

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

March 11, 2024

A special meeting of the Joint Committee of the Owyhee Project was held on March 11, 2024, at the Owyhee Irrigation District office located at 422 Thunderegg Blvd., Nyssa, Oregon, at 9:03 a.m. Eric White, Chairman of the Joint Committee presiding.

The following members of the Joint Committee were present:

|               |                                                  |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Eric White    | Bret Nielson                                     |
| Gregory Clark | Frank Ausman                                     |
| Chris Landa   | Bruce Corn (who joined the meeting at 9:10 a.m.) |

Also present were: Clancy Flynn, Manager of the Hydro Projects; Michael W. Horton, Secretary and Legal Counsel; Carl Sieders, South Board Manager; Peter Cooper, and Ryan Hendricks, USBR; and Lance Peterson, Member of the Public.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Chairman Eric White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEETING NOTICE. Mr. Flynn reported that public notice of the meeting was given.

SNOW FLIGHT. Mr. Flynn reported on his flight over the watershed to check on the snow pack. He said that Eric White flew with him. He said that there was more low snow than the last flight. He said there is good snow coverage to the Southern end of Mud Flat and no snow coverage to the South until the mountains. He said there was 18 to 30 inches of snow on Mud Flat and still frozen up. He said there was more snow than March 13<sup>th</sup> of last year. He said that the stock ponds look full and no water is running yet. He said that he thinks that peak flow will likely be a month later than last year.

USBR CONDITIONS REPORT. Peter Cooper from USBR made a video presentation on the current snow and water situation. He said the precipitation is 156% of normal He said that if there is a rain storm, the reservoir could get 20,000 cfs of inflows and without a rain storm there should easily be 10,000 cfs. He said that the next 10-day forecast is dry and cool. He said that USBR is forecasting 597,000 a.f. of inflows between March 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> and RFC is forecasting 669,000 a.f. between March 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>. He said he believes there is enough snowpack out there to fill the reservoir. He said it could go to 2,000 cfs and hold for three weeks and still easily fill on the dry end. He said that the reservoir needs three to five more feet before the ring gate can be operated. He said it is very similar to 2017. His recommendation is that 500 cfs be released today and ramped up to 1000 cfs tomorrow, and then hold it there tentatively pending daily coordination, and do additional increases as we start to see inflows ramp up. Mr. Flynn said that the crossing at the Dam compound will have to come out before releases are ramped up.

Mr. Cooper said that the Snake River flows will be coming up in about a week.

WATER RELEASES. Mr. Flynn said that releases of 500 cfs on Wednesday and 1,000 cfs on Thursday can be done. He said that he needs to get the word out to the Sheriff

Emergency Management and to the Road District. He said that the radial gate and canals are two weeks out before they can be used.

Increasing releases was discussed. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Corn to ramp flows up below the Dam to 1,000 cfs with a meeting to be held next week with an emergency meeting scheduled if conditions change. Mr. Nielson seconded the motion. The Committee members voted on the motion and it passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael W. Horton, Secretary

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_