

RECEIVED

JUN 29 2011

Department of Water Resources
Eastern Region

DRAFT

Water District 27
Advisory Board Meeting
January 5, 2011 – 1:30 p.m.
IDWR – Idaho Falls Conference Room

Larry Hinderager called the meeting to order @ 1:32 pm. Those Board members in attendance were: Larry Hinderager, Gary Pratt, Bob Reid, and David Bollinger (BIA). Others in attendance were: Brandon McKean, Clifford Buckskin, Kristie Clark, Jamie Harris, Lyle Swank, Wendy Murphy, Robert Keller, and Peter Cooper.

The minutes from the January 6, 2010 Advisory Board were presented. Larry Hinderager noted a correction on the second page under other business to read “James asked how to standardize the Eastern Idaho...” Another correction was noted on the third page third paragraph scratching the second “once the” in the last sentence. Gary Pratt moved to approve the minutes as amended; Lyle Swank seconded and the minutes were approved as corrected.

Lyle indicated several water users, the state and BIA have been working on a Water Management Plan for the Basin for the last couple of years. This plan calls for gage improvements at different locations. Many participating in the negotiations of this plan will be coving costs for river gages. The water users of Water District 27 will be responsible for funding improvements to the Meadow Creek gage. This gage is important to determine the flow into the Blackfoot Reservoir. There were discussions regarding building a bridge, replacing the cable car formerly used by BIA, and using a cable system to use a Doppler meter for a span of 35 feet. It was also noted that BIA is the owner of the ground on both sides of the measurement location. David Bollinger moved to recommend to the water users to install a pulley system for this year, Gary Pratt seconded and the motion passed.

Larry asked Lyle to review the resolutions making sure to note changes from the previous year. Dates are changed to reflect the needs for the upcoming year.

- Resolution 1 sets the date of the meeting.
- Resolution 2 outlines the responsibilities of BIA and the Watermaster of Water District 27. The treasurer is asking for compensation this year at a cost of \$50/month. This resolution also elects the watermaster, treasurer, and sets the budget for 2011.
- Resolution 3 sets the minimum charge.
- Resolution 4 outlines using the budget as the basis for the billing, and identifies the 40/60 split between the Blackfoot water users, and BIA.
- Resolution 5 provides direction and authority of the advisory committee.
- Resolution 6 provides the voting guidelines and the criteria for advisory members.
- Resolution 7 provides acceptance by BIA and Water District 27.

It was recommended to change the Fort Hall Project Engineer to the Fort Hall Project Manager or his designee in resolution two and Fort Hall Project Irrigation Manager in resolution seven.

David Bollinger indicated that historically Fort Hall does pay the 60/40 split and in the past Fort Hall has been compensated some expenses, he asked for clarification of the change. Jamie indicated there was an agreement with the district for compensation amounting to 10 days for BIA watermaster services, 10 days for BIA's ditch rider services, and two days for the BIA engineer technician services. Lyle indicated the compensation ended over five years ago when Ron Carlson was Watermaster. Lyle recalled Watermaster Davidson distribution records only ended at the mouth of the canyon or commonly referred to the lower Blackfoot. Water District 1 has been providing the additional measurements needed upstream for the adjudication. Fort Hall does operate Grays Lake and the Blackfoot Reservoir head gates which does deliver the storage water. It was also stated that if returning to this practice BIA would need to provide a budget of these costs to be factored into the budget for the approval at the annual meeting. Lyle also indicated it may have been in place when past practices including hiring a watermaster for natural flow delivery and another watermaster for storage delivery. Because these calculations are interconnected the use of two watermasters are not used very often any more. It was also indicated the Blackfoot River management plan is the current document determining who is responsible to costs and responsibility in measurement locations. Larry recommended proceeding as last year and getting the management plan settled and relook how the costs are distributed under the plan. David Bollinger agreed with this plan.

Lyle presented a spreadsheet comparing the 2010 budget, 2010 expenses and the 2011 proposed budget. The 2010 Budget was \$47,000 for expenditures with the income budget \$43,500 using \$3,500 from reserves. Actual expenditures for 2010 totaled \$43,500 with no reserves being used. The 2011 Proposed Budget includes the Water District 1 contract that is consistent with 2010 with a slight increase to accommodate the Treasurer's charge. Lyle is concerned the state mileage rates might increase from \$0.455 to closer match the federal rates as gas prices continue to increase, he was asking for \$4,500. Larry recommended leaving the mileage budget at \$4,000 with \$500 in reserves in case it is needed. Questions were raised regarding the equipment expense being so low. Projected equipment expenses are estimated at \$1,000 for a barometric meter. It was suggested to have Peter Cooper research the cost of a pulley system and increase the equipment budget to accommodate the pulley system previously approved. Added this year is the cost of a website as recommended by the Water Management Plan. Wendy reviewed the Balance Sheet with the board indicating current checking account balances totaling \$13,212. Current liabilities total \$1,029 payable to IDWR. Retained earnings are \$11,357 and net income for this last year is \$621. Larry recommended adding the net income into reserves; this was seconded by David Bollinger. With the addition of the net income into the reserves the district has reserves of \$11,978. With the noted changes the budget was presentable for the water users at the annual meeting.

Old business: Standardizing the Eastern Idaho Water Company assessment is still being discussed with their board and members. It will be discussed at their March annual meeting which could impact assessments; if changes are agreed upon they won't take effect until 2012.

New business: Rob Keller gave a presentation of the proposed water right accounting for Water District 27. It is proposed to update this weekly on a website. The last page will provide the release request from Fort Hall. This will be the request for the next seven days and will take into account Corbett Slough releases and the water users' needs. The maximum release needed for the rights affected should not exceed 58 cfs. Rob plans on running this report every Monday. Publishing on the website will probably be postponed until the Management Plan is approved, however Fort Hall can be emailed weekly after the report is ran. Any adjustments besides the Monday report projection will have to be dealt with as updates are received from water users.

Rob Keller felt adding year to date usage would be a good addition to the report but had questions about penalties for excess use. Water District 27 water users don't have storage rights but they have potential volume limitations. Would water users who divert above their water right need to be charged a fee in case rentals need to be made? Larry did indicate there are two items that provide limitations: 1) The 1990 Fort Hall Agreement and how the 45,000 acre-foot limitation is worked out. 2) Individual water right limitations. There may be a need a system to deal with overages. Larry felt winter stock water usage is not part of the irrigation season reporting.

It was noted that three of the advisory board members were planning on resigning this year (Keith, Gary and Larry).

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.


Wendy Murphy, Secretary