

Payette River Basin, State of Idaho
Water District No. 65

Chairman: Michael McEvoy
Vice Chairman: George McClelland
Secretary: Dean Charters

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Watermaster: Ron Shurtleff

Regular Board Meeting

Date: July 11, 2005
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Location: Payette River Irrigation Office, 102 North Main, Payette, Idaho

Attending: Marcia Herr, Norm Collinsworth, Rick York, Ron Mio, Dennis Lammey, Jim Standley, Dick Hamilton, Dennis Heaps, Dan Surmeier, Chuck Pollock, Robert Henggeler, Michael McEvoy and Watermaster Ron Shurtleff.

Guests: Pamela Pace, IDWR, Rick Wells, E. Gail McGarry and Jerrold Gregg all from the USBR.

Minutes: The minutes of the regular June 13, 2005 meeting were mailed to the members with their meeting notices; they were also presented to those attending in the meeting packets. Chairman Michael McEvoy asked if there were any additions or corrections to be made to those minutes. **Dennis Lammey moved to accept the minutes as mailed, Gene Parks seconded the motion and the motion carried.**

Financial: Ron Shurtleff presented the financial report. Ron reported a checking account balance of \$938.17 and a savings balance of \$371,499.83. He also stated the fixed assets amounted to \$54,101.30 consistent with the current inventory list. Ron reported that as of June 30th the total liabilities and equity of the water district was \$428,641.47. Ron read through the Profit and Loss Statement and reported that the year to date income is at a negative \$32,346.47. Ron then asked if there were any questions. **Dennis Lammey moved to accept the financial report as presented. Gene Parks seconded the motion and the motion carried.**

Water

Accounting: Pam Pace from the Department of Water Resources attended the meeting and provided copies of the natural flow for Horseshoe Bend. She said that natural flow actually peaked earlier this year than in 2002 and 2004. She stated we started storage water on July 7th. Also enclosed was the 2005 Payette River salmon flow storage released for mitigation, on June 19 and 20, Cascade gained water, so discharge is all natural flow. On July 4, actual flow exceeded natural flow below Deadwood and on July 7, the remaining natural flow near Letha became zero. She also supplied a breakdown of the Payette River stored water supply as of July 6th. It showed a net storage of 827,918.2 acre-feet, an actual storage of 833,424.0 with an averaging error of negative 5,505.8. Deadwood flow was reduced because remaining space was at 9306 acre-feet and at 15,989 acre-feet, storage is used. Deadwood would have spilled if water had not been released during the winter, the evaporation was reset to zero and canal use was reset to zero as of July 7, 2005.

Water

Supply:

Richard Wells, USBR, presented the Bureau of Reclamation Teacup Diagram that indicated the storage system in the Payette basin at 93% of full capacity. Richard reported that due to the unusually wet spring this year's storage conditions have improved greatly and have become a carbon copy of last year. At the current date Cascade Reservoir is indicating 94% full and Deadwood Reservoir is at 93% of a full condition.

Ron Shurtleff also presented charts for Cascade, Deadwood Reservoirs and Big Payette Lake, which indicated the inflows and fill rates of each facility. Ron reminded the board that last year the basin received a significant amount of late summer rain that contributed to a reduction in storage consumption. With this in mind we should not count on ending up with a similar amount of carryover water in the reservoirs as we ended last year, just because we are in the same condition at the present time. Ron stated, we are in a very good position at the present time, especially when you consider how dismal the outlook was earlier in the year.

Storage Report
& Flow

Augmentation: Mr. Jerrold Gregg U.S. Bureau of Reclamation introduced Gail McGarry and explained that she is the program manger for Water Rights and Water Acquisition for the Bureau's Pacific Northwest Region. He further explained that Gail is responsible for preparing the contracts for flow augmentation water rentals and seeing that the rental payments are conducted. Mr. Gregg reported to the board that the Bureau is intending to lease 130,000 acre feet from the Payette Basin in 2005 for the Flow Augmentation Program. Additional water could be leased if there are willing parties that would be comfortable contributing more storage. Mr. Gregg also reported that the Bureau will likely reach their commitment of 427,000 acre-feet in 2005.

In this discussion Pam Pace asked how operational losses would be handled this year. She reminded the board that traditionally operational losses are spread proportionally among the storage contractors, however last year The Lower Payette Ditch Company had encumbered the entire burden in order to place the companies that rely heavily on storage in a better carryover situation. Pam asked if this would be accomplished again this year. Chuck Pollock, Chairman of the Lower Payette Ditch Company said that their company would not be accepting the total operation loss burden.

Watermaster Ron Shurtleff reported that as of July 1, the out-of-basin commitments to date are as follows: Farmers Co-op, 25,000; Noble Ditch, 7,500; Lower Payette, 9,947; Emmett Irrigation Dist., 5,500 and Lake Irrigation Dist., 2,053. He stated that the in basin commitments will need t be submitted by the next board meeting.

Cost Share
Payments

Chairman McEvoy asked Ron to report on the current 2005 Cost Share Applications and Payments. Ron explained that three separate projects; enclosing the Conway Gulch, the East Pump Lateral and the partial enclosure of Conway 4.4 Lateral for the Black Canyon Irrigation District were lumped together for a completed request of \$35,157.02. Two additional projects; the Automation at Langley Lateral Head and the Spillway off the D-Line were also lumped together for a payment of \$5,802.96. These projects were completed for approx. \$4800 less than the original requested amount. As of this date the actual completed request payments are \$88,785.85 with seven Facility Improvement Projects pending.

Interest
Opportunities

Ron Shurtleff informed the board of a call he received from the Bank of the West regarding an interest earning opportunity. He explained that there would be a \$2,268 interest advantage on a 180-day Certificate of Deposit by taking advantage of the Bank of the West's 3.43% rate in comparison to the State Treasury's 2.80%. The negative side of this decision would be the payment for water leases would be six months from the date of deposit. After much discussion it was decided that no action would be taken regarding this matter.

Color
Printer

Ron updated the board on his search for an appropriate laser printer for the water district office. Ron provided a comparison chart of three different printers. After discussing the pros and cons of the different brands, it was the opinion of the board to purchase the Hp 3550N. **Moved by Bob Henggeler to authorize Ron to purchase a HP 3550N Color LaserJet Printer for the Water Dist. #65 office, seconded by Gene Parks and the motion carried.**

Leadership
Idaho:

As discussed in last months meeting, it was once again expressed by several members that, Ron's participation in the Leadership Idaho Agriculture Program would be a great benefit not only to the position of Watermaster but on a personal level as well. Dennis Heaps volunteered to contact Norm Semanko for a possible sponsorship to help defer costs above the tuition fee and report at next months meeting. **Moved by Dan Surmeier to approve the \$1800 tuition fee be paid in order for Ron to attend all four Leadership Idaho Agriculture sessions, seconded by Bob Henggeler and the motion carried.**

Political

Contributions:

Ron reported that he had followed up on the requirements regarding political contributions and found that the Water Dist. #65 is considered a political subdivision and are therefore prohibited from making any Political contributions. Ron emphasized that it is important that each of us pitch in on an individual basis to Norm's campaign. Ron also received an email from Jonathan Parker, Norm's Campaign Manager, requesting someone to volunteer his or her home for a possible Payette County Meet and Greet BBQ sometime in late July. It was suggested that we host a Reception for Norm and Ron will double check on the rules and regulations in regards of using the Water Dist. office as a reception site.

Adjournment:

Chairman Michael McEvoy asked if there was any further business to come before this board. Seeing none Mr. McEvoy declared the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jamie White,
Recording Secretary,

Chairman Michael McEvoy
Water District No. 65