

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

April 11, 2023

A special meeting of the Joint Committee of the Owyhee Project was held on April 11, 2023, at the Owyhee Irrigation District office located at 422 Thunderegg Blvd., Nyssa, Oregon, at 11:02 a.m. Eric White, Chairman of the Joint Committee presiding.

The following members of the Joint Committee were present:

Eric White	Frank Ausman
Chris Landa	Bruce Corn
Dan Tschida	Brett Nielsen

Also present were: Clancy Flynn, Manager of the Hydro Projects; Michael W. Horton, Secretary and General Counsel; John Eells, South Board Manager; Monte Culbertson and Dylan Mitchell, Old Owyhee Ditch Company Manager and Assistant Manager; Gregory Clark, OID Alternate; J.L. Eldred, OID Watermaster; and Linda Henderson, Debra Odette, Lance Peterson, and Rob Wagstaff, Members of the Public.

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

WATER ALLOTMENT. Mr. Flynn said that if water was started today that the allotment would be 1.9 foot per acre based upon current storage. He said that 1982 is still the closest water year in comparison to this year.

Mr. Flynn said that USBR is projecting inflows from April 1 to June 30 of 659,000 acre feet. He said that NRCS is projecting inflows at 625,000 acre feet from April 1 to September. He said that last year the system got 63% of the projected USBR inflows and 75% of the NRCS projected inflows. Mr. Corn said that the predictions are usually low in a wet year and high in a dry year.

Mr. Flynn said that in years with similar storage and snowpack the system ended up with 3.4 to 4 foot per acre allotments. Mr. Corn said that it is too early to set an allotment. The matter was discussed.

TURN ON DATE. Mr. Tschida said that the water does not need to be turned on yet. Mr. Landa said that in the South there are tractors going everywhere. Mr. Nielsen said that the South needs water this week. Mr. Landa said that April 13 would be an acceptable turn on date. Mr. White said that water is needed in his area this week. Landowner Lance Peterson said that April 17 would work for a turn on date for his farm. Monte Culbertson said that Old Owyhee Ditch Company has not received any calls about water. He said he thinks that April 17 would work.

J.L. Eldred explained the past filling practices for the systems. He said that if the South Board starts their water early the North Board's siphons would need to be tightened and packed before South Board's water is turned on.

Mr. Flynn said that as of last Friday only about 50% of the OID patrons have paid for their water. Mr. Eells said that the South could take 75 cfs of water tomorrow. He said that it takes three to four days to charge their system. He said that he has received 10 to 15 calls for water. Mr. Eldred explained the process of turning the water on.

The forecast for winds was discussed.

After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Nielsen to set the turn on date for April 13 for the South Board of Control and ride one for Owyhee Irrigation District with the rest of Owyhee Irrigation District's system to be started when the water is needed in the Manager's discretion. Mr. Landa seconded the motion. A vote on the motion was had. Committee Members White, Ausman, Nielsen, Landa, and Corn voted in favor of the motion. Committee Member Tschida voted against and the motion passed on a vote of five to one.


Debra Odette, who lives in the Vale area, asked when water might get to her farm.

Mr. Ausman said that it needs to be made clear that when water is taken it goes against everyone's allotment. All of the Committee members concurred.

Lance Peterson expressed his appreciation for the members of the Joint Committee and the employees of the District.

ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Secretary

APPROVED: _____