

**WATER DISTRICT NO. 65**

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**OCT 09 1996**

**WATER RESOURCES  
WESTERN REGION**

October 7, 1996

**NOTICE ADVISORY BOARD/PRWUA BOARD MEETING**

The Water District Advisory Board and Payette River Water Users Board meeting on Monday, October 14, 1996, at 8:00 p.m. in the Payette offices. The Advisory Board will discuss the following tentative agenda:

- 1) Watermaster Report:
  - a) Financial Report
  - b) River Flow and Storage Report
  - c) IWUA Law Seminar - Nov. 1 & 2 in Boise
  - d) 1997 IWUA Awards Nominations - Suggestions
- 2) Payette River Watershed Council - Status Report
- 3) Budget Committee Report - Dale Krause, Chairman
- 4) 1997 Nominating Committee Update

If you have further questions please give me a call. Otherwise, I will see you at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, October 14, 1996 at the next Advisory Board meeting.

Sincerely,  
Mark Limbaugh

W. D. 65 Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes

Opening The W.D.65 Advisory Board held a meeting in Payette at the office, 102 N. Main St., September 9, 1996 at 8:00 P.M.

Attendance Those present were Dale Krause/B.C.I.D., Keith Standley/E.I.D., Gail Springer/Bilbrey Ditch, Joy Sisler/Gill Slough, Dean Charters/Last Chance, Cecil Shurtleff/Lower Payette, Mike Bankhead/Lower Payette, Karl Siller/ E.I.D., Ed Obermeyer/Enterprise, Marc Shegeta/Noble, Robert Henggeler/Farmers, Dennis Lamme/B.C.I.D., Mark Limbaugh/W.M. W.D. 65, Brick Andrew/Chairman W.D. 65, Marcia Herr/Letha Irrig./Sectr'y W.D. 65.

Guests Guests Present: Jerry Gregg/USBR, Steve Lester/IDWR, Sheryl Howe/IDWR.

Approval of Minutes Chairman Andrew opened the meeting and called for approval of the minutes of July 15th as mailed. Dale Krause moved to accept them with a second by Keith Standley. Motion Carried.

Budget Information Mark Limbaugh presented the budget information. July information was mailed and August information was available at the meeting. He stated that the O&M on the river guage at the Letha Bridge and the Payette Bridge was paid this month to the IDWR. The greatest percentage over budget is printing and reproduction because of meeting preparation and binding of yearly W.D. activities. He stated that he and Chairman Andrew had reviewed the budget and that there is room to absorb this overage. He said that the \$471.90 shown in A/R assessments is mostly North Fork users that do not have an active water right and he will probably write off the amount. There are about 40 users on the North Fork, -- 4-5 are fairly large users with the rest using small amounts. Companies that have put water in the rental pool for flow augmentation will receive their payments about the end of October because of the release of fish water during the summer. Cecil Shurtleff moved to accept the budget report with a second by Gail Springer. Motion carried.

Water Rental Payment

River Flow Accounting The next item was a discussion of the river flow accounting and how the W.M. arrives at actual flow numbers. He said that the shown amounts for the pumpers above Black Canyon Dam would be adjusted when the information is available from Idaho Power to show actual use. The users below Rasmussen Ditch have return flow.

North and South Fork Accounting The next item was a discussion of the 1996 accounting for North and South Fork users. Mark stated that in 1993, charges for the water users below Black Canyon Dam were waived because of the newness of the accounting

system. This enabled users to adjust to the new method and so Mark is recommending that the same courtesy be extended to the North and South Fork users as well to allow them to make the necessary adjustments in their budgets. The amount being used is about 1600 cfs and would be charged to operational loss. Bob Henggeler moved to waive the charges. A second by Keith Standley. Motion carried.

Update/Fish  
Flow Accounting

Mark L. presented an update on the fish flow accounting. Last meeting, July, 1996, there was a discussion regarding the by-pass flow at Letha during fish flow. For some time, it was generally accepted that the target flow at Letha was 135 cfs. Anything over that is considered operational loss. Last year (1995), the average flow was 212 cfs. Because Roger Fuhrman, Idaho Power, was present during this discussion, he made the effort to organize another meeting. The result was that anything over 135 cfs will be charged to fish flush, thereby saving enough operational loss to meet the needs of the North Fork.

USCID/Las Vegas  
Dec.

Mark L.'s attendance at the USCID winter conference in Las Vegas, December 5-7 was next. He has been chosen to be a presenter at the conference. Jerry Gregg, USBR, commented that there are many applicants for the conference and it is an honor to be accepted. Cecil Shurtleff moved to send Mark with a second by Marc Shegeta. Motion carried.

NWRA/Reno/Nov.

Mark also talked about the NWRA (National Water Resource Association) Convention to be held in Reno, November 12-15. Other water districts participate by sending representatives from their organizations. If we include the remainder of the cost share fund which has not been spent (\$13,680.40), and extend the costs of our budget out to the end of the year, based on where we are currently, there will be about \$8300.00 left. However, remaining funds will need to go to the Black Canyon Dam upgrade contract that we still owe, with the remainder of our obligation for that project to be included in our budget for 1997. If the cost share is not included, there is about \$1984.00 left. The cost of both meetings is approximately \$1600 - \$1700. Dale Krause moved to send Mark to the Reno meeting with a second by Gail Springer. Motion Carried.

River Tour/  
State Water Plan

Mark L. then shared information regarding a river tour that he participated in the end of August. The tour of the Payette River was sponsored by the IDWR and included representatives of Water Districts, USBR, Fish and Game, representatives of the Recreation Community, and a Cascade Reservoir representative. This is part of the process of revising the State Water Plan every five

years. Statistics and information regarding the river is being gathered to make long range plans for the river's use.

Payette River  
Watershed  
Council

Mark then discussed the concept of a Payette River Watershed Council, similar to the Henry's Fork Organization. It would include all interests on the river and reservoir to better understand their needs - those that are directly affected by water quality and quantity. The Water Districts' purpose is to manage the water rights and contracts. The PRWC would provide a forum where issues other than water rights and contracts can be addressed. Jerry Gregg, USBR, feels that the Watermaster is the logical person to represent the irrigation community. The Payette is probably the heaviest used river in the state for recreational purposes and being pro-active rather than reactive in regard to water issues is desirable. Jerry Gregg, USBR, stated that the USBR may be able to provide some "seed" money to facilitate organization. Steve Lester, IDWR, feels that this type of organization is the "wave of the future" and we would do well to become involved. Mark commented that the representative from Cascade Reservoir and also the recreation interests are in favor of the concept as well. Once the participants have been chosen, there would be some by-laws to formulate and consider. Marcia Herr made the recommendation to have Mark participate in the formation of the Payette River Watershed Council. Chairman Andrew asked to have a report on the preliminary efforts and the financial aspects. Second by Dean Charters. Motion carried.

WAG Update/  
Technical Info.

Mark L. reported on a technical meeting regarding the data of the river and the drains, - assessments of bacteria, temperature and sediment in June and August. Bacteria counts in the river were well under the state limits in June to just past State Hi-Way 95 near the Payette Bridge. The temperature was another problem - the technical aspects of collecting this information were less than desirable. Mark stated that they would do well to keep a "handle" on the way readings of temperature are taken. He said the water quality in the river seems to be much better (more clear) this year. However, this is just the beginning and will take continued attention and effort on the part of the growers. The question was asked about which communities dump treated sewage in the river. Mark stated that Emmett, Fruitland and Payette do and they will be affected by TMDLS' as well. The question was also asked if any of the information was made available to those whose drains are measured. This led into the next topic of the I & E (Information and Education) position for the WAG that has been advertised. Mark along with several others was asked to apply. It is a part time

Information &  
Education  
Position

consulting position which would be responsible for conveying the information to the agricultural community and the general public of what the WAG is and how the TMDLS function. Mark was their choice but he is uncomfortable with the conflict it could create with those he would be meeting with in regard to water quality issues. His feeling is that he would be more valuable to the water users as a member of the Advisory Group than in the I & E position. Following a general discussion, the feeling of the Advisory Board WD 65 was that it would be better for Mark to decline this position.

Hydro-Plant/  
HSB

Hydroplant at Horseshoe Bend - Several times during the elevated flows of the fish flush, the plant manager had been raising and lowering their pneumatic dam. The reason being that the tail-race next to the plant was eroded by high water. During the repair work, water levels in the river were up and down and affected BCID and also a pumper (Gene Gatfield). Mark L. met with the power plant manager along with Sheryl Howe, IDWR, and Steve Lester, IDWR to resolve the issue. HSB Power Plant will also need to rent water (1000 AF) to replace what they have had to let go during the repair. They paid for 1000 AF, even though the canal is only designed for 500 AF, so that they could refill at whatever rate they needed and wanted. Mark made a point of insisting that they keep the Waterdistrict informed of what is going on with fluctuations in the water.

Breakfast  
Meeting USBR  
Comm. Martinez

Mark L. made mention of being part of a breakfast meeting at the invitation of the IWUA, with the new USBR Commissioner Martinez. He found it to be interesting and the new commissioner to be state oriented and a water user friendly individual.

Rental Pool  
Price Increase

The next topic was rental pool price increase. The USBR will need to be involved in the discussion, because they are the greatest user of our rental water. WD 01 in Eastern Idaho is charging quite a bit more. Mark is concerned that we don't committ the Rental Pool for an amount certain during the biological opinion. Jerry Gregg spoke regarding the issue and stated that the USBR was involved in the long term committment and pricing structure in the upper Snake. We do have to go before the IWRB to change the pricing structure. A committee or group needs to be formed and come to some resolution so that at time of testimony, there is a consensus. Chairman Andrew will appoint a committee to work with Mark and report at the October meeting.

Additional  
Water/Rental  
Pool

The next item was acceptance into the Rental Pool of additional water by EID - 10,000 AF, Enterprise 500 AF for out of basin use. Motion by Dennis Lamme with a

Additional Flow Donations      second by Keith Standley. Motion Carried. Also donations of storage space for flows at Emmett this Autumn - USBR/5000 AF, Farmers Co-op/500 AF, Noble Ditch/500 AF, Lower Payette/500 AF, and EID/500 AF.

Additional Out of Basin/USBR      There is also an additional 6300 AF that the USBR is requesting for out of basin use in addition to the 50,000 AF original request. Motion to approve by Keith Standley with a second by Dennis Lamme. Motion carried.

1997 Budget Committee      Chairman Andrew spoke of the need to appoint a 1997 budget committee. He stated that he would wait to make the choices until a later date.

Cascade Sed. Study      Chairman Andrew asked for any additional business. Jerry Gregg, USBR, brought up the Cascade Sedimentation Study. He stated that the survey was cost shared with the DEQ. Unless they hear anything in opposition, they will accept what was done by the Denver Team as technically correct. A letter will be sent to the Waterdistrict describing how the study will affect the contract holders. Changes will fall into place the next calendar year. Mark stated that the information is available through his office for anyone interested.

Adjournment      There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Andrew at 10:00 PM.

Marcia Herr Sec'ty