

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

August 22, 2013

A 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 August 22, 2013, at 7:53 p.m. Frank Ausman, Chairman, presiding.

The following members of the Joint Committee were present:

Frank Ausman	Jerry Nagaki
Eric White	Rick Smith
Dan Tschida	Chris Landa

Also present were: Jay Chamberlin, Manager of the Hydro Projects; Michael W. Horton, Attorney and Secretary of the Joint Committee; Ron Keester, South Board Manager; Bruce Corn, OID Alternate; Dennis Turner, South Board; J.L. Eldred, OID Watermaster; Brett Nielsen, South Board; Rod Frahm, Owyhee Ditch Company; and six OID Patrons.

INTRODUCTIONS. Chairman Ausman said that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss a shutoff date for the 2013 irrigation season.

WATER STORAGE AND FORECAST. Mr. Chamberlain said that there is 65,000 acre feet of water in storage. He said that they have been monkeying with the gates to try to keep control of the system. He said that they will not have all of the gates open until the storage gets to around 50,000 acre feet. He said that he has been telling folks that the target date when the water would run out would be September 1st. He said that there is some allotment left and he thinks that water users are waiting until the first of September. He said that he is now calculating that there will be approximately 40,000 acre feet in the reservoir on September 1st if the usage continues at the current rates.

Ron Keester said that in the South Board area there are a number of acres that still have a half acre foot of their allotment left. He said that pivots in the South area have helped a lot in making the water last. J.L. Eldred said that 2003 is the most comparable year. He said that in 2003, they went to full gates at around 53,000 acre feet. He said that users are pulling more now than they did at this time in 2003. He said that the 53,000 lasted about four to five days before the tail end dropped off in 2003. He said that he believes demand will cause the system to drop quickly.

WATER SHUTOFF DATE. A discussion was had as to how long to run water after September 1. Mr. White said that it does not make much sense to save water with as little as there is in the reservoir. He suggested drawing the reservoir down to the same

level that it was drawn down to in 2003, which was 8,800 acre feet. Mr. Eldred said at that level on the North side, the water will only make it to Lytle.

Mr. Tschida asked how the upper end of the OID system could have started early and still have water left. He said that the South end went on two weeks early and now want to go off two weeks later than the North end. The matter was discussed and Mr. Tschida asked if it is worth putting water in the canal to get it to a few farmers up above. The question was discussed.

Mr. Eldred said that he believes that the water could last through the first week of September. Mr. Tschida asked how many transfers have happened on the OID system and Mr. Eldred said approximately 15 to 20.

Brett Nielsen said that he would like to run the system as long as it can be run. He asked about going to 3/8ths which was discussed. Dennis Tuner suggested going to the first of September and after that, trying to stretch the water as long as possible. Mr. Frahm said that he believes the Owyhee Ditch Company will go off when the rest of the system goes off.

The idea of setting a target date and then running to a certain elevation was discussed. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. White that the water in the reservoir be put into the canal system until the reservoir level reaches 8,800 acre feet. Mr. Landa seconded the motion. A vote on the motion was held and the motion passed unanimously.

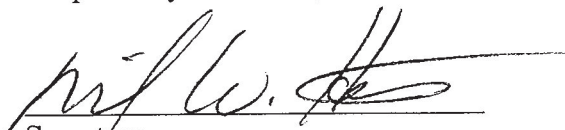
A discussion on the date when the 8,800 acre feet level may be reached was had.

Director Tschida asked if the guard gates should be worked on this fall while the water is down. The matter was discussed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION. Mr. Horton said that an executive session is needed pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h) to consult with legal counsel. At 8:50 p.m., the audience left and the Joint Committee entered into executive session with Mr. Corn, Mr. Chamberlin, Mr. Horton, Mr. Eldred, and Mr. Keester also attending the executive session. At 9:39 p.m., the Board returned to regular session.

ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Secretary

APPROVED: _____