and some income. He said the district has had some savings because the full-time employee took a job elsewhere and the position has not been filled. Some of that money was used to fund extra secretarial help. There should be a new full-time employee hired by the annual meeting.

Tim asked if Lewis had any idea who might be hired to be the Water District 100 water master. Lewis said he didn't know at this time. There was also discussion about the Fremont Madison Irrigation District Office being the site of operation of WD 100.

Tim asked about the annual meeting date and location for this year. Lewis said it would most likely be held at the University Place auditorium, and would be on February 13th.

There was also some discussion about what would happen to folks administratively who were outside of the Snake Plain Aquifer area. Lewis said he believed the Director was leaning toward everyone being a part of a water district.

Next Lewis reminded advisors that there would be another meeting two weeks prior to the annual meeting. At that meeting, he will discuss what he plans to present at the

annual meeting. There was also some discussion about the Water District 120 budget. Lewis wanted advisors to be aware of a bill that now allows the Director to bill for maintaining the water model. The charge could be up to 1.2 million dollars per year. There was a lengthy discussion about the water model and potential bill from the Director. There was also some discussion about an advisory committee the Director plans on putting together to oversee the maintenance and billing of the water model.

Tim reminded advisors there would be a hearing in March about the Director's Order. He said ground water users do impact storage, but emphasized there are many other impacts besides that of ground water. There was no more business.

Marla Tribble made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bruce Wright seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.