

MEMORANDUM

TO: Water District 13-T File

CC: Glen Saxton, Norm Young, HW Jones

FROM: Tim Luke

DATE: 03/13/1998

RE: Water District Meeting

*Tim Luke*  
*Place copy in*  
*1997 WD File.*  
*TJL*

The annual meeting for the Bancroft-Lund water district was held on the evening of March 12 at the North Gem High School auditorium.

Meeting was called to order by Bart Christensen at about 6:20 p.m. Terry Eliason was nominated and elected new meeting chairman. Dale Wistensen was re-elected as meeting and district secretary, as well as district treasurer. Dale presented some information regarding district finances. The district has a current balance of about \$1500. The district did not make assessments last year due to carry over. However, assessments would have to be made in 1998 in order to have sufficient funds for watermaster compensation.

I presented information on water use and water levels during 1998. This information was distributed as hand-outs and is attached to this memo. In general, both energy and water use in 1997 was down significantly from 1996. Volume diversions were not anywhere close to the annual volume limits provided under water rights. Only two diversions appeared to exceed the authorized water rights rate of diversion, by two percent and about 14 percent respectively. Water levels throughout some parts of the valley appear to have generally increased from prior drought years, although some are still not at pre-drought levels. In general, there does not appear to be any trend of long term decline. The watermaster, Wayne Waddoups, was not in attendance but had reported to me earlier in the week that he had additional water level measurements. I had still not received those measurements, as well as several meter readings for wells equipped with flow meters. The watermaster had been asked several times to provide all of this information well in advance of the meeting. I expressed some concern to the users about the watermaster's inability to organize and report information timely. The watermaster has also failed to follow some of my past guidance and instructions.

I discussed some ideas for conducting one or more aquifer tests using Warren Lloyd's well and/or wells in the vicinity of Lloyd's well. Warren Lloyd was opposed to this idea because he believed that the test would not provide any useful information or would resolve his problem of getting additional water when he needed it. Several additional users seemed to be concerned about the potential costs and were also skeptical about the benefits of such a study while others appeared to support the idea of gathering additional information about aquifer characteristics in the southwest part of the district.

Gordon Yost made a motion to not elect a watermaster or adopt a budget since there was general agreement that there would be no water supply problems in the coming year due to a good snowpack and normal or above normal water level conditions. Don Rigby seconded this motion. Warren Lloyd argued against this motion and promised to make a call on the aquifer unless a watermaster was elected. I reminded the users that the director of IDWR could appoint a watermaster and set his compensation if the users failed to do so at this meeting. After some debate, the water users made another motion to adopt a budget at 0.25 cents per acre and elect a watermaster. The advisory committee was given authority to hire Wayne Waddoups if he will accept the position again. This motion passed by majority vote. The advisory committee will work with me on providing detailed written instructions for the watermaster. The watermaster instructions will include a detailed plan for monitoring water levels and checking field irrigation place of use with water rights place of use. (Note: some of this has been done before via a written outline two years ago, field training of the watermaster in the immediate area during 1996, and through a combination of some verbal and written correspondence over the past two years.)

A motion was made by Eric Simonson, seconded, and passed, to authorize the advisory committee to work with IDWR in exploring the costs and feasibility of conducting an aquifer test. This may include work and costs associated with drilling one or more piezometers to be used in the test as observation wells. I agreed that I would initiate some contact with the University of Idaho and Idaho Water Resources Research Institute regarding their possible interest in doing a test, or at least in getting someone from the university to visit the area and meet with the users to discuss the merits of doing such a test. Hydrogeologists from IDWR and/or the USGS may also be brought in to further discuss this issue.

A motion was also made and passed to keep the same advisory committee from the prior year. The meeting was adjourned at about 8:15 p.m.

C:\DATA\WPDATA\TIMDIST13T.MEM