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ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

WATER RESOURCES
WESTERN REGION

WATER DISTRICT No. 161 - MOUNTAIN HOME AREA

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, July 26, 2016

MEETING LOCATION: FARM BUREAU OFFICE 1010 SUNSET STRIP
MOUNTAIN HOME, ID

MEETING SECRETARY NAME: NICK MILLER

ADDRESS: 2735 AIRPORT WAY BOISE, ID

SIGNATURE AND DATE

 7/27/16
NICK MILLER, MEETING SECRETARY

Meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 pm by Nick Miller of IDWR. Present were Member Dave Ascuena, Jim Blanton, Jon Bowling, Larry Jewett, Tom Kendall (USAF), Eric Orr, Geoff Schroeder, Nick Miller (IDWR), Tim Luke (IDWR), and John Kieffer.

The Committee discussed the need to take minutes of the meeting and make that information publicly available. Dave Ascuena suggested the minutes for this initial meeting be mailed to each water right holder and be made available on the Internet and a copy be made available at the Farm Bureau Office, but that there was no need to mail them out for future meetings. The committee decided that it is good to provide the minutes on the Internet and make a copy available for people to read locally, but mailing is not necessary.

The committee discussed selection of a committee chairman to officiate the meeting and a secretary to take minutes. Dave Ascuena and Jim Blanton volunteered to chair, but Jim decided to withdraw and the committee selected Dave Ascuena to chair the committee until the next annual meeting in January. Nick Miller was selected as secretary and will draft minutes and see they are posted on the Internet and that a copy is forwarded to Dave to place at the Farm Bureau front desk for public inspection.

Next order of business on the meeting agenda related to USAF participation on the Advisory Committee. Tom Kendall stated the USAF advised him that neither he nor Jeff O'Donnell can serve as voting members on the committee due to "the concept of sovereign immunity". The committee discussed that its purpose is purely advisory, and that it would very much prefer to get some input from the USAF so it is prudent to continue to ask Tom Kendall to attend the committee meetings as an observer/non-voting participant. The committee discussed the need to revise the district resolutions to formalize that at the annual meeting in January. This will be addressed at a later committee meeting. In the mean time, Geoff Schroeder suggested he will follow up with the USAF and clarify whether anyone from the USAF can participate.

Next, the discussion turned to Larry Jewett's request for a copy of the mailing list for WD161 water right holders. He had requested the list from IDWR on 6/28/16. Nick Miller asked for the committee's approval to distribute the mailing list as IDWR faces some prohibitions against distributing mailing lists to the public. Mr. Jewett described his reasons for wanting the list include helping contact users to update

their mailing addresses and water right ownership to improve public notice. The committee approved the request and asked that Mr. Miller send a copy of the list to each member of the committee in both PDF and excel formats.

The committee then addressed a similar request by John Kieffer of the Elmore SWCD for a listing of Names and mailing addresses for water right owners irrigating more than 20 acres. Mr. Kieffer described his intended use of the list was to send an informational card to those users soliciting interest in funding assistance for measuring devices. Mr. Kieffer described that he needs this information to support a proposal to develop a program through the ESWCD to obtain approximately 50% cost-share funding for measuring devices. The committee approved the request and instructed Mr. Miller to forward the list to the ESWCD.

Discussion turned to development of recommendations to IDWR for a measurement and control order for WD161. The committee's role is to provide advice to the department on how the order should be formulated - which wells must be measured, and when to comply. Tim Luke gave some background on orders IDWR has issued across the state in the past. Typically IDWR does not require measurement of wells that are authorized to divert water to irrigate 5 acres or less, or are authorized to divert 0.24 cfs or less for non-irrigation uses. The committee reviewed a listing of wells provided by IDWR based on water right records to gage how many wells would be impacted under the "typical" proposal. Approximately 365 wells would be measured out of a total number of approximately 506. If the proposal was adjusted to exclude those wells between 5 and 10 acres, the number drops by 33 wells for a total of 332 wells measured.

After further discussion, the committee recommended to the department that the order be issued to measure all wells diverting water rights in WD161 with the exception of wells that divert rights for 10 acres or less and wells that divert rights for 0.24 cfs or less for non-irrigation uses.

The committee discussed the timing of the measurement requirements. Tim Luke said the department prefers to stage the implementation to allow users, particularly those with multiple wells, time to plan and pay for the meters. Ultimately, after some discussion, the committee recommended not to stage the implementation, but to make the requirement to measure all wells by 2019. So, an order issued by the department in the next two months, would require all wells that divert rights greater than 0.24 cfs for non-irrigation uses be measured by January 1, 2019 and all wells diverting irrigation rights for more than 10 acres be measured before irrigating in 2019.

Tim Luke said the department will take these recommendations, but ultimately it is the Director's decision and that the Director may have reasons for accepting the recommendations or not, but he typically favors local input.

Next advisory committee meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2016 at 7:00 pm at the Farm Bureau Office. Expect to discuss a draft or final measuring device order, and begin preparations for the next annual meeting in January.

MEETING AGENDA
WATER DISTRICT 161
2016 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, July, 26 7:00 PM
Farm Bureau Office
Mountain Home, ID

Call Meeting to Order	Nick Miller
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Discuss Committee Issues	All
- How will the committee function? Officers, voting, etc...	
- USAF participation.	

Review requests for mailing lists	All
- Larry Jewett - All users	
- John Keifer - 20+ acres to solicit funding assistance	

Discuss scope and form of measurement order	All
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Other Items of Business

Set next meeting

Adjournment of Meeting