



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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EASTERN REGION

April 7, 2006

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor

KARL J. DREHER
Director

Bingham County Treasurer
501 North Maple
Blackfoot, ID 83221

RE: Water District No. #27

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed please find copies of the Adopted Budget, Resolutions and Minutes of Water District #27. They have been read and approved by this office.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact this office.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis M. Dunn".

Dennis Dunn
Senior Water Rights Agent

DD:jk

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE WATERUSERS OF THE BLACKFOOT RIVER WATER DISTRICT #27
OF THE STATE OF IDAHO
HELD AT THE BINGHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE
BLACKFOOT, IDAHO
JANUARY 9, 2006

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FEB 16 2006

Department of Water Resources
Eastern Region

The annual meeting of Water District 27 was called to order by advisory committee chairman Layne Hamilton at 1:22 p.m., January 9, 2006.

Attending were: Advisory board members: Layne Hamilton, Vincent Reid, Keith Hunsaker, and Alan Oliver. Water District 1: Ron Carlson, Lyle Swank, Ryan Madsen, and Wendy Murphy. Idaho Dept. of Water Resources: Ernie Carlsen. An attached roster shows all in attendance.

Neil Powell nominated Layne Hamilton as meeting chairman; LaVerell Stecklein seconded this motion. The motion unanimously passed. LaVerell Stecklein nominated Wendy Murphy as meeting secretary; Larry Hinderager seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

Minutes of the meeting held January 18, 2005 were read. LaVerell Stecklein motioned to accept the minutes; Merlin Yancey seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Wendy Murphy then gave the 2005 financial report. The bank balance is \$9533.10. With outstanding receivables and payables the equity of the district is \$1,191.90. This equity is up from 2004's of \$564.14. Larry Hinderager inquired about the 2005 actual expenditures. Wendy indicated these could be found on the Profit and Loss sheet, they totaled \$26,520.

The budget for 2006 was then presented. It has been increased \$1,425 from 2005's budget to accommodate the increase for vehicle use. Neil Powell expressed concerns about the budget being too low in case of emergency needs. There was then some discussion about the need for a cushion verses a special assessment if the need arises. Ryan indicated that Jeff reads gages three times per week, with flow meter readings being taken once during the week. Larry Hinderager moved to accept the 2005 financial report; Harvey Coffman seconded the motion.

Ron Carlson asked if Ernie Carlsen could present the status of the adjudication issues. Ernie indicated that the 2004 minutes were accurate in the adjudication process. The director's report for Basin 27 was filed in November and included about 700 claims. The objection period is 120 days with March 17 being the final day to object. These objections would now have to be filed with the court. IDWR had asked for an expedited objection period in order to implement Interim administration for 2006. The court denied this request but set the hearing for March 21st. The delivery for 2006 should be consistent with 2005. Ernie indicated for the most part the Stevens Decree is still intact. Splits that have occurred since 1891 have caused changes to existing decrees. After questions from Keith Hunsaker, Ernie indicated that there are no objections to a claim; the court will probably use the IDWR recommendation. If there are objections, a court representative will meet with objectors to see if it can be resolved. If these objections can be resolved between the claimant and the department, the process should not be too long. When the objections cannot be resolved and need to go to trial, the process will be longer.

Ron Carlson then gave the Watermaster report. He indicated that water users should be prepared for change. He indicated that with new decrees, and conjunctive management that a new concept in water distribution is possible. Before water districts were considered separate systems, now with conjunctive management, the system (Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer) is being considered one system and water users from one district can have an effect on other water districts. Ron also indicated that he was moving on to other duties, but the district will be left in good hands.

Larry Hinderager asked how long this adjudication would be good for. Ron indicated that as far as the department was concerned this should last forever. He indicated the last adjudication was in 1910, and water users should recognize that Teton County is one of the fastest growing counties in the United States. Ron has jokingly stated that he would be leaving the district with full reservoirs.

Lyle Swank asked Alan Oliver to clarify the Blackfoot Reservoir fill. Alan indicated that a normal runoff of 110,000 acre-feet would be needed annual to keep the reservoir full. He indicated the fill at this time was 80,000 acre-feet, last year we were 28,000 acre-feet, and two years ago the reservoir was only 18,000 acre-feet. Even with a good year it will take more than one year for the Blackfoot Reservoir to recover. Harvey Coffman expressed some concern as to why the river was running so high. Alan indicated the flow was coming in from below the reservoir.

Harvey Coffman indicated this year was one of the worst for him. Alan Oliver then indicated they were working on automating the reservoir. Sand Creek is a waste way for Upper Snake River Canal companies, and that water way can be hard to regulate. He guessed it was about 36 hours lag time to correct changes. With automation this time could be reduced up to about 20 hours. Just getting through all the paper work was the hold up. Probably won't be ready for the 2006 irrigation season.

Layne asked Ron if he could be more specific about the changes in water distribution/management. Ron indicated with conjunctive management and the adjudication the administration has the potential to be on the based upon the administration of the Snake River Basin as all one water supply. The Portneuf is connected to the Snake River. With the Indian 1867 water right priority it has the potential to take all the water. The 45,000 acre-feet from the Fort Hall Agreement needs to be measured in some way. Does the Blackfoot River or the Snake River supply this?

There was some discussion about recharge rights. Recharge is a beneficial use. The nature of recharge rights have not been established. The statute that covers recovery water is Idaho Code 42-228. Recovery has not necessarily been defined yet. DEQ could possibly have interest in recharge issues in cases where injection wells are used. Ponds have not had too many issues in the past.

The next item on the agenda was the election of the advisory committee: A motion was made by Neil Powell to nominate Layne Hamilton as the chairman, Vincent Reid seconded and the motion passed by acclamation. Larry Hinderager moved to retain the present board; Merlin Yancey seconded the motion. All were in favor. Those on the Water District 27 advisory committee for

2006 are Layne Hamilton, Vincent Reid, Keith Hunsaker, Gary Pratt, and Allan Oliver.

Harvey inquired as to why the central ditch is not being measured where it has historically been measured. Ryan indicated measurements are taken as close to the point of diversion as possible. Lyle and Ryan indicated the historical site will be re-looked at this season to see if it is a good location to continue to measure.

Larry Hinderager moved to accept resolutions in their entirety. Neil Powell seconded. The resolutions were passed with all in favor.

New Business:

LaVerell Stecklein indicated a new weed, lily pad leaf with long stems, was coming into the area that seemed to be hindering the flow of the water. Layne Hamilton recommended having the county weed control representative come and look at the problem. Ron Carlson also recommended talking with Aberdeen-Springfield Canal Company. He remembered the canal having similar type problem about 15 years ago.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

ROSTER

Ryan Madsen
Wendy Murphy
Sherman Whitten
Neal Powell
Merlin Yancey
Harvey Coffman
Vincent Reid
Lyle Swank
Larry Hinderager
LaVerelle Stecklein
Ron Carlson
Leland Miller – BIA
David Bollinger – BIA
Alan Oliver – BIA
Keith Hunsaker

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