



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

DAVID R. TUTHILL, JR.
Director

March 18, 2009

<<NAME>>
<<ADDRESS>
<< CITY ST ZIP>>

RE: MARCH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING FOLLOWUP

Dear <<Name>>:

This letter is a follow-up to the Basin 71 Steering Committee Meeting held March 11th, 2009. The meeting was very productive and I feel we will have a workable plan for the district to present at the annual meeting in June. I've attached a document with notes from the meeting and some additional information, as well as an agenda for the next meeting.

The next meeting has been scheduled for Monday, April 6th, 2009 1:00 P.M at the Bridge Steet Grill in Lower Stanley.

Questions, concerns or needs related to the scheduled meeting may be directed to Nick Miller by calling 208-287-4956, or by e-mail at Nick.Miller@idwr.idaho.gov. You may also contact Bob Foster at the IDWR Field Office in Salmon, Idaho at 208-756-6644, or by e-mail at Bob.Foster@idwr.idaho.gov.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]

Nick Miller, P.E.
Water Distribution Section, IDWR

ENCLOSURES:

- 1) Follow-up Notes from the WD71 Steering Committee Meeting Held 03/11/09 (2 pages)
2) Agenda - Sub-District No. 71 Steering Committee Meeting (1 page)

c: Bob Foster - IDWR Salmon Office
James Bennetts - Challis, ID
Michael Humphreys - San Antonio, TX

Basin 71 Steering Committee:
Cliff Hansen - Challis, ID
Bob Jarrett - Stanley, ID
Bill Leavell - Stanley, ID
Doug MacNichol - McCall, ID
Jay Neider - Stanley, ID
Ken Smith - Stanley, ID
Margaret Watkins - Stanley, ID
Brett and Dan Woolley - Stanley, ID

# FOLLOW UP NOTES FROM THE SWD71 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 03/11/09

## Issues:

### Annual Meeting –

- 1<sup>st</sup> year, Director will issue an order setting meeting for 2<sup>nd</sup> week in June.
- Subsequent years, not decided. Either change the statute, or the Director issues order each year, or possibly hold mtg. in August for following year. Users may have to adopt a resolution each year to petition the director to allow the following year's meeting to be held after March.
- Location
  - Stanley Community Center – Charge is \$250. They can waive or reduce the fee, but we would need to present request to the City Council. City Council Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM in the Community Building.
  - Mtn. village – Charge is \$50. May be too small.
  - Bridge Street – No fee, but meeting must be held in the morning or business may be interrupted.
  - Stanley school – Charge is \$25/hr, could be negotiable. NRM will follow up.

### WD Staff –

- District needs a treasurer since budget > \$3,000. Brett will contact Michele Ewing and/or Stephanie Webb to see about getting one of them to provide treasurer services & how much it would cost.
- WM candidates:
  - Independent contractor vs. employee. Since there will be a treasurer anyway, no real savings using a contractor.
  - Three candidates mentioned. NRM will contact them to discuss potential.
    - Carl Thomas – 774-3675
    - Shane Deering – 830-4382
    - Jan Skrukud – 774-3460

Left Message for Shane, didn't hear back. Carl and Jan are interested. Both would be good candidates. Seems like anyone would have access to the internet through the Stanley Library.

- Concern about EOE issues – Recognize the benefits of advertising job, so will also post job announcement around town. NRM will draft it up and email to committee members to post. Discussed putting it in paper, decided not necessary.
- Note that the steering committee doesn't hire the WM; the users will elect the WM at the annual meeting. However, if we want to be able to train the WM prior to the meeting, the Director could appoint the WM for the first year, then we hope the users elect the same person.

# FOLLOW UP NOTES FROM THE SWD71 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 03/11/09

## Budget –

- WM salary & mileage, & treasurer mileage will comprise nearly the entire salary. Will likely not budget for telephone, etc... will require the WM to provide.
- Budget is estimated primarily using estimates of hours worked, miles driven, and wage. Estimates at the meeting resulted in budgets on the order of \$15,000. However, those estimates were likely high as they assumed a 40-hr work week and a high estimate of mileage rate (\$0.60 instead of \$0.55). Revised estimates, using a 2 to 3-day workweek, \$10/hr, and 200-300 miles per week at \$0.55/mile (the actual IRS rate) are on the order of \$7,000 to \$10,000/year. In this range, the highest assessment bill is \$600 to \$1,000.
- We'll have a better estimate of the budget next year. Any excess collected this year will carry over and offset the amount to collect next year. If the budget is insufficient for this year, users could call a special meeting or will collect the shortfall at the next annual meeting, but the WM would have to be paid somehow in the meantime, unless WM is willing to wait.

## WM Activities –

- Estimated WM hours and mileage to visit each diversion weekly or monthly.
- Questions about whether could use self-reporting w/ less frequent visits by WM.
  - If users complied, it could work.
  - What happens if users don't comply or are found to be dishonest?
- Discussed cost share w/ IDFG. Want to save some \$, but need to address IDFG concerns, which are:
  - Don't want to be responsible for watermastering – so we limit their involvement only to reading flumes.
  - Concerned about trespass authority (access agreements) – The users might be able to amend their access agreements. Access is not an issue for diversions on federal lands.
- Brett will contact Jim @IDFG to discuss this issue and see if IDFG wants to meet to consider cost-sharing.
- NRM to look into numbers of screens, etc to see what impact a cost share might have... we don't want to offset the WM's duties to the point where the WM job does not pay well enough to attract and keep a good person.
  - 73 (+-) locations to be visited each week.
  - 31 Weekly locations with fish screens
    - 18 of the 31 on USFS property
    - 13 not on USFS property
  - Potential impact would be relieving the WM of visiting ~40% of diversions. Impact to mileage would probably be less than 40%.
  - Also, 10 Diversions without fish screens on USFS property.
- Discussed whether the WM visits could be less rigid, for example prescribe at least one visit each two weeks on a more random schedule. This might improve the perception that users know when the WM has been there and will not return for a week.

## Next Steering Committee Meeting –

- Monday, April 6, 2009 at 1:00 pm. To be held at Bridge Street Restaurant.

**SUB-DISTRICT No. 71  
STEERING COMMITTEE  
MEETING AGENDA**

**April 6, 2009**

**1:00 p.m.**

**Bridge Street Grill, Lower Stanley**

- I. Review notes from last meeting
- II. Review Plan for 2009 Annual Meeting
  - o Meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June – Propose Monday June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 6:00 pm.
  - o Director will issue order for this year.
- III. Determine operational details  
Specific items to be considered:
  - Number of deputy watermasters & assistants - who will it be?
  - Deputy WM's tasks and responsibilities.
  - Other district officers - treasurer
  - Record keeping and reporting – forms, etc..
  - Compensation – by the hour, or lump sum? What kind of employment?
  - Equipment/facilities – Cell phone, vehicle or mileage, bank account, PO Box, computer, internet access.
  - Proposed budget
  - Assessments – who gets assessed, how to calculate, need a minimum fee?
  - Voting policy
  - Advisory committee
  - Dispute resolution and chain of command w/ WD170 and IDWR
  - Draft proposed resolutions
- III. Schedule next meeting and adjournment

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