

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

April 1, 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 1, 2011, at 11:00 a.m. Frank Ausman, Chairman, presiding.

The following members of the Joint Committee were present:

Bruce Corn	David Shenk
Jerry Nagaki	Dan Tschida
Frank Ausman	Brett Nielsen (South Board Alternate)

Also present were: Jay Chamberlin, Manager of the Hydro Projects; Michael W. Horton, Attorney and Secretary of the Joint Committee; Tom Zittercob, Hydro Operator; Eric White, OID Alternate; 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 inflows and storage. Copies of the handouts are attached to these minutes. Mr. Chamberlin said that he flew the snow course. He said that NRCS and USBR staff also flew the snow course. He said that they all share the same feelings and assessment. He said that there is still the same amount of snow as he saw ten days ago when he flew, if not more. He said that the low valley snow is gone. He said that Mud Flat is still covered with snow. He said that he saw water running everywhere. He said that Mud Flat is still all snow. Eric White said that he flew with Mr. Chamberlin and the ponds at Mud Flat are still frozen. Mr. Chamberlin said that with yesterday's warmer temperatures, there will be more runoff still to come. He said that he saw good flows in all the streams and he believes that the reservoir will start getting flows out of Wildhorse.

The Committee members reviewed and discussed the handouts. Mr. Chamberlin said that USBR staff is hoping the Joint Committee will bump up releases from the reservoir. He said that the outflows from the reservoir have not reached the Junction yet. He said that the flows at Rome are currently at 8,000 cfs.

Eric White said that the river below the Dam has crept into some fields. Mr. Chamberlin said that the standard operating procedure says that the Joint Committee is not to allow releases above 12,000 cfs. He said that the National Weather Service considers the river below the Dam at flood stage if flows from the reservoir exceed 10,000 cfs. Mr. Chamberlin again reiterated that USBR wants to see the Joint Committee start ramping up releases from the reservoir.

Chairman Ausman asked if there was a new USBR forecast out yet. Mr. Chamberlin said not yet. Mr. Shenk said that he feels the Committee should have releases from the Dam match inflows. The inflows below Rome were discussed. Mr. Shenk said that he is worried about rain.

The Committee then took up a lengthy discussion on releasing water from the reservoir. During the discussion, weather forecasts were also discussed. Eric White said that if the Committee authorizes releases of 10,000 cfs, then those releases should be timed so that they reach Owyhee Junction during the daytime. Bridges that might be affected, campers along the river, and other interests along the river were discussed.

Bruce Corn made a motion that releases at the Dam go to 5,000 cfs immediately and then stair-step up to 7,500 cfs with management having authority to go to 12,000 cfs if conditions warrant with the Joint Committee to meet again on Monday, April 4 but that if flows at Rome exceed 25,000 cfs, then management is to call an emergency meeting of the Joint Committee. The motion was seconded by Jerry Nagaki. The motion on the floor was discussed. Mr. Nielsen said that he would like to see the Committee members called by phone if releases are to exceed 7,500 cfs. Mr. Chamberlin got all of the Joint Committee members telephone numbers. Mr. Horton reviewed the actions taken by the Joint Committee in 2006. After discussion, a vote was had on the motion, which passed unanimously.

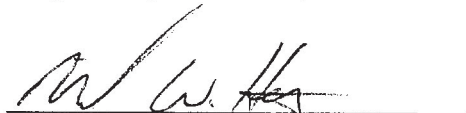
A discussion on who to contact and when was had. Mr. Lattin said that he has signs ready to go for the highway. Mr. Allison said that he will close the Overstreet bridge. Press releases were discussed. Deputy Hunsucker said that he will notify the National Guard. Mr. Meyer said that he will put a warning on the newspaper's website.

The Committee discussed the timing of Monday's Joint Committee meeting. After discussion, it was determined that the meeting will be at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Chamberlin said that in 2006, once the Glory Hole began running, that there were over 5,000 people a day coming up to look at the Glory Hole. Sightseeing people were discussed. Deputy Hunsucker said he has sandbags ready to go and he will be getting more.

ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Secretary

APPROVED: _____