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WATER RESOURCES
WESTERN REGION

MEETING MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE WATER DISTRICT NO. 65

DATE: APRIL 26, 1994
TIME: 1:30 P.M.
PLACE: WATER DISTRICT OFFICE
102 NORTH MAIN STREET
PAYETTE, IDAHO 83661

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT: BOB HENGGELER, CECIL SHURTLEFF, MARC SHIGETA, JAY SISLER, MARCIA HERR, VIRGIL JOHNSON, DALE KRAUSE, LEONARD ARBUCKLE, DUANE VAN LEUVEN, KEITH STANDLEY, AND JERRY ANDERSON.

OTHERS PRESENT: HELEN BIVINS-WATERMASTER, DAVE TUTHILL & BOB SUTER-IDWR, RICK WELLS-BOR, SCOTT CAMPBELL-ATTORNEY, TERRY SCANLON-HYDROLOGIST, HOWARD SEVY, PAT HIGBY, AND CURT INGLE.

CHAIRMAN BOB HENGGELER OPENED THE MEETING AND MADE INTRODUCTIONS.

RICK WELLS WAS ASKED TO GIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PRESENT OUTLOOK FOR WATER DURING THE COMING SEASON. HE DISTRIBUTED COPIES OF DATA THAT HE HAD COMPILED SHOWING THIS YEAR COMPARED TO 1993, 1992, AND THE 30 YEAR AVERAGE. HE SAID THAT CARRYOVER STORAGE IS WELL ABOVE LAST YEARS CARRYOVER. AS OF APRIL 24 THERE WAS 459,000 A.F. IN CASCADE AND 111,166 A.F. IN DEADWOOD. HE NOTED THAT THEY WERE NOW BEGINNING TO GET SOME RAPID FILL DUE TO THE RISE IN TEMPERATURES. THE TWO RESERVOIRS HAVE ABOUT 120,000 A.F. MORE IN STORAGE THAN AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR. THEY ARE ABOUT 100,000 A.F. ABOVE THE 30 YEAR AVERAGE. SNOW PACK AT THIS TIME IS SIMILAR TO 1992, BUT RUNOFF IS FORECAST AT 80,000 A.F. MORE THAN IN 1992, AND STORAGE AT 45,000 TO 50,000 A.F. MORE. THE FORECAST FOR FLOWS PAST HORSESHOE BEND DURING THE FOUR MONTHS OF APRIL THROUGH JULY 31 IS FOR 45% OF NORMAL. AT THIS TIME THE TWO RESERVOIRS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ABOUT 40,000 A.F. SHORT OF FILLING, ALL IRRIGATION SPACE IS EXPECTED TO FILL EXCEPT FOR THOSE WHO LEASED WATER FOR FISH FLOW AUGMENTATION, CAUSING THEM TO COME UNDER THE LAST TO FILL RULE. ADEQUATE WATER IS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE FOR IRRIGATORS THIS SEASON PROVIDING THAT CONSERVATION CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED SUCCESSFULLY.

DAVE TUTHILL REPORTED ON A TOUR THAT HAD BEEN TAKEN THIS MORNING OF THE SEVEN MILE SLOUGH AND THE DIVERSIONS IN THAT AREA. THOSE ATTENDING WERE DAVE, BOB SUTER, HELEN BIVINS, MARCIA HERR, HOWARD PLATZ, MARC SHIGETA, AND DITCH RIDERS FOR THE FARMERS COOP AND NOBLE DITCH. ALSO THERE WAS A MEETING AT THE LETHA BRIDGE BY THE USGS AND THE BOR CONCERNING THE GAGE TO BE INSTALLED AT THAT LOCATION. PLANS ARE THAT INSTALLATION WILL TAKE PLACE THE SECOND WEEK OF MAY, AND SHOULD BE IN OPERATION LATER IN THE MONTH. DAVE SAID THAT THERE IS A RECORDING GAGE IN OPERATION AT THE MOUTH OF SEVEN MILE SLOUGH AND THE DIVERSION IS CONTROLLABLE. ABOUT 400 CFS IS DIVERTED THERE AND THE DITCH RIDERS SAID THAT NORMALLY ABOUT 15 CFS PASSES THROUGH THE SLOUGH AND RETURNS TO THE RIVER. HOWARD PLATZ TOLD THE GROUP THAT IN 1977 PRACTICALLY ALL OF THE

WATER DIVERTED AT THE UPPER END WAS USED, WITH HARDLY ANY MOVING THROUGH THE SLOUGH AND BACK INTO THE RIVER. DAVE SAID THAT WITH THE NEW GAGE AT THE LETHA BRIDGE THE WATERMASTER WILL BE ABLE TO TELL HOW MUCH WATER IS FLOWING PAST THAT POINT. HE SAID THAT THEY THINK FLOWS GREATER THAN 130 CFS AT THAT POINT ARE EXCESSIVE. DAVE SAID THAT IT APPEARS THAT THE SEVEN MILE SLOUGH IS BEING OPERATED EFFICIENTLY, AND ALTHOUGH THE SEASON OF 1993 WAS NOT A TIGHT OPERATION, THE FIGURES DO REPRESENT WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED. HE SAID THAT A LOT OF DATA IS BEING RECORDED THAT WAS NOT PLUGGED INTO THE COMPUTER PROGRAM LAST YEAR. A WAY NEEDS TO BE FOUND TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT INFORMATION. DAVE SAID THAT THE ACCOUNTING FOR LAST YEAR WAS THE BEST THAT COULD BE DONE WITH THE LIMITED DATA AVAILABLE. WE NEED TO CONSIDER 1993 A LEARNING YEAR, AND FOCUS OUR EFFORTS ON 1994. SCOTT CAMPBELL ASKED IF THE DEPARTMENT WOULD PROVIDE A LETTER TO THIS GROUP STATING THAT THE FIGURES FOR THE 1993 SEASON WOULD NOT BE USED IN FUTURE COMPARISONS, AND WOULD NOT BECOME A MODEL FOR OPERATIONS IN COMING YEARS. DAVE SAID YES HE FELT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE SUCH A LETTER. HE ALSO SAID THAT IF THE RESERVOIRS SHOULD FAIL TO FILL BY MORE THAN 130,000 A.F., AND IT WOULD IMPACT THE IRRIGATORS, THEY WOULD CONSIDER REVIEWING THE 1993 FIGURES. THEY WOULD RATHER PUT THEIR EFFORTS ON THE 1994 SEASON AND LET THE FIGURES FOR LAST YEAR STAND, IMPERFECT THOUGH THEY MAY BE. HE SAID THAT BOB SUTER HAS STARTED ENTERING DATA FOR THIS YEAR, AND WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BECOMING AVAILABLE THE ACCOUNTING SHOULD BE MUCH IMPROVED.

BOB HENGGELER SAID THAT AGRICULTURE IS CONSTANTLY BEING ACCUSED OF USING MOST OF THE COUNTRY'S WATER SUPPLY. ON THE PAYETTE DRAINAGE LAST YEAR THE SNOW PACK GENERATED THREE MILLION A.F. OF WATER AND OF THAT AMOUNT AGRICULTURE USED 800,000 A.F. THIS SHOWS THAT IRRIGATORS ARE NOT THE MAJOR USERS. BOB PASSED OUT COPIES OF DATA FOR WATER USAGE ON THE RIVER FOR 1977, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1991, 1992, & 1993. THE DATA PRESENTED SHOWED THE FLOWS PAST BLACK CANYON DAM, WATER ORDERED, NATURAL FLOW, FLOWS AT THE PAYETTE RIVER BRIDGE, AND WATER LOSS. THESE FIGURES WERE FOR THE MONTHS OF JULY, AUGUST, AND SEPTEMBER OF EACH OF THOSE YEARS. HE REVIEWED THE DATA NOTING THAT AGRICULTURES USAGE WAS FAIRLY CONSISTANT THROUGH THE YEARS. IN 1993 WHEN THE TOTAL NATURAL FLOW WAS 362,412 A.F. THERE WAS NO REASON FOR THE IRRIGATORS TO BE CHARGED FOR 210,385 A.F. OF STORAGE WATER.

IN A DISCUSSION OF THE WINTER FLOOD RELEASE WATER OF 25,000 A.F. RELEASED DURING SEPTEMBER, IT WAS CONCEDED THAT AS IT TURNED OUT THE RELEASE WAS NOT NECESSARY. THE NOVEMBER 1 LIMIT FOR CASCADE IS 429,000 A.F. THE OCTOBER 31 LEVEL WAS 404,000 A.F., 25,000 A.F. BELOW THE NOVEMBER 1 LIMIT. RICK WELLS SAID THAT THERE IS NO INCENTIVE FOR THE BUREAU TO DISCHARGE EXTRA WATER FROM THE RESERVOIR. IN FACT MOST PRESSURE COMES FROM THOSE DESIRING A HIGH LEVEL OF WATER IN THE RESERVOIR. TO HELP MAINTAIN A HIGHER WATER QUALITY. THIS YEAR THEY THOUGHT THEY WOULD NEED TO MAKE A RELEASE IN OCTOBER AND DECIDED TO MAKE THE RELEASE DURING SEPTEMBER WHEN IT WOULD BENEFIT POWER GENERATION AT BLACK CANYON.

10/1/83

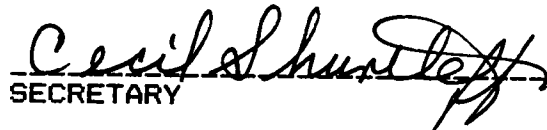
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DAVE TUTHILL SUMMARIZED THE MEETING AND SAID THAT FLOOD RELEASE WATER WILL NOT BE RELEASED AS EARLY AGAIN. BCID HAS INDICATED THAT THEY DO NOT WANT IT RELEASED THAT EARLY IN THE SEASON. A REVIEW OF THE BOR OPERATING PROCEDURE WOULD SEEM TO BE IN ORDER, WITH SOME MODIFICATION BEING DESIRED. DAVE SAID THAT LAST SEASON ALMOST ALL THE ACCOUNTING WAS DONE AFTER THE FACT. THIS YEAR THE PROGRAM IS IN PLACE AND IF GOOD COMMUNICATION IS MAINTAINED MOST OF THE PROBLEMS SHOULD BE DETECTED AS THEY ARE HAPPENING OR EVEN BEFORE THEY TAKE PLACE. THE WATERMASTER WILL BE ALERTED WHEN SOMEONE IS ABOUT TO GO ON STORAGE. SHE WILL IN TURN CONTACT THE AFFECTED USER AND THEY WILL THEN HAVE THE CHOICE OF CUTTING BACK OR BEING CHARGED FOR STORAGE WATER. HE CAUTIONED THAT SINCE THE WATER SUPPLY WILL BE SHORTER THIS SEASON IT WILL REQUIRE AN EVEN CLOSER WATCH ON THE PART OF EVERYONE INVOLVED. AS SOON AS THE RESERVOIRS HAVE FILLED AN ACCOUNTING WILL BE MADE AND EACH SPACEHOLDER WILL KNOW HOW MUCH WATER THEY HAVE AVAILABLE. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION BY SCOTT CAMPBELL CONCERNING WHEN THE GROUP MIGHT EXPECT THE LETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT REGARDING THEIR POSITION AS TO THE VALIDITY OF THE 1993 ACCOUNTING DAVE SAID THEY WOULD TRY TO GET IT OUT WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. DAVE SAID THAT IF THE RESERVOIRS FILL TO WITHIN 130,000 A.F. THE IRRIGATORS SHOULD NOT BE IMPACTED EXCEPT FOR THE WATER THE THREE COMPANIES LEASED TO THE RENTAL POOL. IF THE FILL IS AT LEAST THAT MUCH THEY WOULD LIKE TO LET LAST YEARS FIGURES STAND AS THEY ARE.

THE CHAIRMAN ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY FURTHER BUSINESS. CECIL SAID THAT THE PRICE FOR RENTAL POOL WATER NEEDS TO BE SET, AND MOVED THAT THE PRICE BE SET THE SAME AS LAST YEAR WHICH WAS \$2.50 AN ACRE FOOT WITH 50 CENTS OF THAT FIGURE GOING TO THE DISTRICT FOR ADMINISTRATION, AND AN ADDITIONAL SURCHARGE OF 20 CENTS FOR THE WATER RESOURCE BOARD, MAKING A TOTAL OF \$2.70 AN ACRE FOOT. A SECOND BY KEITH STANDLEY, IT WAS VOTED AND CARRIED.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.


CHAIRMAN


SECRETARY