

**WATER DISTRICT 74
MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 4, 1996**

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MAY 13 1996

Department of Water Resources
Eastern Region

ORDER

The meeting was called to order by RJ Smith, Chairman.

MINUTES/TREASURER'S REPORT

Minutes of the 1995 Annual meeting were read by Donna L. Barsalou, followed by a financial report. Minutes were approved as read. Current balance in West One Checking: \$2715.41. RJ explained why it looked like Rick Sager had made more than \$12,000.00 with the District. The amount above the \$12,000.00 wages is what the BOR pays Rick during the off season.

OLD BUSINESS

RJ gave a short report on the Adjudication. Basin 74 is set for 1997. Bob Foster and Gary Spackman reported on the adjudication process.

NEW BUSINESS

Rick Sager, Watermaster, gave a report on the 1996 proposed budget: Watermaster wages - same at \$12,000.00. Social Security up a little from last year, 1995 - \$744.03. 1996 - \$870.00. Workman's Comp. will remain the same \$789.00. Added to the 1996 budget Unemployment Tax for \$800.00. A proposed 6% of Gross income retirement fund instead of a wage increase. Rick explained that he has worked for the Water District for 6 years and has nothing to show for it. He would really like to start a retirement fund. Clerk wages for 1996 would remain the same, \$900.00. Watermaster mileage, 1995 - \$1883.20, proposed for 1996 \$2,000.00. Supplies, Postage, remain the same at \$225.00. Capitol Purchases down from \$1500.00 to \$200.00 for 1996. The billing for 1996 will be \$25.81 per cfs. RJ asked if there were any comments on the budget for 1996 which was approved by the Directors at the directors meeting on 2/28/96.

UNEMPLOYMENT TAX

RJ did call Boise for more information on the unemployment tax. All Rick draws, we pay for. For the next two years we are responsible for all he draws. At the end of two years we go into a state pool and would only be responsible for 2.5 % of the gross wages to be paid quarterly. After we get into the pool, we would pay \$300 per year, which would save the district over \$1000.00 per year. (Bruce Mulkey) if the BPA and BOR keeps going (project) do we still pay in? (RJ) we will find out if we have to pay 2.50% for 2 years to be able to draw. Motion: (Jerry Miller - Steve Herbst) that the district look into a retirement fund for the Watermaster. Motion carried.

RJ asked if the district wanted to enroll in a pool or be responsible for the total amount of the Unemployment Tax. Motion: (Mulkey - Thomas) that RJ pursue further information about buying into a pool. Steve Herbst asked if November was the beginning enrollment month, RJ said yes. All in favor, motion carried.

ELECTION

Water Master - Quinton Snook nominated Rick Sager. Steve Herbst nominated Bruce Mulkey, no one seconded, motion withdrawn. RJ instructed the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for Rick Sager for Watermaster. Motion: Herbst - Gary. Motion carried. Rick Sager will be the watermaster for 1996.

Secretary - Motion from the floor to retain the same secretary (Donna Barsalou), seconded. RJ moved that motions cease, seconded. RJ instructed the secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for Donna Barsalou for secretary, motion carried. Donna Barsalou will be the 1996 secretary.

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Board Members: Lynn Herbst - Don Olson

Motion: Mulkey - S. Herbst to keep same directors. Motion carried. Lynn Herbst and Don Olson were retained as directors.

ADJUDICATION

This was a hot topic. The adjudication is moving right along. The three test basins were to be completed by Christmas this year. Bob Foster said he didn't think that would happen, but probably soon after that. The big issue right now is the BLM filings. There are two petitions before court right now - 9 and 9A - dealing with whether or not the Federal Government has the right to file on Public Reserve Water Rights. Test basin 57 is dealing with BLM filings, that case will set the precedence for the rest of the basins. This is with the Chipmunk Grazing and Paul Nettleton represented by Richard Simms. The judge will make a decision if those issues are basin wide or not. Rick Young reported that this issue had come up during the last Cattlemen's meeting. ICA will be sending a letter asking all ICA members to give \$100.00 to the Owyhee County Legal Defense Fund. This money will help the Chipmunk Grazing guys retain R. Simms. RJ feels that if this case is lost, we all lose. If the case is decided in favor of the Grazing Assoc. the Fish and Game don't stand a chance in any of the other filings. In Lemhi County alone there were 2500 Consumptive and Non-consumptive claims filed, the BLM filed on beneficial use. There was a long discussion of the adjudication process that followed.

1997 MEETING

Quinton Snook suggested we have next year's annual meeting in the Commissioner's Annex, where the acoustics are better, less noise. All agreed this would be a better location. The secretary will make the arrangements to meet there next year.

DYE TEST

Steve Herbst asked what is going on with the Dye test in the Leadore area wells. Rick Sager reported that there will not be a dye test, only the surface water will be monitored. USGS has a lot of background info, they will build a model in Boise with added info Rick is collecting.

RJ asked if there was anything else to be discussed, no. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Respectfully submitted by Donna L. Barsalou, secretary.