

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

April 12, 2024

A special meeting of the Joint Committee of the Owyhee Project was held on April 12, 2024, at the Owyhee Irrigation District office located at 422 Thunderegg Blvd., Nyssa, Oregon, at 8:00 a.m. Eric White, Chairman of the Joint Committee presiding.

The following members of the Joint Committee were present:

Eric White	Steve Clappier (South Board Alternate)
Gregory Clark	Frank Ausman
Chris Landa	Bruce Corn

Also present were: Clancy Flynn, Manager of the Hydro Projects; Michael W. Horton, Secretary and Legal Counsel; Wes Allison, Nyssa Road District; Dan Tschida, OID Alternate (by speaker telephone); Carl Sieders, South Board Manager; Peter Cooper and Ryan Hendricks, USBR (by video teleconference); and Chris Geron, Fly Fishing Outfitter.

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

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

RIVER REPORT. Mr. Flynn said that they have cut the releases into the river a bit. He said that Rome is running at 7,000 cfs and the next peak should start on Sunday. He said he wants to run at 6,500 cfs unless the peak hits, then it will be ramped up. If the peak does not come, then it will be ramped down. He said that Mudflat should be played out by Sunday or Monday. He said that Wildhorse should be full. Mr. Corn said that the priority is to get the reservoir full and stay full. Mr. Flynn said that an inflow peak of 10,000 cfs is a possibility looking at similar years to when South Mountain snow goes to zero. He said he estimates 165,000 a.f. to 191,000 a.f. of inflows from now to May 15.

MANAGEMENT REPORT. Mr. Flynn said that irrigation water demand is still pretty slow. He said he recommends running 6,500 cfs down river in the next two days and then matching the inflows. Mr. White said that he would like to see releases get below 5,000 cfs. Mr. Clark said that cold weather is coming up so it can be managed. Chairman White suggested dropping releases to 6,000 cfs today and then start dropping by 500 cfs increments as inflows go down.

USBR. Peter Cooper said that he thinks Mr. Flynn is spot on and should not second guess himself. He said that we are currently 17,000 a.f. above the rule curve and should meet it Sunday or Monday. He said that the Committee is doing a fantastic job. Mr. Cooper gave a computer presentation. He said that NRCS predicts inflows to decrease in the next week. He said that the reservoir will start getting water from Wildhorse as temperatures are predicted to start coming up. He said that a thunderstorm is predicted for the area tonight. He said that he is confident that the reservoir will fill. He said that releases can be held at

6,000 cfs to 5,500 cfs through the weekend and with slightly cooler temperatures predicted the first of next week, it is manageable. If a spike comes, there is room to handle it. He said that the fear is getting a large rain event and if so, then releases would have to be kicked back up to 8,000 cfs. He said that flows will be above demand into May and that can be used to fill the reservoir.

Mr. Cooper showed a satellite photo showing the river. He pointed out that the channel is holding pretty well for 8,000 cfs releases. He also showed a satellite photo of Mudflat. He said that 115,000 cfs has come in during the last week. He said he has been in contact with Mr. Flynn on a daily basis.

RELEASES. A discussion on releases was had. After discussion, Mr. White made a motion to run 6,000 cfs to 6,500 cfs today, 5,500 cfs tomorrow, and 5,000 cfs on Monday with the Manager having discretion to alter releases if there are significant inflow changes. Mr. Ausman seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cooper said that it sounds good and said it will fill.

OWYHEE FIELD DAY. Mr. White said that that the Owyhee Field Day will most likely be rescheduled.

ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael W. Horton, Secretary

APPROVED: _____