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MAR 12 1999

Department of Water Resources  
Eastern Region

**MEETING**

**Portneuf River Water-Users, District 29**

**March 1, 1999, 2:00 p.m.**

**Lava Community Center**

**Present:** Board Members: K. V. Hansen, Thayne Thompson, Jim Andrus, Dale Hatch, Howard Hall. Secretary: Grant Egley. 19 water users and visitors.

Chairman Hansen welcomed all water users and visitors to the meeting and introduced Mr. Harold Jones, representative of the State Water Resources Board.

The minutes of the meeting held March 2, 1998, were read by Grant Egley and approved without correction.

Hansen referred to the tour of the water systems conducted last August and noted that many present here today had participated in the tour. He asked for comments. Brief discussion indicated that the tour had been informative and beneficial.

**Watermaster Report:**

The Chairman referred to Arlin Olson for comment, and asked if there were questions from the group for the watermaster pertaining to use of water on the system.

Stanley Wiestensen asked about the letters from the state concerning the measuring devices that are supposed to be on every headgate. K.V. indicated that everyone had been notified by the Water Resources Board that they should have a measuring device on all diversions to the property; however, the devices have not been very successful so far. He further noted that his experience with the devices were that they stopped operating after about six months. Arlin indicated that one of the problems with the measuring devices was that they soon became clogged with moss and debris.

Chairman Hansen referred to Harold Jones for comment. Jones indicated that the state had mandated the use of measuring devices in response to complaints from those downstream. He said that he personally did not like the metering devices; that there were problems involved in keeping them operable, but that the people downstream needed to know that the water was being regulated and controlled.

There was a discussion concerning the types of measuring devices, whether automatic or metered and the costs. The Chairman asked Mr. Jones to determine if additional facilities for measuring water are needed so far as Downey and Arimo are concerned.

David Crea described fiberglass weirs and indicated he would be happy to get additional information for anyone interested.

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Department of Water Resources  
Eastern RegionAppointment of Watermaster

Chairman Hansen said that the Board received a proposal from the current watermaster, Arlin Olson, for \$12,000; also a proposal from David Crea in the amount of \$14,250. He said that the Board recommended acceptance of Arlin Olson's proposal noting, however, that the final decision for the hiring of a watermaster would be made by the water users. Following brief discussion, a motion was made by Gordon Olson and seconded by Troy Davids to accept Arlin Olson's application and retain him as watermaster. Voting was unanimous.

Financial Report

Chairman Hansen reviewed the financial report which had been prepared and distributed by Grant Egley, secretary on the Board. K. V. Noted the watermaster salary, \$12,000; assistant watermaster, \$200; secretary, \$500; postage, \$25; building rent, \$15; state water users fee, \$50; recording fees, \$24; state liability insurance, \$501 (a \$431.73 refund was received from the state, which made cost of insurance less than \$70). Interest paid by the bank on the deposits was \$308.50. K.V. reported that the total expenditures were \$15,875--a little more than the \$15,000 budgeted. Chairman Hansen reported that the amount on hand in the bank is \$6,450. The Water Board is not supposed to build a cash amount; however, the Board felt it was wise to have that much in the bank, more or less as a cushion. The Board proposed a budget for the coming year of \$15,000, exactly the same as last year.

The motion was made by Ellis Gilbert to accept the proposed budget, seconded by Gene Fagnant. Motion passed.

K. V. said that the budget then for the new year would be \$15,000, with the minimum assessment to anyone who owns water rights of \$20. The assessments should be paid before any water is delivered. Just one account remains delinquent from the previous year, but payment has been promised.

New Business

Thayne Thompson had a question for David Crea concerning the fiberglass weirs. He wondered if it would be feasible for the watermaster to have one of the weirs. Crea said that it would be a problem because the ditches are not all the same size. There was a discussion of sizes and costs. It was decided that the device would be too big for the watermaster to handle.

David Crea gave a report on the snow pack and indicated that it was about 97 percent of average. K.V. asked about reservoir conditions. Ellis Gilbert reported that as of February 24, the reservoir was at 45 feet. They have started to release water in preparation for the spring runoff. He said there should be no problem filling the reservoir.

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Department of Water Resources  
Eastern RegionElection of New Board

The Chairman noted that the membership of the Board now is K.V. Hansen, Thayne Thompson, Jim Andrus, Howard Hall and Dale Hatch. Dale Hatch will not be serving on the Board for the coming year. K. V. called for nominations.

The motion was made by Thayne Thompson to nominate Dale Evans as representative on the Board from the Arimo District to replace Dale Hatch. He noted that Evans had not yet been asked to serve and in case he declines, the Board would appoint a representative from Arimo District. He also nominated the other members of the Board as presently constituted.

K.V. asked if there were other nominations for the Board from the floor. There were none. Motion was made by Gordon Olson and seconded by Gene Day that the membership of the Board be accepted as nominated. Voting was unanimous.

K. V. Stated for information that the watermaster had used Ricky Frandsen as the assistant watermaster and the Board had left that up to Arlin's discretion as to who he retains as assistant watermaster.

The Chairman reported that because of health problems, Grant Egley had asked to be replaced as secretary on the Board. He said that the Board would appoint a new secretary as that is not an elected position. K. V. Noted that Grant has agreed to continue his duties until a new secretary is appointed.

Jim Andrus expressed appreciation to Grant for the good job he has done and the time and effort he has devoted to the responsibilities as secretary.

Other Business

Chairman Hansen called upon Harold Jones to report to the group the things water-users should be aware of.

Jones stated that there should be a definitive number of acres in the decree (water rights to correspond to the number of acres.) There is a problem on the Arimo canal in relation to the Gordon Avery property that still needs to be resolved. A transfer of acreage would be one way to do that, he said. Discussion.

K.V. called for a motion to approve the actions of the Board for last year. Gene Fagnant moved approval, seconded by Wayne Avery. Motion passed.

Adjournment: 2:50 p.m.

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**BOARD MEETING**  
**Portneuf River Water-Users, District 29**  
**March 1, 1999 -- 1:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Chairman K. V. Hansen; Board members: Thayne Thompson, Howard Hall, Jim Andrus and Dale Hatch. Secretary: Grant Egley. Also present: Dean Day, Marshall Burgin, and Arlin Olson.

Grant Egley read the minutes of the meeting held March 2, 1998. A motion was made by Thayne that the minutes be approved, seconded by Jim. Motion passed.

Grant then read the report of the tour of the water systems conducted last August. Motion was made by Jim that the report be accepted as read, seconded by Howard. Motion was passed.

Grant distributed copies of the financial report and the itemized finances were reviewed by the Board. K. V. Ask about the recording fees. Grant explained that the minutes and reports have to be notarized and recorded in both Bannock and Caribou Counties. Noted also was the dividend paid by the insurance company and also the interest accumulated on the bank account.

K. V. Then referred to the proposals received from Arlin Olson and David Crea for the position of watermaster. Olson's bid was for \$12,000; Crea's for \$14,250. Concerning the Crea proposal, Thayne questioned whether the estimate of 500 hours was adequate. Jim objected to using college students to do the records, and those individuals changing every year.

Concerning Olson's bid, Howard indicated that there was a need for an updated daily log. Olson reported that he is currently keeping a daily log.

It was decided by the Board that they would recommend at the general water-users meeting that Olson's bid be accepted and that he be reappointed as watermaster.

The proposed budget for the coming year was discussed. The motion was made by Dale that the Board recommend a budget of \$15,000, the same as last year; seconded by Howard. Motion passed.

Dale Hatch said that he would not be serving on the Board during the coming year since he will no longer have water shares. Names of other individuals to represent the Arimo District were discussed. It was decided that the Board would recommend that Dale Evans be asked to serve on the Board to represent the Arimo District and to replace Hatch.

Grant Egley said that, due to health problems, he would like to be replaced as secretary on the Board. K.V. noted that the secretary is appointed by the board rather than elected. Grant agreed to continue the responsibilities of secretary until the Board can appoint someone else.

Adjournment: 1:45 p.m.