

**Minutes of Meeting
Water District 74
Monday, March 1, 2004**

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APR 05 2004
Department of Water Resources
Eastern Region

CALL TO ORDER

The annual meeting of Water District 74 was called to order at 7:03 p.m. on Monday, March 1, 2004.

MINUTES OF 2003 MEETING

Secretary, Donna L. Barsalou, read the minutes from the 2003 annual meeting. Minutes were approved as read.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Chairman Ellsworth read and reported on the financial statement prepared by secretary Barsalou. Financial report was approved as read.

OLD BUSINESS

ADJUDICATION – Bob Foster from the Department of Water Resources reported that the preliminary report of the adjudication should be out this month (March). The final report will be out sometime in mid summer. Each filing will have a “Map of Use” attached. Rick asked Bob Foster if the high water rights would be coming out at same time. Bob Foster commented he didn’t think so. Rick commented that over 300 plus applications for high water rights have been filed. There are 38 applications that have not been filed or measured yet. There is a good chance that environmental groups will object to the high water filings.

TURN ON AGREEMENT – Carl Ellsworth asked Water Master Rick Sager, if the Turn On Agreement will remain the same as 2003. Rick said yes. The agreement is to maintain an even flow in the river. Each spring it seems everyone turns on at the same time, and drops the river level very low. Each water user is to notify Rick 24 to 48 hours prior to turning on, so this can be avoided.

S-14 TRANSFER – Things have come to a halt with the S-14 transfer. There is nothing to report.

WATER RENTAL – There are plans being made to rent water at the same price as last year. So far the money has not been appropriated for the 2004 season. Rick reported a letter will go out but Carl Ellsworth didn’t think it sounded very promising. Rick has already done all the “leg work” pertaining to the water rental.

BUDGET

Carl Ellsworth read the proposed budget prepared by Water Master, Rick Sager. He explained that because there is a chance that water rental may not happen in 2004, that Rick’s wages would suffer. The rental committee has paid Rick \$10,000.00 annually to

maintain the rental agreement and the work necessary to maintain the 25 cfs required by the agreement. The Water Rental Committee has agreed to pay the difference in Rick's wages if the rental does not occur. Part of the wage would rely on Water District 74 monies, part from Water Rental. Rick has already done the "leg work" necessary to rent water this season. Carl explained the proposed budget. In 2003 the amount billed per cfs was \$46. The proposed amount for 2004 is \$49.25/cfs. It is understood that the Water Rental committee will pick up the "difference" in the water master wage. Question from user: "Where does the 698 cfs come from?". Carl answered that is the amount of the Total decree. Bob Thomas asked if Rick's wage would remain the same if water is rented or not? He believes that Rick should be able to collect the same amount in wages if rental takes place or not. He believes Rick does an outstanding job and should be compensated for it. Carl asked Bob Thomas if he proposes that the Rental Committee or Water District 74 absorbs the amount of the increased wage. Blair Kauer stated that he feels the water district should not have to "stand" the increase in the wage. He feels that the increase is due to the extra work that the water rental requires. That affects only the persons on L-6, not the entire district. Carl reaffirmed to Blair that whether or not water is rented, the wage difference would be covered from the Rental Committee, that regardless, Rick will receive wage increase. Bob Loucks commented that if the users felt that Rick should receive the increase in wage, that he should be compensated, that the district needed to set their budget accordingly, meaning the district needs to set money aside to cover increased wage. Carl commented that the Rental Committee has that money already reserved. Bob Thomas proposed to raise budget to \$51.25 per cfs to reflect wage increase. Blair Kauer stated that he wanted it noted in the minutes that he \$46/cfs with the current wage of \$21,500.00 remain the same. He does not agree on increasing the budget to reflect wage increase.

Motion: (Thomas – Fisher) that the budgeted amount for assessment be \$49.25/cfs if water is rented, and if water is not rented that the budget reflect the increase at \$51.25/cfs. Majority in favor, three opposed. Motion carried.

ELECTIONS

Water Master – Motion: (Mulkey – Thomas) for Rick Sager as water master. Dennis Lile moved that nominations cease. All in favor, motion carried. Rick Sager accepted the position as Lemhi River Water Master.

Secretary – Motion: (Thomas – Fisher) that Vickie Armstrong be nominated to the Secretary position. Motion: (Mulkey – Wellard) that Jackie Winterowd be nominated to the secretary position. Votes were cast. Vickie Armstrong was elected to the secretary position.

Directors – Motion: (Wellard – Mulkey) that all three directors remain in their positions for one more term. The secretary was ordered to cast a unanimous ballot. RJ Smith, Bob Thomas, and Paul Fisher will remain in their positions for one more term of three years. Motion carried.

MISC.

Bruce Mulkey made an announcement of a Water workshop being held on March 30th.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. Respectfully submitted by, Donna L. Barsalou, Secretary.