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Department of Water Resources
Eastern Region

**Water District 74
Minutes of Annual Meeting
Monday, March 5, 2001**



Directors Present:

RJ Smith, Chairman. Bob Thomas, Bill Snyder, Paul Fisher, Bill Loudy, Ed Snook, Donna Barsalou, Secretary.

CALL TO ORDER

The Annual meeting of Water District 74 was called to order at 7:12 p.m. by Chairman, RJ Smith.

TREASURE'S REPORT

Donna Barsalou, Secretary, read the sources and uses report for the year 2000.

BUDGET

There was a mistake in calculating expenses for 2001, leaving a balance in checking of \$172.40 at the end of February, with March wages and expenses still needing to be paid. It was voted on the at the Directors meeting to borrow \$2,000.00 for Lemhi Irrigation District to cover these expenses until the 2001 assessment revenue comes in.

RJ reported on the proposed budget for 2001. Rick Sager was absent on a medical emergency. There were no objections to the 2001 proposed budget.

WATER BANKING/FISH PASSAGE

RJ Smith introduced persons attending the annual meeting from other agencies: Clive Strong and Debra Nelson from the State Attorney General's office, Carl Dreher, Bob Foster from Dept. of Water Resources. Bob Loucks has put together the data collected by Rick Sager, creating graphs depicting the flow in the Lemhi during the 2000 season. NMFS would like to keep 10 cfs in the river above L-5. There is a total of 692 cfs in the total drainage. This is water that is used over and over (recharge). BOR maintained gauging

station at L-5 till June 7, 2000 stayed between 9.9 and 12.0 cfs until October 1, 2000. Steve Herbst questioned where L-1 gauging station was located. At times the gauge station at L-1 got to 30 cfs. From 3A down the river usually gains water. The Lemhi was in regulation from July 11 to September 12. 44.7 cfs. Bob Thomas traded water between L-6 and L-7 to maintain the required cfs.

Currently there appears to be two ways to maintain water at L-5.

1) Water Banking - Bob Loucks explained how water banking works. RJ discusses how every spring the river goes dry at L-6 the first warm day of spring and all irrigators turn on the same day. The district needs a plan to manage "turn ons" to keep this from happening. A 24 hour delay in turn on was discussed. Users would be required to contact the water master 24 hours before turning on. NMFS requires that the Lemhi maintain 10 cfs, if not, a lawsuit could be in order. We need legislation to begin Water Banking on the Lemhi, for our own protection.

Don Olson asked about "recharge" and how that affects irrigators on the lower end. Blair Kauer state that 5 cfs is all that is gained from Leadore to L-6 in recharge. The largest gain is from Hayden Creek. Joe Tonsmeire commented on how bad the recharge is at the current time. Kevin Jenson commented on "borrowing" water from the Salmon River at S-14. Steve Herbst proposed to have Rick Sager come up with a plan on how to manage turn on. Motion: (Herbst - Fisher) to have ALL users contact Rick Sager 24 hours before they turn on. Rick will have the discretion to tell them if they can turn on/off. Lynn Herbst asked if a senior user could be denied to turn on. Stan Clark stated that the users on our district really have it made. He stated it is not the "end of the world to be managed". We were actually protecting ourselves by regulating ourselves. Carl Dreher pointed out that a rotation agreement should be signed by all the water users on the District. Don Olson moved that there be a written agreement to this effect. One opposed, majority in favor, motion carried. Carl Dreher went on to report that he was not here to tell anyone what to do, but to offer help if we want it. There was a long discussion on priorities, minimum flow, etc. 15 cfs wouldd be subordinate to minimum stream flow.

The S-14 exchange will help maintain water flow at 15/cfs during high use (July and August).

Use of the State's Water Banking system. Local Advisory Committee to develop procedures. How water goes into bank, who gets paid, etc.

Carl Dreher explained how water banking works. He had a handout on Draft Legislation. There was a lengthy discussion on the rotation agreement. Motion: (Carl Ellsworth - Unknown person in audience) that Water District 74 support legislation procedures, subject to issues of preference. Larry seconded. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

WATER BANKING COMMITTEE

Blair Kauer motioned to hold a meeting to organize a board to administer the Water Banking. Second: Carl Ellsworth, Steve Herbst, all in favor. Dan Israel a lawyer from Phoenix stated his standing on Long Term Water rights, moving things through Congress. Congress has the money, part of which is reserved for Water Banking purposes.

Dan Israel addressed the group. He stated that he is familiar with water rights and moving things through congress. Congress has the money available and the users have the right to get part of that money from NMFS. He had a contract for users to sign up. Israel is retained by the Sho-Ban Tribe, he works out of Phoenix.

BUDGET

RJ explained the changes in the proposed budget. Extra money had been allocated for mileage and wages. Motion: (Steve Herbst - Sam McKinney) to approve budget as presented. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

Water Master - Motion: (Kossler - Herbst) to hire Rick Sager. All in favor, motion carried.

Directors - Motion: (Kossler - Mulkey) to maintain all directors in their current

positions. All in favor, motion carried.

FYI

Carl Ellsworth asked if the 35 cfs that NMFS is asking to maintain in the river will be assessed?

No further business, meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.