

# Water District No. 65

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

Watermaster  
Mark Limbaugh

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January 15, 2002

Dear Advisory Board Member:

Today, I received a call from the White House and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation informing me that I have been officially appointed to be the Director of External and Governmental Affairs for Reclamation in Washington, D.C. Unfortunately, I must resign as Watermaster for Water District No. 65 as of January 31, 2002. I must say, however, that I have really enjoyed the challenges of my job as your Watermaster and Executive Director. I believe that, without the experiences of the past seven years, I would not even be considered for a position with the Bush Administration. I am very thankful for the opportunities afforded me as I represented you through the District and the Payette River Water Users Association and I have sincerely enjoyed working with all of you.

Chairman Bankhead has asked that the Water District No. 65 Advisory Board meet on **Friday, January 25, 2002, at 1:30 p.m. in Payette at the Payette office, 102 N. Main St.,** to consider the following tentative agenda:

- 1) Approval of Minutes
- 2) Audit Report
- 3) Watermaster Position
  - a) Advertisements
  - b) Accepting applications
  - c) Interview timing and scheduling
  - d) Interview questions and responses
- 4) Interim Office Duties
- 5) Annual Meeting 2002 – Monday, March 4 at 2:00 p.m. in New Plymouth
- 6) Any Other Business to Come Before the Board

I know Chairman Bankhead looks forward to seeing all of you on **Friday, January 25, 2002, at 1:30 p.m. in Payette.** Again, I appreciate all you have done for me as a Board, as well as many of you as individuals, in support of my work here on the Payette River. It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as your Watermaster and Executive Director and I look forward to conveying the message of Western water users in taking on new challenges within the Bureau of Reclamation in Washington, D.C.

Sincerely,



Mark Limbaugh

RECEIVED  
JAN 18 2002  
WATER RESOURCES  
WESTERN REGION

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
WATER DISTRICT NO. 65  
DECEMBER 10, 2001

The Advisory Board of Water District No. 65 held a meeting at the District offices located at 102 N. Main St., Payette, Idaho, on Monday, December 10, 2001, at 7:00 in the evening.

Those present were Mark Limbaugh (WM., WD65), Mike Bankhead, Bob Henggeler, Marcia Herr, Dennis Lammey, Jim Standley, Ron Mio, Roland Arent, Maynard Potter, Michael McEvoy, Chuck Pollock, Joy Sisler, Keith Standley, Dan Surmeier, Marc Shigeta, and Brian Proehl.

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 November 12, 2001 were presented in written form to the Board Members for their review. It was noted that the meeting time was wrong, and was corrected. **Jim Standley moved, Dennis Lammey seconded, to approve November 12<sup>th</sup> minutes as corrected. Motion passed.**

**Watermaster's Report**

**Financial Report:** The financial report of November 30, 2001 was presented to those in attendance by the Watermaster. A copy of the financial statements is 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.

**Dennis Lammey moved, Michael McEvoy seconded, to approve the financial statement and the budget comparison as presented. Motion passed.**

**Snowpack and Runoff Update:** Mark presented to the Board the SNOTEL report of December 10, 2001. A copy of this report is attached to these minutes. The report detailed the current snow-water equivalent and percentage of average for the different SNOTEL stations in the Payette River Basin. In total, the current percent of average snow-water equivalent is 113% for this date. Mark stated he would continue to monitor snow levels.

**Snake River TMDL Update:** Mark updated the Board on recent events surrounding the Snake River Hells Canyon TMDL. The process of drafting this TMDL continues, with a final PAT meeting to look at a draft prior to public review. Mark presented copies of the minutes of the last Public Advisory Team (PAT) meeting for the Board's review. Mark indicated that comments on the draft TMDL would be submitted on behalf of upstream agricultural interests by the 12<sup>th</sup> of December for possible inclusion into the document.

Mark currently serves on the PAT and has been working with several attorneys and experts from the Lower Boise River TMDL WAG as well as IWUA in writing comments for IDEQ to consider prior to releasing this TMDL to the public. After a sixty-day public comment period, the TMDL will be finalized and submitted to EPA for approval.

Mark presented language recommended by this group of experts for the TMDL, which provides data that shows it will take between 75 and 130 years to meet Phosphorus targets at current funding levels for non-point sources. The language also suggests point sources to the Snake River and on the tributaries, along with Idaho Power Company, should consider purchasing pollutant trading credits from non-point sources

rather than spending money on expensive treatment options for their facilities, thus increasing the funding levels for non-point source reductions of nutrients to the system, and thereby shortening the timeframe necessary for meeting TMDL targets.

Mark stated that we have been instrumental in providing more time for the process to work, as well as providing language on implementation timing, phased interim water quality goals working up to the targets set by the TMDL for nutrients, sediment, mercury and temperature, and insertion of the "adaptive management" approach to implementation and future modification of the TMDL when more information, water treatment technologies, and water quality data becomes available.

**Watermaster Employment Status:** Last month, Mark announced to the Board that he was under consideration for the position of Director of External and Intergovernmental Affairs for the Bureau of Reclamation. If selected, Mark would have to move to Washington, D.C. and would be charged with improving communications and relationships between Reclamation and the various groups dependent on Bureau of Reclamation operations and activities, as well as Congressional relations. Mark stated that he still did not have a definite approval of his hiring, so he has not tendered his resignation as of yet.

It was discussed that we should begin the process of preparing for announcing the vacancy, advertising the position, and interviewing select candidates. Mark stated he would do as much as he could prior to his departure, whenever that occurs, to prepare the Board for these tasks.

Mark presented a list of "skills" under four basic categories for the Board to review. These categories were accounting and management, political, leadership, and technical. Under each category, Mark noted several key skills a new Watermaster should be judged on when interviewed for the position. Mark stated that he would develop a series of questions for the interview to assess a candidate's skill levels for these categories. Mark added that he believed a point system could be developed by the Board to rate the candidates interviewed in order that a fair assessment of these skills could be accomplished. Mark stated that, if this method were used, the highest scoring candidate in the interviews might identify the best-qualified candidate. Finally, Mark suggested that all Advisory Board members attend the interviews, but only the officers would ask the standardized questions of the interviewees. After the interview was finished, then the other Board members could ask any follow-up questions of the candidates.

Several Board members discussed whether a salary should be established for the position. Mark indicated he would not recommend a set salary, but could offer a minimum salary, or a salary range for a qualified candidate to expect. Some suggested a committee be formed to address these issues and make recommendations to the Board.

Chairman Bankhead asked for volunteers to sit on a search committee for a new Watermaster. He stated that all officers of Water District No. 65, along with the incoming Secretary, George McClelland, should be on this committee. Other volunteers included Dennis Lammey, Keith Standley, Bob Henggeler, Chuck Pollock, Maynard Potter, Marcia Herr, and Ron Mio. This committee will meet on Thursday, Dec. 13, at the EID offices, located at 222 East Park, Emmett, Idaho, at 2:00 p.m. to discuss procedures for the hiring of a new Watermaster. This committee will make recommendations to the Board as to how a process of hiring a new Watermaster could move forward when Mark resigns.

Marcia Herr asked who would handle the day-to-day duties of the Watermaster between the time Mark leaves and a new Watermaster is selected, stating that there would probably be mail to open, money to collect, bills to pay, phones to answer, books and bank accounts to maintain, etc. Mark stated that one option the Board should consider would be to hire Peggy Murphy, Secretary for the Payette River Irrigation Office, to handle these duties in the interim period. The Board took this suggestion under advisement.

## General Meeting

**Budget Committee:** Budget Committee Chairman Bankhead asked the Board if there were any suggestions or amendments to the proposed budget for the District. Chairman Bankhead then presented a copy of the draft budget approved by the Committee for the review and refinement of the Advisory Board. There were no changes offered by the Board at this time, but the Board reserved the right to amend the budget after a new Watermaster was hired to reflect any changes to salary, benefits, and taxes.

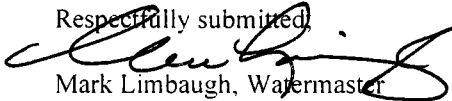
**Water District No. 65 Annual Meeting:** Mark asked the Board about timing for the 2002 Annual Meeting. Mark stated that there were several options for the Board to consider. One option was to hold the Annual Meeting at the regular January date, elect Mark as Watermaster, then allow him to resign his position. Under this option, the Director of IDWR would then appoint the newly selected Watermaster for the balance of Mark's term. The other option was to wait to have the Annual Meeting until a Watermaster candidate is selected. Then the new Watermaster would be elected at the Annual Meeting. Mark indicated that he preferred this alternative since the new Watermaster would have the support of the District through a valid election process, rather than a simple appointment by the Director. A third option would be to hold two Annual Meetings, one a regular meeting and the other a special meeting of the District water users.

After some discussion, **Jim Standley moved, Chuck Pollock seconded, to set the Annual Meeting of Water District No. 65 for 2:00 p.m., Monday, March 4, 2002, at the New Plymouth Senior Citizen Center. Motion carried.**

**Correspondence:** Mark provided copies to the Board of the latest IWUA newsletter, an article on the new National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Regional Director, Bob Lohn, and information on the upcoming IWUA 2002 Convention to be held in Boise on January 22 – 25.

**Adjournment:** Seeing no further business, adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Mark Limbaugh, Watermaster