

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

April 1, 2013

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, 2013, at 12:00 p.m. Frank Ausman, Chairman, presiding.

The following members of the Joint Committee were present:

Frank Ausman	Jerry Nagaki
Eric White	Rich 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; Harvey Manser, OID Assistant Manager; Ron Keester, South Board Manager; Bruce Corn, OID Alternate; Monty Culbertson, Old Owyhee Irrigation District Manager; Andy Peutz, Old Owyhee Board Member; and Robert Peterson, Dick Wagstaff, and Brett Nielsen, OID and South Board Patrons.

Chairman Ausman said that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the start date for the water.

WATER FORECAST. Mr. Chamberlin passed around handouts showing storage and reservoir inflows. He said that as of this morning, the storage is at 377,000 acre feet. He said that he believes the inflows have peaked unless there are some spring storms that come in. He said that he has received considerable calls throughout the project from people wanting water when they can get it. He said that the high stuff still has some snow but that it will take a long time for that to come in. Mr. White asked if the allotment could be bumped to 3.25 acre feet given the current storage. Mr. Chamberlin said that it will take considerable pumping just to get the three acre feet with power costs being approximately \$1.50 to \$2.50 per acre next year. Mr. Chamberlin said that the pumps are ready to start for the most part.

WATER DEMANDS. Mr. Culbertson said that he has received three calls this morning from King Avenue South wanting water. He said that he believes he has been receiving other calls, but his phone has been off so that he could get some work done. He said that he did received one call from a water user stating they would prefer to wait until April 8 for the water to come on. Mr. White said that the ground is dry in his area. Mr. Smith said that the ground is dry in the Marsing area also. Mr. Landa said that his area is ready for water now. Mr. White said that if the turn-on date is postponed another week, there would be a lot of wheat and hay yield lost.

Mr. Chamberlin said that the Snake River water level is dropping like a rock. He said that if the pumps are turned on, the request for power for the pumps has to be called in 24 hours ahead of time. He said that the Joint Committee needs to plan for the worst and hope for the best. Mr. Tschida said that farms can grow more in August than they can now. He said that he believes the crops can do better now with less water since we are having cold mornings.

Mr. Chamberlin said that weeds are really bad in the North end. He said that those users beyond Malheur Siphon will not get much water until next week. Mr. Manser said that it takes 10 days to get water through the system. He said that it is tough to run the system in low water years.

Mr. Chamberlin said that water could start into the system on Tuesday morning. He said that pumps could then be started up the next day. Mr. Keester said that South Board can be ready to go tomorrow morning. Mr. White said his area needs water as soon as possible. Mr. Keester said that he will put in a request for power for the pump on Wednesday morning. Mr. Nagaki said that users on the Dead Ox Pumping Plant system will want water some time next week.

WATER ALLOTMENT. Chairman Ausman said he thinks it would be best to keep the allotment at three acre feet for now. He said that hopefully it can be ratcheted up later. Mr. White suggested leaving the allotment at three acre feet and address it next time. The consensus of the Committee members is to leave the allotment at three acre feet at this time.

WATER TURN-ON DATE. Mr. White said that he would like to see the water get started right away. Chairman Ausman asked about firing up the pumping plants. Mr. Culbertson said that he is not done with his cleaning yet. Mr. Chamberlin said that if the system is started up right away, he does not want users letting water run for awhile before they take it. Mr. Corn said that he will be ready to take water as soon as the Districts can deliver it. Mr. Smith said that the South area would do the same.

A motion was made by Mr. White and was seconded by Mr. Smith that the water be turned on as soon as possible and no later than April 3rd. A vote was had on the motion. Voting in favor was Mr. Landa, Mr. Ausman, Mr. Nagaki, Mr. Smith, and Mr. White. Voting against the motion was Mr. Tschida. The motion passed on a vote of five to one.

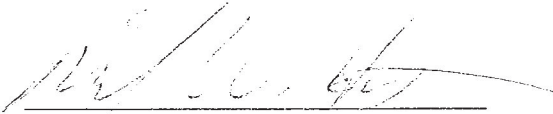
Dick Wagstaff asked about the impact of drip and sprinklers on the system as a whole. The matter was discussed. Robert Peterson asked about on-farm water management. Mr. Chamberlin said that the Districts will try to assist the farmers as much as they can within state law.

Mr. Nielsen asked that if a big rain storm comes in, how hard it would be to turn things back. Mr. Chamberlin said that the Districts always try to manage the water as best they can. Mr. White said that everyone will need to be consistent with their irrigation this year.

Mr. Chamberlin said that the new pipeline in the OID area is close to being ready to go. Mr. Keester said that the system has gotten really hard to manage in the last few years because of all of the corn that has gone in where grain and seed used to be grown. Mr. Culbertson said that it takes more water to deliver three acre feet than it did years ago because of the crop rotations. Mr. Chamberlin said the power costs will be a double whammy next year. Mr. Peterson thanked the Joint Committee members for the work they do. The managers said they will get going to start the water as soon as they can.

ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary

APPROVED: _____