

Water District 29H, Marsh Creek
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Downey Senior Center
Wednesday May 30, 2018

Attendees included:

Tim Luke and Steve Visosky - IDWR

Ralph Wheatley, Kathy Spiegel, Lynn Bastian, Demar (Dee) Gilbert – Advisory Committee members

Brad Maddox – Watermaster of Water District 29H

This advisory committee meeting was held by request of IDWR representative Steve Visosky to discuss details of a planned measurement order with water district representatives and watermaster prior to the issuance and implementation of the order.

-The meeting commenced at 5:00 PM

-Steve began with a brief discussion about the purpose of the meeting and the planned measurement order. Steve also handed out a summary of the estimated diversions in the district created from the 2017 watermaster report from WD29H (summary should accompany the meeting minutes).

-Advisory committee members expressed concerns about the type of work and timing to complete the required work. Committee members stated the fall season is the best time of year to perform diversion construction work. After discussion about timing, the committee and IDWR agreed that three years was a fair time frame for users to be in compliance with a measurement order. Tim clarified a three year time frame would require users to be in compliance by the spring of 2021.

-Dee, Lynn, and Ralph expressed concerns about the difficulty related to installing measuring devices where flooding of the meadows historically occurred.

-Steve acknowledged the difficulty with installing measuring devices in locations where head loss is limited and the river is fairly flat. Steve also stated the work of installing measuring devices is the responsibility of the water users and the watermaster should use caution when making measuring device recommendations.

-Tim discussed a possibility of funding from NRCS. Ralph mentioned that funding from the NRCS takes time.

-Brad mentioned concerns about installing the measuring devices as it relates to permitting from other agencies. Tim clarified IDWR's permitting process and also stated IDWR would confirm other agency processes, ie. Army Corps of Engineer. Tim mentioned that IDWR would send Brad the links to NRCS, Bureau of Reclamation, USGS, and the Bannock County Floodplain Administrator per his request. Tim also mentioned IDWR would try to coordinate the workshop with other agencies if applicable/possible.

-Discussion continued about the timing of a water measurement workshop for water users. Some attendees thought it may be beneficial to first hold a workshop, then issue the order. Others, including the

watermaster, thought users have already been made aware of a planned order and the workshop should be after the order is issued. Tim mentioned IDWR would prefer to issue the order sooner rather than later for compliance reasons. It was concluded that IDWR would be attempting to issue the order by the end of June and a measurement workshop would follow after.

-There was some discussion about the exemptions of the order. Steve mentioned the standard exemption excluded diversions for irrigation ≤ 5 acres or other "uses" (besides irrigation) with a diversion rate of ≤ 0.24 cfs (cubic feet per second). It was agreed that all diversions, including all sources and tributaries, would follow the standard exemption.

-Tim addressed a few questions about ground water users. Tim stated IDWR intends on taking action later this year with incorporating ground water into a water district and ground water users will also be required to measure their diversions.

-The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM

Meeting minutes were provided by Steve Visosky, IDWR