

# Water District No. 65

Payette River Basin, State of Idaho  
102 North Main Street  
Payette, Idaho 83661

Watermaster  
Mark Limbaugh

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WATER RESOURCES  
WESTERN REGION

March 31, 2000

## NOTICE OF ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Dear Advisory Board Member:

The Water District No. 65 Advisory Board will meet on **Monday, April 10, 2000**, at **8:00 p.m.** in **Payette** to consider the following tentative agenda:

- 1) Approval of Minutes
- 2) Watermaster Report
  - a) Financial and Budget Report
  - b) River Operations and Snow Pack Update
  - c) Update on Reauthorization of Flow Augmentation for 2000
  - d) USBR O&M Accountability and Reporting Project Update
  - e) IWUA Legislative Committee Update
  - f) Brownlee Reservoir WAG Update
- 3) Cost Share Program Requests
  - a) Black Canyon Irrigation District
  - b) Bilbrey Ditch Company
- 4) Any Other Business to Come Before the Board

I look forward to seeing all of you on **Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>** in **Payette** at **8:00 p.m.**

Sincerely,



Mark Limbaugh

Enclosures: 3/13/00 Minutes

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
WATER DISTRICT NO. 65  
MARCH 13, 2000

The Advisory Board of Water District No. 65 held a meeting in the office at 102 N. Main, Payette, Idaho, on Monday, March 13, 2000, at 7:00 in the evening.

Those present were Keith Standley, Jim Standley, Mark Limbaugh (WM., WD65), Dan Surmeier, Mike Bankhead, Dennis Lammey, Bob Henggeler.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bankhead, who welcomed those in attendance. The attendance record in its entirety is attached to these minutes.

**Minutes Approved:** The minutes from the Advisory Board meeting of December 14, 1999 were mailed in written form to the Advisory Board Members for their review. Dan Surmeier moved, Keith Standley seconded, to approve December 14<sup>th</sup> minutes as mailed. Motion passed.

**Watermaster's Report**

**Financial Report:** The financial report of February 29, 2000 was presented to those present by the Watermaster. Copies of the financial statements are attached to these minutes. A budget comparison was presented, showing the percentage of budgeted amounts spent or received for each category of expense or income. Bob Henggeler moved, Dan Surmeier seconded, to approve the financial statement and the budget comparison as presented. Motion passed.

**River Operations and Storage Water Accounting Update:** Mark then presented to the Board a copy of the March 1, 2000 Water Supply Outlook from the NRCS covering the Payette and Weiser Basins. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Mark highlighted the predicted runoff at Horseshoe Bend, which is estimated at 102% of average for the April – July runoff period and 101% of average for the April – September runoff period. Mark then distributed copies of the snow pack update for March 13, 2000 showing the Weiser/Payette Basins with an average of 91% snow water content for this date. Mark indicated the North Fork basin shows higher percentages of snow water content than the Middle/South Fork basins. Mark ended his water outlook report by stating the current reservoir contents for the Board.

**Idaho Power Company Request/Response:** Mark presented a copy of a letter he received on February 14, 2000 from Idaho Power Company outlining a problem they had with their transmission lines near Cascade. The Company requested Cascade releases be increased from 200 cfs to a total of 1,000 cfs for about a 24-hour period to cover the outages explained in the letter. Mark visited with the Rick Wells, USBR, and concurred with him to increase the releases at that time. Mark then provided a copy of the letter he sent to Idaho Power Company explaining the situation to them with regard to the local rental pool and the scenarios Idaho Power may face in releasing storage water as a result of their request. Mark's letter stated that, if Cascade Reservoir does not fill to capacity this season, Idaho Power Company must rent the storage water released from the reservoir, but if the reservoir does fill, then Idaho Power Company would be using flood control releases for their February 14 – 15 operation and would pay nothing. A copy of this letter is attached to these minutes.

**USBR 1999 Water Conservation Awards:** Mark provided to the Board a copy of the Bureau of Reclamation's press release announcing the 1999 Water Conservation Award recipients. Water District No. 65 and the Farmers Co-operative Irrigation Company shared one of the awards for "...taking a proactive approach to improved water management." A copy of the release is attached to these minutes.

**Water Management Plan:** Mark again presented a copy of the draft Water Management Plan for the District to the Board for their review. Mark asked the Board what they wanted to do about formally

adopting the plan, which was drafted to assist District water users in meeting the requirements of the Bureau of Reclamation's Water Conservation Cost Share Program. Bob Henggeler moved, Dennis Lammey seconded, to adopt the Water Management Plan as presented. Motion carried.

**IWUA Legislative Committee Update:** Mark presented a copy of the Idaho Water Users Association legislative update for their review. Mark then addressed each bill mentioned in the update as they pertained to water users.

Keith Standley asked about the minimum flow legislation for the North Fork of the Payette River above Big Payette Lake, expressing concerns that the Lake Reservoir Company had supported this state minimum flow application. Mark stated that, to the best of his knowledge, the Company had supported the application as part of their working relationship with the Big Payette Lake Water Quality Council, who requested the state apply for this instream flow water right. Mark indicated that he did not believe the instream flow application would harm the Lake Reservoir Company water rights as the application would be junior to any of the water rights for storage water held by the Company. Mark also believed the Company's support was more in support of the local water quality committee in McCall to improve the working relationship the Company currently enjoys with the group. In the past, this relationship has not been favorable, creating some animosity between the locals and the Company over apparent management actions. Mark indicated that the instream flow application would mirror current reservoir operations the Company has adopted and would not affect the Company's ability to fill their reservoirs. Finally, Mark indicated the Company was successful in preventing a similar instream flow application for the North Fork below Big Payette Lake from being included in the Payette River Basin Plan due to possible problems with reservoir releases and public perception of an instream flow water right held by the state. One of the reasons for this successful effort was the fact that the Company was supporting the application above the lake but could not do so below the lake, due to the inherent problems of river flows and releases and management of the lake level for recreation later in the summer.

Bob Henggeler suggested the Lake Reservoir Company minutes reflect the nuances of their support for this instream flow water right in order to alleviate future misunderstandings. Mark indicated he would suggest that to the Company's board.

**Water Quality/WAG Update:** Mark updated the Board on the recent meeting of the Lower Payette River Watershed Advisory Group. Mark stated that election of officers will be held at the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mark also informed the Board that he had been chosen to represent other interests on the Hells Canyon Public Advisory Team, or Brownlee WAG. Mark indicated that he would prefer to not be the next Chairman of the Lower Payette WAG, as he has served as Chairman for the past two years. Mark will update the Board again on the WAG and the Hells Canyon PAT at the next Advisory Board meeting.

**Basin Tours Conducted:** On Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mark gave a tour of Payette River automation facilities to a group of water users from Nebraska. Mark indicated that he had met these water users at various national water user conferences and offered to tour them if they ever made it to Idaho. The group was very impressed with the accomplishments of the District and expressed interest in pursuing automated technological improvements to their systems in Nebraska. Mark gave them the names and addresses of the experts we have used in setting up our automated sites.

**USBR Safety of Dams Legislation:** Mark updated the Board about upcoming federal legislation revising the USBR Safety of Dams program. This legislation will add an interest component, regardless of the "ability to pay" provisions of Reclamation laws currently on the books but will increase the ceiling on Bureau of Reclamation expenditures for Safety of Dams improvements and repairs.

## General Board Meeting

### Cost Share Requests:

Farmers Co-op Irrigation Company Request: Farmers Co-op applied for 50% of a total cost of \$22,180 to complete the installation of 18 weirs on their laterals for improved water management and measurements, as well as add an automated overpour gate to their End Spill on their canal. Dennis Lamme moved, Bob Henggeler seconded, to approve the application for 50% of \$22,180, subject to the \$10,000 maximum Water District No. 65 contribution. Motion carried.

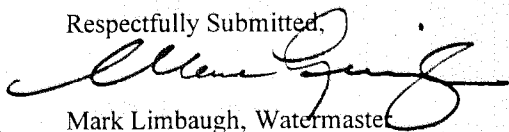
Lower Payette Ditch Company Request: Lower Payette applied for 50% of a total \$4,200 in additional costs for their Chapter House Spill automation project approved last year by the District. The total will still be under the \$10,000 maximum contribution for the year. Bob Henggeler moved, Gail Springer seconded, to approve 50% of \$4,200 in additional costs for this project. Motion carried.

Seven Mile Slough Request: Mark Limbaugh stated that an additional datalogger was ordered to complete this project last year, but was not cost shared during 1999. Dan Surmeier moved, Dennis Lamme seconded, to approve 50% of \$1,200 in costs necessary to pay for the additional datalogger necessary to complete the project. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Mark presented copies of the IWUA Newsletter to the Board for their review.

Adjournment Seeing no further business, Chairman Bankhead adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mark Limbaugh, Watermaster