

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF JOINT COMMITTEE
OF THE OWYHEE PROJECT**

April 4, 2011

A special meeting of the Joint Committee of the Owyhee Project was held at the offices of Stunz, Fonda, Kiyuna & Horton, LLP, 106 Main Street, Nyssa, Oregon, on April 4, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. Frank Ausman, Chairman, presiding.

The following members of the Joint Committee were present:

Bruce Corn	David Shenk (who joined the meeting at 10:13 a.m.)
Jerry Nagaki	Brett Nielsen (South Board Alternate)
Frank Ausman	Dan Tschida
Eric White (OID Alternate who stepped down at 10:13 a.m., when David Shenk joined the meeting)	

Also present were: Jay Chamberlin, Manager of the Hydro Projects; Michael W. Horton, Attorney and Secretary of the Joint Committee; Tom Zittercob, Hydro Operator; Ron Keester, South Board Manager; Harvey Manser; OID Assistant Manager; Monty Culbertson, Owyhee Ditch Manager; Larry Meyer, *Argus Observer*, Deputy Hunsucker, Sheriff's Office; Wes Allison, Nyssa Road District; J.R. Lattin, ODOT; Robert Peterson, Landowner; and Andy Peutz, Owyhee Ditch Board Member.

Mr. Chamberlin passed around handouts on Snotel sights and weather forecasts. The Committee members reviewed the handouts. Mr. Chamberlin said that one inch of snow was lost off of Mud Flat. He said that temperatures have come down and that the water seems to have locked up. He said that there is still approximately 10 inches of water out there. He said that it would take more warmer days to move the snow off of South Mountain.

Mr. Chamberlin said that the basin did not get the predicted rain. He said that the warmer weather did bring the inflows up to 10,000 cfs. He said that there is still a tremendous amount of snow out there. He said the warmup got rid of some of the low snow.

Mr. Chamberlin said that because of the warmup, storage went up by 5,000 acre feet, but that the rest of the inflows were passed down the river. He said that currently the reservoir has room for 71,000 more acre feet. He said that according to Brian Sauer at the Bureau of Reclamation, the storage and releases are right where they need to be. Mr. Chamberlin said that he still believes that there is 500,000 acre feet of water still out there.

Mr. Chamberlin explained the events that occurred in making the Glory Hole operational. He reminded everyone that the ring gate is not a precision instrument and that

they are dealing with 1930 technology. He said that releases from the reservoir have been around 9,200 to 9,300 cfs. He said that a tremendous amount of debris was flushed out the lower channel. He said that he would recommend that the releases come down and that a cushion of available storage of 71,000 to 73,000 acre feet be left. He reminded the Committee members that they have now dealt with a little warmup and have flushed the river. Mr. Corn said that the weather forecast for the next two weeks looks cool, but that there are also rains predicted.

Putting water into the canal systems were discussed. Mr. Chamberlin said that OID will probably put water in their system on Thursday. Mr. Keester said that South Board is still looking at the 11th, but that they will handle what leaks through the gates. He said that South Board is having a meeting tomorrow night.

Chairman Ausman asked Mr. Chamberlin how hard it is to mirror the inflows using the ring gate. Mr. Chamberlin again explained the process and said that it is hard to precisely mirror the inflows, but that they can try to somewhat match them.

Mr. Nielsen said that there are some drains starting to back up. He said that he would like to see the Committee start backing off of releases down the river and lower the flows to around 7,500 cfs or match the inflows if they go lower. Mr. Chamberlin said that filling the reservoir this year will not be a problem. He said that he would like another 20,000 acre feet of cushion in the reservoir. The discussion on releases continued.

At 10:13 a.m., David Shenk joined the meeting and Eric White stepped down.

Mr. Chamberlin said that there is still a lot of snow out there. He said that warm weather will hit some time. He said that the later it goes into the season with the snow pack remaining, the greater the chance of having one big runoff event. He referred to 2006 when the flows at Rome went from 6,000 cfs to 25,000 cfs in one day. Mr. Shenk said that he would like to see the Committee try to match inflows. Mr. Chamberlin recommended that inflows be matched and that around 75,000 acre feet of cushion be left in the reservoir. Weather forecasts were then discussed by the Committee.

A new release schedule for the reservoir was discussed. Mr. Nagaki said that he would like to draft the reservoir down to around 630,000 acre feet. Mr. Peterson said that river flows at 7,000 cfs are a lot better than at 8,000 cfs. Flows in the river below the Dam were discussed. Mr. Shenk said that he thought Mr. Chamberlin did an excellent job on stair stepping the releases from the jet flows when starting the water down the river. Mr. Chamberlin explained the issues staff had with the ring gate valves. He said that they are now working fine. He said that there had been a problem from them sitting so long. He said that the standard operating procedures for testing and working the devices were followed. A discussion on the devices followed.

A discussion on releases from the reservoir was had. Mr. Nielsen said that he would like to see the releases closer to 7,000 cfs rather than 8,000 cfs. Mr. Peterson again expressed his concern with flows over 7,500 cfs. He said that he understood that the Committee has difficult decisions to make. Mr. Chamberlin said that a new USBR forecast will be out within the next few days.

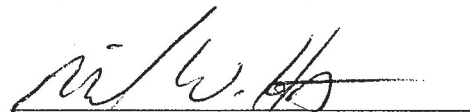
Mr. Chamberlin said that Mr. Sauer from USBR does not see inflows dropping by very much in the near future. He said that the drainage is wet and that the forecast for river flows become more accurate the further you get into the season. Mr. Shenk said he supports drafting down the reservoir a little. Mr. Corn noted that releases would have to stay at around 8,000 cfs in order to get the reservoir leveled down to 620,000 acre feet. Mr. Tschida said that he feels releases need to stay where they are at. Discussion on releases from the reservoir continued.

A motion was made by Bruce Corn that releases at the Dam continue at 8,000 cfs with management to continue to monitor inflows and if releases are to exceed 8,000 cfs, then management is to let the Committee members know by telephone. If flows at Rome drop below 5,000 cfs, then releases at the Dam are to be reduced proportionately until reservoir storage gets down to 620,000 acre feet, at which time management is to attempt to maintain that level in the reservoir. If flows at Rome get above 15,000 cfs, then management is to call a meeting of the Joint Committee. The motion was discussed. Bob Peterson said that there is a big difference between 7,000 and 8,000 cfs in the river and its effect on property. He said that if releases end up having to be at 25,000 cfs, then it doesn't matter anyway. He said that he would not want to be on the Committee having to make these tough decisions. Chairman Ausman said that he would like it known that once the canals begin running and the snows start to come out, the reservoir must fill. Mr. Shenk seconded Mr. Corn's motion. Discussion on the motion continued. After discussion, Chairman Ausman called for a vote. Mr. Corn, Chairman Ausman, Mr. Nagaki, Mr. Shenk, and Mr. Nielsen voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Tschida voted against and the motion carried by vote of five to one.

It was determined that the next meeting of the Joint Committee will be on April 19, at 7:30 p.m., in Mr. Horton's office.

ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Secretary

APPROVED: _____