

Westra, John

From: Lester, Steve
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2001 4:30 PM
To: Spackman, Gary
Cc: Westra, John; Graves, Lori
Subject: Little Weiser River water district

Gary:

There is not much more I can add to what John and Lori already documented about this troubled district. Perhaps the only thing I can add is my own experience since about 1988. I've worked with five watermasters and we still don't have the tools in place to manage and account for water delivery. This office invested *many* hours of field time and office research in trying to make the district function as it should. Unfortunately, our success was a great under achievement.

In my opinion, the tools will never be in place unless we enforce an order requiring controllable and measurable diversion works. All the other ad hoc efforts, e.g., using a current meter to make field decisions for delivery, have not worked and are not realistic answers.

The district slid backwards in the last two years since previous Watermaster Richard Krettin resigned. He had the water users on the right track, but the users managed to alienate Richard sufficient to cause him to resign.

Although many of the local individuals are good people, the group dynamic in Indian Valley is consistently unproductive. I don't think we have any option except to apply the *Idaho Code* and make the users play by the rules. This will not be an easy assignment. I hope we don't continue down the unsuccessful path we have been on with 67-A.

Steve