

## MEMORANDUM

TO: SINKER CREEK WATER DISTRICT FILE 57D

FROM: DANIEL A. NELSON

DATE: 1/6/04

SUBJECT: ANNUAL WATER DISTRICT MEETING NOTES

I attended the Sinker Creek Water District 57D meeting on 1/5/04 at 1:00 at the Owyhee County Court House. Craig Baker called the meeting to order. Paul Nettleton read the minutes. Mike Ihli, who wanted to clarify that the water rights for Jay Hulet had been changed to the Murphy Flats Water Users Association, made clarification to the minutes from the previous meeting. Craig Baker also stated that the Nahas Ranch has changed ownership to the Sierra Del Rio Ranch. Other than the changes in names and ownership the minutes were accepted as read.

The treasure's report stated that the Worker's Comp insurance was required to be paid by January 1 of each year. This had not been budgeted into the system, but there was enough carry over money to cover this cost.

The water outlook was discussed. It seems as though the water outlook is looking very good. Snotel says that the snow/water content is approximately 158%. Paul Nettleton said he had been to Silver City and agreed that the Snotel was reasonable. According to Mr. Nettleton, there is approximately twice as much snow as normal in the mountains, but that snow is light and powdery and has lower water content than normal.

The officer's were all re-elected. Nick Ihli agreed to remain watermaster, and was re-elected. The district adopted the same budget as last year with a contingency that may need additional funds if the water outlook remains promising. There could be an extend season that would require keeping the watermaster on duty for a longer period of time. They asked me if this would be acceptable to the department to have a second billing in November, and I informed them that it would acceptable, as long as the watermaster is paid in full by the first or middle of December.

Last years minutes discussed the need for the Joyce Ranch (Nettleton) and Murphy Flats Water Users Association (Hulet/Ihli) install a new headgate and weir below the reservoir. Paul Nettleton and Mike Ihli talked to the watermaster and were both under the impression that he was satisfied with the new installation. They asked if the department would want to come out and inspect the new device. I informed them that as long as the watermaster felt it would meet his needs, we would be satisfied with diversion as long as everyone in the district was happy with the installation, and it was sufficient to settle any possible disputes.

The district members then asked if there was anything new at IDWR this year. I informed them that I was not aware of any new policies instated during the previous year, and that I did not believe any major changes were being proposed to the legislature this year. They asked me questions about moratoriums in Basin 57. I talked about the Bruneau Groundwater Management Area, and areas that have been contested in the basin. I also discussed some of the groundwater quality issues in the area that can restrict new appropriations. Each member then told stories about their specific well and the quality of water associated with it.

The district members then asked me about the Thousand Springs issues in Hagerman. I informed them that I was not really involved in this situation, and that I had very little information to share with them. I gave them a very broad and very limited outline of what has happened, and then I informed them where to look on our web page for the latest information.

The meeting was then adjourned at 2:58.