

Payette River Basin, State of Idaho  
**Water District No. 65**  
102 North Main, Payette, Idaho

**ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

November 8, 2004

The Advisory Board of Water District No. 65 held a meeting at the Payette River Irrigation Office located at 102 North Main Street, in Payette Idaho, on Monday November 8, 2004 at 7:00 pm in the evening.

Members present were, Ron Mio, Dennis Lammey, Robert Henggeler, Joy Sisler, Chuck Pollock, George McClelland, Jim Standley, C. Eugene Parks, Richard Hamilton and Michael McEvoy.

Also present were, Rick York, FC&ND, Norman Collinsworth, FC&ND, Jerrold Gregg, USBR, Rick Wells, USBR, Pamela Pace, IDWR, Rick Ramondi, IDWR and Ron Shurtleff, Watermaster, Water District No. 65.

The Attendance Record in its entirety is attached to these minutes.

Chairman, Michael McEvoy called the meeting to order at 8:10 pm and welcomed everyone in attendance.

**Meeting Minutes Approved:** Mr. McEvoy asked the members if there were any additions or corrections to be made to the minutes of the October 11, 2004 meeting. **Dennis Lammey moved and Joy Sisler seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.**

**Financial Report:** Ron Shurtleff gave the financial report as of October 31, 2004. The statement indicated a checking account balance of \$1,100.95, a savings account balance of \$790,138.78, accounts receivable of \$6,669.25 and a current Liabilities total of \$376,129.31. Combined with the fixed assets total of \$55,244.32, the Water District has a total liabilities and equity amount of \$852,302.35. Ron explained the liabilities total is due to the fact that the lease payments for storage water leased to the water bank and the surcharge payment to the Idaho Water Resource Board will be paid after the first of the year. Ron explained the Profit and Loss Statement and showed the progress of income and actual expenditures as compared to the approved budget for the year. Chairman McEvoy asked the members if there were any questions about the financial report. **Dennis Lammey moved to approve the Financial Statement as presented. The motion was seconded by Chuck Pollock. Motion Carried.**

**Water Reconciliation and Accounting:** Pam Pace presented the water accounting reconciliation. She reported a Total Storage Available amount of 914,894.7 acre-feet. The total storage used column equaled 398,578.5. The total storage used amount when subtracted from the Total Storage Available equals the Net Storage of 516,316.2 acre-feet. The actual storage in the reservoirs on that date equaled 513,036.0 acre-feet, a difference of 3,280.2 acre-feet. This amount is acceptable as an averaging error indicating that the water accounting is in balance.

Pam presented a chart comparing the evaporation loss for the current year it indicated that 2004 evaporation loss is below that incurred for the past three years, and also below the average of the past ten years. Pam represented operational loss in a chart and it also indicated an amount that is well below the ten year average. Ms. Pace gave a report of the Storage Passing Letha after the completion date of the Salmon flow augmentation. The flow passing Letha from September 1<sup>st</sup> until October 31<sup>st</sup> totaled an amount of 18,662.8 acre-feet, the flow is credited to the following accounts. 10,714.9 acre-feet to uncontracted space for power generation, 3250 acre-feet to operational loss charged to the Bureau of Reclamation and 3250 acre-feet to operational loss charged to the irrigators. Other categories include 49.6 acre-feet of storage used by Idaho Power at Cascade Reservoir, 1182.2 acre-feet at Deadwood Reservoir for stream flow, and 412.6 acre-feet at Black Canyon Dam. Pam also presented charts indicating the carryover storage by company in relation to the total contents of each of the facilities, as well as the total storage amount carried over in 2004 in comparison to the two previous years. The chart indicated that the amount of carryover has increased by about 30,000 acre feet for each of the past two years, giving the basin an excellent opportunity to experience a complete fill in the 2005 season.

**Upper Snake River Biological Assessment Report, Jerrold Gregg, USBR:** Mr. Gregg explained the process that is required to produce a biological opinion. Mr. Gregg explained that the Bureau of Reclamation is expected to produce a biological assessment that is a basic description of their operations in the prescribed area. This Biological assessment will include twelve Reclamation projects above the Hells Canyon Complex. The assessment will be presented to NOAA Fisheries and USF&W and they will determine if the described actions are likely to jeopardize an endangered species. If jeopardy is determined the bureau will be expected to offer the alternative action that will satisfy the services. After they agree that the actions are not likely to adversely affect any listed species a biological opinion will be written to direct the actions of the Bureau of Reclamation. Mr. Gregg stated that usually this process is performed to evaluate the effects of a new project. He commented that this biological assessment is concerning existing practices and will be looked upon a little differently by the two services. Mr. Gregg reported that flow augmentation is the mitigating practice that is expected to satisfy the services as far as the salmon are concerned. He reported however that there is some concern about certain snails in the rivers they are receiving a lot of attention. Jerry said that the Bureau is attempting to have the BA ready by Thanksgiving with hopes of having a BiOp completed by Christmas.

**Snow Pack and Storage Report, Rick Wells, USBR:** Mr. Wells reported that there is a small amount of snow on the watershed areas however it is not enough to be significant. Rick said that this fall has given above normal precipitation with some areas recording 200% of normal during the month October. Mr. Wells cited the long range weather report as predicting very little indication of above or below normal conditions.

Rick stated that both Deadwood and Cascade Reservoirs have ended the season with greater storage levels than in the last few seasons, reporting that Deadwood is carrying 10,000 acre-feet more than last year and Cascade is carrying about 30,000 acre-feet more than at this time last year.

**Storage Consumption and Carryover Report, Ron Shurtleff:** Ron showed the hydromet teacup diagram, it showed the Cascade Reservoir at 62% full and Deadwood Reservoir at 44% full. The total Payette river system storage is at 59% of capacity. Ron presented the October 31<sup>st</sup> diversion data it listed the total acre-feet of storage use for each diversion along with the storage use and remaining storage. Ron also presented a spread sheet that listed the diversions that consumed storage that must be rented from the rental pool. Ron reported that the in basin irrigation usage has consumed 5409 acre-feet and that Idaho Power has used 49.6 acre-feet at Cascade Reservoir. At the October meeting Ron made a projection that the irrigators would end the season with about 143,973 acre-feet. Now that the season is finished the accounting in its preliminary stage indicates that 144,506 acre-feet of storage will be carried into the 2005 season.

Ron asked the members notice the operational loss figures that were reported by Pamela Pace. The total amount of loss is 6500 feet. The Bureau of Reclamation has agreed to contribute up to 5,000 acre-feet of their uncontracted storage water to add to the river flow with the agreement from the irrigators to also contribute an equal amount. The purpose is to keep the flow at the Letha Gage at 135 cfs or above. This gives a larger margin of safety to the watermaster while keeping the flows at, or above, the minimum flow level. Both the Bureau of Reclamation and the Irrigators will assume 3250 acre-feet of operational loss this year. The irrigator's storages contracts with the Bureau of Reclamation stipulate that the operational losses will be assumed proportionally by all storage holders in relation to the amount of storage owned by each entity. Ron suggested that if one company were to assume the entire operational loss for a season that it would allow the remaining companies to avoid additional loss added to their storage consumption resulting in increased storage to carry to the next year. Ron explained that on certain years this option may be significant to some of the companies that rely heavily on storage. Ron explained that he asked Pam Pace if the Department of Water Resources would allow one company to contribute the entire amount of operational loss. Pam was present and said that she had received word that it could be allowed as long as the proposed company volunteered to shoulder the total amount. Ron said that he had asked Jerrold Gregg, USBR if the Bureau would have any objections to the proposed practice. Mr. Gregg stated that the storage contracts with the Bureau of Reclamation stipulate that operational losses will be spread proportionally amongst all of the storage owners. Mr. Gregg added that if one company volunteered to accept the entire burden of the losses that he did not see any reason that the Bureau should object, however he commented that the commitment should be completely voluntary, and be in effect for only one season and then revert to the proportional sharing of the losses. Ron said that he

thought it would be wise to experiment with this proposal on a good water year like this one, to learn if it may be usable on a year when carryover may be of more importance to certain companies. Ron asked if the Advisory Board would like to allow this for this 2004 season. **Chuck Pollock moved to allow a storage owner to contribute the entire operational loss for a season, as long as the arrangement is completely voluntary on the part of the contributing entity and that it is understood that the agreement is made for only the current season, after that season, the procedure of sharing the operational losses proportionally would be back in effect. Jim Standley seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

**Budget Committee Report:** Michael McEvoy, Chairman of the Budget Committee asked the members to turn their attention to the Budget Work Sheet. Mr. McEvoy explained the three columns of the sheet, the 2004 approved budget, the proposed actual income and expenditures for 2004 and the proposed budget for 2005. Michael explained that the committee had used these figures to prepare the proposed 2005 budget. Michael read through the proposed budget and then returned to the items that had received changes to explain the committee's action. Michael said that the projected administration fee income had been increased by \$15,000.00 since the past few years had indicated that this is a more accurate projection. Michael explained the expenses that had received an adjustment. He then brought attention to a new item in the cost share budget labeled "Special Projects" Michael asked Ron to show how the reserve funding had grown over the past five years. Ron directed attention to the sheet indicating the estimated cash balance at the first and the end of each of the past five years. Ron explained that the cash reserve balance has increased by about \$170,000 over the past five years with the past three years contributing heavily to the increase. Ron further explained that the reserve funds are becoming higher than may be justified as a reserve fund. Mr. McEvoy stated that this is one of the reasons for the new Special Projects item in the budget, the other is that there are projects within the district that are large enough to require special funding in order to give them a chance of for completion. There was a considerable amount of discussion over how the special project fund could be administered, and even what it should be called. Ron mentioned that the board is not required to make the final decision on the budget at this meeting, as it can be completed during the December meeting. **Dennis Lammey moved and Gene Parks seconded to postpone the action on the budget until the December meeting, at this time it will be adopted as a proposed budget to present at the Annual Meeting for approval. Motion Carried.**

**Nominations Committee Report, Joy Sisler:** Joy Sisler stated that the budget committee had met just prior to this district meeting. She reported that the committee has the following names to submit as nominees for officers for the year 2005, Chairman, Michael McEvoy, for Vice Chairman, George McClelland, and Secretary, Dean Charters. Joy said that since Mr. Charters is not in attendance and was also absent the last meeting, she would like to suggest that it be confirmed Mr. Charters is willing and interested in serving as secretary. Joy said that in the event that Mr. Charters declines the nomination Jim Standley could be nominated and placed on the ballot for secretary. **Gene Parks moved to postpone the decision on the nominations to the next meeting in December in order to allow time to check with Mr. Charters and learn if he is interested in filling the position. The motion was seconded by Dennis Lammey. Motion Carried.**

**Find Home for retired Desktop Computer:** Ron explained that the Water District No. 65 has a computer that is not now being used since the Irrigation office has purchased another computer and retired the use of this computer. Ron said he had reformatted the hard drive in the old computer and that there is no risk of having old information left on the machine. Ron said that the computer is a Windows 98 version with a 30 Gigabyte hard drive and can be equipped with Microsoft Office Pro. 2000. Ron said it can be a useful machine for anyone that may be interested. There was a lot of discussion and it was decided that Ron should check to find out if there is any of the smaller companies within the district that may have need for a computer.

**Adjournment:** Chairman Michael McEvoy asked again if there was any further business to come before the board. Seeing none Mr. McEvoy declared the meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Shurtleff  
Watermaster, Water District No. 65