

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE WATERUSERS OF THE BLACKFOOT RIVER WATER DISTRICT #27  
HELD AT THE BINGHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
BLACKFOOT, IDAHO  
JANUARY 12, 2015

Advisory committee chairman Rob Reid called the annual meeting of Water District 27 to order at 1:02 p.m. January 12, 2015.

Layne Hamilton nominated Bob Reid as meeting Chairman. Mark Pratt moved to cease nominations; Trish Arave seconded the motion and the motion passed. Trish Arave nominated Wendy Murphy as meeting Secretary. Larry Hinderager moved to cease nominations; the motion was seconded and passed.

Minutes of the meeting held January 13, 2014 were read by Wendy Murphy. Corrections were noted on page 2, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph to change the December 31, 2012 date to 2013. Larry Hinderager moved to accept the minutes as corrected; Mark Pratt seconded, and the minutes were approved as corrected.

Lyle Swank presented the Watermaster Report. Lyle introduced Craig Chandler who will be assisting the water district this year. This was the first full year under the administration of the Blackfoot River Management Plan. The recent Snake River Basin Adjudication whose main purpose was to quantify the water rights by identifying the elements of water rights, was celebrated by the courts for being finished. Even though the end was celebrated there are a couple of loose ends to finish up. One of the loose ends is the settlement of the reservoir refill when water is used for flood control operations. Interstate Basin issues are also being worked out, in particular issues concerning Idaho land owners whose diversion is initiated in Wyoming. Lyle presented a precipitation graph. The rains in August and September of 2014 helped with reservoir carryover. On the average the temperatures were above average for most of 2014. The longer the irrigation season the greater the potential for water use to approach the equitable adjustment maximum amount.

Robert Keller, Water District 27 Deputy Watermaster, provided a brief overview of the last season. In 2014 the Fort Hall diversions totaled 221,853 acre-feet and the North Side Users diverted 44,217 acre-feet. The Blackfoot River Management Plan to calculate the Primary Volume, with adjustments, was equal to 35,336 acre-feet. Rob noted the 2014 Snowpack was above average but the runoff was below average due to a cool spring. The summer was hot except for rains in August. A water use comparison chart was presented reflecting an average use of the North Side Users of 49,000 acre-feet and Fort Hall's average use is around 230,000 acre-feet. The water district is currently meeting the Blackfoot River Management Plan of continuous monitoring but the equipment only lasts for 5 years, and requires field work to retrieve the data. Rob outlined an option for continuous monitoring with other equipment with a longer lifespan and could be made available for water user use as well. The capital outlay for the initial equipment would increase the cost of \$0.035 per 24-hour cfs. The current snow water content is 123% of average for this time of year. The Blackfoot Reservoir content as of January

08, 2015 was 155,920 acre-feet which is about 46.3% full. Rob indicated there is a credit 20,000 acre-feet in the debit/credit system to be available above the 45,000 acre-feet if needed. The credit can be as high as 40,000 acre-feet, can only use up to 12,000 acre-feet per year of the credit.

Bob Reid opened the floor for nominations for the advisory board. It was moved by LaVerelle Stecklein to retain the current advisory board, Merlin Yancey seconded the motion. The motion passed by acclamation. Marvin Yancey nominated Bob Reid as Chairman, Mark Pratt moved nominations cease, Trish Arave seconded the motion; and the motion carried. The 2015 advisory board is Bob Reid, Chairman, Marvin Yancey, Mark Pratt, Trish Arave, and David Bollinger with the BIA.

The checking account balance as of December 31, 2014 totaled \$21,741. The Accounts Receivable balance was -\$538. Liabilities at the end of the year were \$400. The profit and loss budget comparison was also presented. The 2014 income from assessments was \$43,532. Miscellaneous income received was \$19. Even though assessments were sent for \$44,025 there was one credit given by the board to a water user for the prior year over charge due to a flood situation. Expenses included the website for \$320, the Water District 1 contract expenditures were \$38,205, measurement equipment cost \$1,215, and travel cost totaled \$4,092. The total expenses of the district were \$43,832. The net loss for the year was \$280. Larry Hinderager motioned to approve the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by David Bollinger and the motion carried.

The 2015 Resolutions were presented by Lyle Swank. The first 2015 resolution sets the date of the 2016 annual meeting for January 11, 2016. The budget is proposed to be increased to \$47,125 for this year. Lyle indicated legislation was passed to increase the maximum amount the minimum assessment can be. The board recommended increasing the minimum to \$45 per diversion. Mark Pratt moved to approve the resolutions as presented. Tom Blotter seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Old Business: The board decided to wait until August to review the Supplemental Equitable Adjustment Water concern. The Northside users had created an account to assist with legal expenses. There are some funds remaining in that account currently planned to start the Supplemental Equitable Adjustment Water if needed.

Bob Reid asked if all the water users have received their final decrees from the courts. Usually the Twin Falls Adjudication Court send those out as they become finalized.

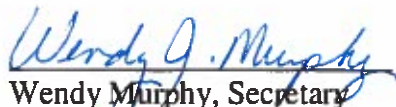
Tom Blotter asked if salary adjustments are being given and we are fairly paying the staff. Lyle indicated the employees are paid according to a state salary schedule. There were several years there was a freeze based off the governor and/or state employee compensation committee. He hopes to retain people but the freeze has made that difficult compared with other agencies. Trish Arave moved to have the advisory board look into the salary schedules and to see if we are adequately compensating employees. Tom Blotter seconded the motion. After further discussion the motion passed. Discussion included, Alan Kelsch noting the districts do have the ability to set compensation and can supplement the salaries, some water users indicated their

assessments have been low based off the travel distance and time, and David Bollinger indicating a bonus could be a substantial increase to the district.

**New Business:**

After a quick review of other potential meeting locations (Farm Bureau, the Senior Citizens Center, and the Library) it was recommended to continue to meet in the courthouse for the annual meeting.

LaVerelle Stecklein moved to adjourn the Water District 27 Annual Meeting, Merlin Yancey seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:38 pm.

  
Wendy Murphy, Secretary

  
Dated

## Water District 27 Year 2015 Resolutions

1. BE IT RESOLVED that the annual Water District 27 meeting shall hereafter, or until changed by further resolution of the district, be held on the second Monday of January of each year unless the director and advisory members should find it necessary to change the meeting date. The next annual meeting is to be held January 11, 2016.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that it is the watermaster's responsibility to apply the best available methods and technology to assure accurate deliveries of natural flow and stored water, consistent with regulatory procedures and the availability of the water supply; that he maintain accurate records of water delivered to each water user.

That, the watermaster shall accurately allocate the expenses of delivering water of the district to each ditch, canal company, irrigation district, or other water user as provided by law; and that he shall prepare the annual watermaster's report required by Idaho Code 42-606 and a proposed budget for the succeeding year as required by Idaho Code 42-615.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

The watermaster will investigate ways to expand and maintain automation where it can effectively improve water management, reduce personnel costs, travel costs, or result in cost or water savings for water users in Water District 27, or assure better and more current data.

The Watermaster will adjust the headgates of all natural flow rights. The Fort Hall Project Manager or his designee will adjust the central gates of the Blackfoot Reservoir, the equalizing reservoir, the Little Indian Canal, and the North and Main Canal headgates. The Watermaster will be duly advised of all changes made in the gates regulated by the Fort Hall Project Manager or his designee.

Lyle Swank be elected watermaster for the ensuing year, and be authorized to appoint deputies and hire such other assistants as provided by the adopted budget. The watermaster may hire additional assistants as authorized in Idaho Code 42-609 in an emergency.

Alan Kelsch be elected Water District 27 Treasurer.

The duties of the watermaster and treasurer shall continue until the next annual meeting.

The budget for Water District 27 for the 2015 year beginning January 01, 2015, and continuing until the annual meeting in 2016, shall be as follows:

# Water District 27 2015 Budget

Expenses	Budget	Notes
Water District I Contract	\$39,500.00	
Travel	\$3,800.00	
<b>Total WD1 Expenses</b>	<b>\$43,300.00</b>	
Website	\$ 325.00	
Measurement & Reporting Equipment	\$3,500.00	
<b>Total to Assess</b>	<b>\$47,125.00</b>	

3. WHEREAS, it is the watermaster's responsibility to assure the proper delivery of water to all water users, and

WHEREAS, the normal water district cost of delivering water to many water users is greater than their normal assessments would be based upon their total annual use of water;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the watermaster of Water District 27 is hereby authorized to assess a \$45.00 minimum charge for every point of diversion within his jurisdiction.

4. WHEREAS, the water users of Water District 27 meeting in regular annual session find it necessary to confirm the continuation of the following "on-going" resolutions which direct the watermaster and the treasurer of the district in certain aspects of Water District 27 operations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the budget of Water District 27 adopted at the annual meeting shall become the basis for the aggregate amount to be collected from all water users in the district for the current year based upon historical average delivery to each user. Debits and credits for the preceding year will be added to the current approved budget before assessments for the irrigation season are made.

It is hereby agreed that the natural flow users shall pay 40% of Water District 27 Budget, and that the Fort Hall Project shall pay 60% of said expense. The rate of assessment per 24 hour second feet shall be computed in accordance with the above proportions.

No water shall be delivered to any delinquent water user until all delinquencies have been paid, and no water shall be delivered after June 1 2015, until the current year's assessment has been paid: Provided that assessments in excess of \$100.00 may be paid in installment of 1/3 of the total assessment, less any credit due previous years, on May 1 2015, and 1/3 of the total assessment on July 1 2015. The balance of the assessment shall become due and payable upon approval of the Watermaster's report by the Director of the Department of Water Resources for the state of Idaho, as provided in Section 42-614 of the Idaho Code.

That the treasurer shall establish and maintain a general account and shall cause all monies received to be deposited and shall make all disbursements as necessary to conduct the business of the water district;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no ditch, canal company, or other water users shall have the right to demand and receive water, and the watermaster shall not deliver to such person until receipt of the amount due and payable from such user, and

That copies of the minutes of the annual meeting, the approved budget, and related resolutions, shall be filed with the Director of the Department of Water Resources in accordance with Idaho Code 42-612 and 42-617.

5. WHEREAS, the water district meets in regular annual session, as provided by state law, and;

WHEREAS, there are, from time to time, decisions related to water district contracts, or policies that may not have been specifically addressed by resolution at the annual meeting;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the advisory committee of Water District 27 is authorized to take such actions as they, by consensus deem necessary and appropriate to fulfill the duties for which the district was created.

6. WHEREAS Idaho Code 42-605 provides for voting by water users and election of an advisory committee, the water users of Water District 27 hereby resolve that the credentials for voting in any district meeting and for serving on the district advisory committee will be as follows:

- 1) The advisory committee is to consist of 5 members, geographically distributed to represent the interests within the district.
- 2) Each advisor must be a landowner and water user within the boundaries of Water District 27; except for the Designated Representative from Fort Hall.
- 3) Must have paid all assessments owed Water District 27.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall continue from year to year until repealed or changed by the water users.

7. ACCEPTANCE BY THE UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

BE IT RESOLVED that adoption of all resolutions become effective with respect to the Fort Hall Project and all water distributed to the Fort Hall Project from any source, when the Fort Hall Irrigation Project Manager has affixed his signature.



Bob Reid, Chairman  
Blackfoot River Water User's Association



David Bollinger, Irrigation Project Manager.  
Fort Hall Agency

Approved and accepted this 12th day of January, 2015.

# MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Meeting:	Water District 27	Meeting Date:	January 12, 2015
Place:	Bingham County Courthouse, Blackfoot ID	Time:	1:00 pm

Name (Please print clearly)	Representing	Email
Wendy Murphy	WD1	
Lyle Swank	WD1	
Rob Keller	WD1	
Craig Chandler	WD1	
Tom Blotter	Self	tombjblotter@asn.com
Larry Hindenagen	EINW & Mining Dist	
BOB REID	SELF	
Mary Colloid		
Linda Colloid		
The Gulch	WD 27	
Layne Hamilton	Self	
Bob + Kay Hoskins	Self	
David Boulanger	BIA/FAIP	
Marian Yarnes	Central Dist	
Rita Muriillo	BIA	
Brandon McKean	B.I.A.	
MARK Pratt		
Alan Kelsch	WD 1	
Jeanne Hamilton	SELF	

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