

Minutes of the Water District 130 Annual Meeting
Tuesday, February 1, 2005
Jerome High School

Chairman Rex Minchey opened the meeting at 2:10 p.m. and introduced the members of the WD 130 advisory committee that were present at the meeting.

The first order of business was the election of the WD 130 Chairman. Rex opened nominations for WD 130 Meeting Chairman. Dean Stevenson nominated Rex Minchey, chairman. Seconded by Phyllis Beard. With no further nominations before the group, Minchey was elected chairman on a voice vote.

The next order of business was the election of WD 130 secretary. Dean Stevenson nominated Lynn Tominaga who has previously served as secretary. Seconded by Orlo Maughan. With no further nominations before it, Tominaga was elected secretary on a voice vote.

Tominaga read the minutes of February 10, 2004 WD 130 annual meeting. (See attached minutes). Dave Suchan moved to accept last year's minutes with the following correction: delete the reference to WD 120 and replace it with WD 130. Seconded by Phyllis Beard. Passed on voice vote.

Rex introduced IDWR staff: Cindy Yenter, Watermaster, Tim Luke, IDWR (Boise), Corbin Knowles, Deputy Water Master, and Troy Winward, IDWR Engineer (Twin Falls).

Sub district reports:

Lynn Carlquist, NSGWD, discussed the current water turmoil that lead to the development of last year's agreement. As part of the agreement, the legislature passed a package of legislation, including HB 848, that required certain commitments from ground water districts (GWDs). HB 848 required ground water users to pay the costs of an IDWR approved mitigation plan. The ground water districts (GWDs) had problems implementing this provision. In NSGWD's case, they found that the provision created different rates or classes of individuals within the district. NSGWD's assessments also doubled due to costs associated with the agreement's requirements. Carlquist suggested HB 848 needed legislative clarification as to how those different rates and classes should be implemented. He went on to say that 9,700 acres of ground water has been converted to surface water from Northside Canal Company (NSCC). At NSCC's request, NSGWD agreed not to irrigate one week in September when NSCC was also shutoff as a show of cooperation and good faith.

Dean Stevenson, MVGWD, also reported that his district's assessments had doubled since last year to pay for mitigation efforts. In a similar show of cooperation and good faith, MVGWD clipped its irrigation season by 25 days in the spring and 15 days in the fall. 3000 acres have been idled within MVGWD.

Dan Temple, A & B Irrigation District, said that, as a result of another estimated 2.5 feet of decline in aquifer, the district spent approximately \$300,000 to \$400,000 deepening wells to meet pumping demands. Based on pumping records, district diverts approximately 3 acre-feet per acre and is becoming more efficient.

Surface Water Users: No report

Watermaster Report

Cindy Yenter presented the 2004 Watermaster report covering the following topics:

WD 130 Statistics:

1781 reporting diversions

60 spring diversions

The balance are irrigation, commercial, industrial, municipal uses from groundwater

Three active reporting subdistricts:

- *North Snake Ground Water District (743 diversions)*

- *Magic Valley Ground Water District (553 diversions)*

- *A&B Irrigation District (180 diversions)*

2,634,652 acre-feet average annual diversions (1999-2003)

- *677,000 AF for consumptive uses*

- *1.96 million AF for nonconsumptive uses*

Ground Water Distribution:

Illegal diversions

- *Identified during 2004 using satellite imagery, plus overlays of NSCC, BWCC and AFRD2 rights to help identify supplemental uses*

- *All violations found were related to early shutoff of canal water*

- *This year, all resolved with temporary transfers, although policy will not be as lenient for 2005*

Commercial Flow Meter Audits

- *300 meter readings taken at the end of 2004 to compare with annual reports or to provide missing data*

Mitigation Plans

- *Approximately 112 reporting diversions joined NSG as full members*

- *Approximately 20 water users are new mitigation only members of MVG*

Water Right Transfers

- *About 40 new transfers approved in WD130 during 2004; about half required a new flow meter installation. These installations are on track, although required data logger installations are not*

Measurements

- *40 meter tests and 15 PCC exams - about 30% low due to staff re-assignment*

Surface Water Distribution:

Alpheus Creek/Blue Lakes

- *Early start, late restoration of diversions*

Niagara Springs

- *Below base flows most of the summer*

Clear Lakes

- *No regulation since April 2004 as a result of the 2004 stipulated agreement*
- *Other Areas*
- *Sweep of all surface diversions to collect measurements in July-August*
- *All diversions were visited and accuracy checks conducted at about 12 sites*

Enforcement Activity:

Notice of Curtailment for Non Payment of Water District Assessment

- *Individual assessments only*
- *8 Notices sent, 3 still not resolved*

Notice of Curtailment for Non Participation in a Mitigation Plan

- *11 Notices of curtailment sent within NSG; all but 4 have now joined; those will be curtailed during 2005 unless mitigation payment is made*

Expectations for Curtailment

- *Lock-out of irrigation diversions*
- *Commercial uses – methods will vary*

Goals for 2005

- *Continue to increase accuracy of measurement and reporting through: required data logger installations, replacement of broken or inaccurate flow meters, re-evaluation of pcc measurement sites*
- *Create a comprehensive analysis of water use at each diversion*

Watermaster's Budget Analysis and Recommendations

Watermaster –

- *2080 hours allocated (FTE)*
- *1890 hours projected to end of 2004 budget year*
- *90% of time worked*

Assistant –

- *624 hours allocated (30% FTE)*
- *313 hours projected to end of 2004 budget year*
- *50% of time worked*

Recommendations for 2005:

- *Watermaster should continue to be funded at 100%*
- *Assistant watermaster hours have been reduced to 20% of FTE due to migration of reporting diversions into ground water districts*
- *Addition of small amount for clerical assistant, funded with measurement and reporting salary savings*

Water District 130 2005 Proposed Budget Presentation

In a power point presentation, Chairman Minchey discussed WD 130's Proposed Budget and outlined advisory committee recommendations to hire IDWR as the water master. Water master services for 2005 are \$75,733 (see attached financial balance sheet and proposed budget worksheet) and other components of the budget are as follows:

Part Time office assistant , \$4868
Assistant Watermaster, \$13,272
Financial review and misc expenses, \$2750

Due to some fund carryover from 2004, total assessments to be collected are \$82,975, to be divided on a pro-rata basis among all water users. Consumptive and non-consumptive water uses will each bear 50% of aggregate charges.

Dean Stevenson moved to accept the 2005 budget as read. Seconded by Gary Bowman.
Passed on voice vote.

Minchey's power point presentation also included the Proposed 2005 Resolutions, which were substantially the same as the 2004 Resolutions, except for minor changes in dates and amounts to the 2005 budget. The Resolutions confirmed the election of IDWR and Cindy Yenter as Watermaster for 2005.

Dean Stevenson moved to accept the resolutions as modified. Seconded by Phyllis Beard. Passed on voice vote.

The meeting recessed for a subdistrict caucus at 3:18 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 3:28 to elect Advisory Committee members. Election results are as follows:

NSGWD- Lynn Carlquist; Rodney Bolich, alternate
MVGWD-Dean Stevenson; Orlo Maughan, alternate
A&B-Dan Temple; Dan Schaeffer, alternate
Basin 37- Dick Elliot; Rick Dinges, alternate
Industrial/Commercial - Rex Minchey (Jerome Cheese) and Phyllis Beard (Amalgamated Sugar); Ted Whiteman (Jerome Cheese) and Paul Isaacson (Mayor of Wendell), alternates
Surface Water Users-Larry Cope (Clear Springs Foods), Gary Lemon (Blind Canyon Aqua Ranch), Dwayne Knigge (Banbury Pipeline) and Jon Bowling (Idaho Power); no alternates selected

Dean Stevenson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Rusty Gillette.

There being no further business before it, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Lynn Tominaga, Secretary