

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE WATERUSERS OF THE BLACKFOOT RIVER WATER DISTRICT #27
OF THE STATE OF IDAHO
HELD AT THE BINGHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE
BLACKFOOT, IDAHO
JANUARY 12, 2009

Advisory committee chairman Larry Hinderager called the annual meeting of Water District 27 to order at 1:05 p.m. January 12, 2009.

Attending were: Advisory board members: Larry Hinderager, Keith Hunsaker, Gary Pratt and BIA representative, David Bollinger. Water District 1: Lyle Swank, James Cefalo and Wendy Murphy. An attached roster shows all in attendance.

Neal Powell nominated Larry Hinderager as meeting chairman, Marvin Yancey seconded the motion and the motion carried. Layne Hamilton nominated Wendy Murphy as meeting secretary, Bob Hoskins seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Minutes of the meeting held January 14, 2008 were presented. Neal Powell motioned to accept the minutes; Gary Pratt seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Larry Hinderager announced Alan Oliver's retirement and indicated David Bollinger is acting in Alan's place today.

The next item on the agenda was the Watermaster Report from Lyle Swank, and James Cefalo. Lyle introduced the staff assisting Water District 27; James Cefalo who has been providing Assistant Watermaster duties, and Wendy Murphy as the Financial Specialist. Others not in attendance today who provide assistance to WD27 include Dale Rockwood and Alan Kelsch as Treasurer; Jeff Baldwin as Hydrographer; Kristi Walker was hired as the Summer Intern. Lyle felt WD27 received several benefits by contracting with WD1 such as equipment use, and a variety of people with a wide range of background. Lyle indicated the water supply was about average with the Blackfoot Reservoir currently at 86,900 AF (24.9% full). Snotel data from Slug Creek is currently 8.6" of water content as compared to a 30 year average of 8.9". Somsen is currently 7.1" of water content verses a 6.7" on the 30 year average. The forecast for the next few weeks are not offering much accumulation and he felt the April 1 forecast would better reflect the season then the January 1 forecast.

James Cefalo indicated 2008 was successful in data collection. Routes established are effective. During 2006 - 56 measurements were taken, 2007 - 151 measurements, and 2008 yielded 256 measurements consuming 60,540 acre-feet. New equipment and utilizing gauging stations has assisted in gaining measurement data. In April 2008, IDWR sent a letter to water users requiring measuring devises. James recommended contacting the Eastern Regional office if water users need assistance, measurements can improve by incorporating head gates and measurement devises. James also spent time assigning USGS based numbers for diversion locations and mapping with ARC map.

Wendy Murphy gave the 2008 financial report. The total income for 2008 was \$38,647. Total expenses for the 2008 year were \$34,429. The checking account balance totaled \$3,672. The Accounts Receivable balance was \$6,404, which included the final bill to Fort Hall. Adding the net income of \$4,218 to the previous year retained earnings of \$5,151 the total equity for the district is \$9,359. Neal Powell motioned to approve the financial report as presented. Marvin Yancey seconded the motion; which was unanimously approved.

The election of the advisory committee was the next item of business. With the retirement of Alan Oliver from BIA it was recommended to leave this advisory position open for Alan's replacement through BIA. Neal Powell motioned to accept the current advisory board (Larry Hinderager, Chairman; Bob Reid, Keith Hunsaker, Gary Pratt) with the BIA change. Layne Hamilton seconded the motion; which was unanimously passed.

The 2009 Resolutions were then discussed. Lyle Swank indicated resolution 1 needed the date corrected to January 11, 2010. Neal Powell asked about resolution number 4, paragraph 4 which indicates water users can be locked when assessments are not paid. Lyle indicated this is fairly common practice in Water District 1, puts the water users on notice to get current with assessments. Neal Powell moved to accept the resolutions as corrected; Dean Wright seconded the motion; which was unanimously approved.

Many legal issues are being addressed this next year and include the volume objections by Fort Hall and the equitable adjustment mentioned in the "1990 Fort Hall Agreement." The best guess at the time referenced 45,000 acre-ft of water usage from Blackfoot River Water Users. The diversions for 2008 totaled 60,500 acre-feet. About 10,000 acre-feet were used by water users exceeding their water rights, 50,000 acre-feet appears to be the accurate water usage for those staying within their rights. Because the adjudication needs to be finalized to resolve this issue an order was issued finalizing the deadline for late claims in Basin 27.

Discussions regarding better system regulations and measurement are also underway. Streamgaging improvements come at a high price. Currently Water District 27 is not paying for these benefits even though other water districts typically do (Water District 1 has over 40 sites with a 50/50 cost share with the USGS). A single site costs \$25,000 per year for Operations and Maintenance. There are currently four stations used for the Blackfoot River, three of these are paid for by IDWR, one is paid for by BLM. More stations are being recommended and James recommends the water users work through the AG's office for their interests. There was also discussion regarding conveyance losses, and evaporation. Water District 27 has not yet regulated water rights off of recommendations, however in the future they will need to be regulated. It would be better to have a 10 year data set; the data prior to 2004 is not reliable.

The CAMP committee brought a recommendation to the IWRB to assist in an aquifer management plan. This proposal will affect ground water and surface water users. Water District 27 has water users in both groups. This proposal will need to be funded \$7-10 million per year. Irrigators are currently recommended to fund \$3-6 million per year or approximately \$1 to \$2 per acre.

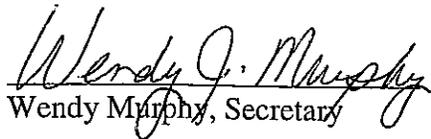
Larry Hinderager urged water users to inform others about these three issues 1) Late filing by

April 10th, 2) legislative discussions regarding recharge, and 3) potential cost of streamgaging. Water Users have influence on the CAMP process by talking with their legislators.

Gail Martin indicated there is another hearing on stock water claims January 30th @ 10:00 am. Water Users affected should have received a letter in the mail about two weeks ago. He recommended calling the IDWR Idaho Falls office for more information.

New Business: Dennis Frandsen mentioned his bill went up quite a bit. It was indicated the bill is currently based on the number of points of diversions referenced on their claims. All points of diversions need to currently be measured.

Neal Powell moved to adjourn the meeting, Layne Hamilton seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.


Wendy Murphy, Secretary

Annual Mtg District 23
1/12/09

Name	From
Larry Anderson	Blackfoot
GARY PEAT	BLACKFOOT
Keith Hamaker	Soda Springs
NEAL POWELL	BLACKFOOT
Peregrine Yancey	Central Ditch
Marvin Yancey	Riverdale Ditch
Layne Hamilton	Smith - Maxwell
Robert Hoskins	
Orcutt Wright	Central Ditch
Harvey Coffman	Stevens & Central - Blackfoot
Norman Anderson	Parrot, IDAHO
Gail Martin	Shoshone Bannock Tribes
Rester Sam Dalloway	T.W.R.C. 239-4589 cis
Donnell R. DeRouche	BIA - Irrigation
Jami L. Farris	DOI - BIA, Fort Hall Irrigation
Drew Bowinger	DOI - BIA Irrigation
CLIFFORD BUCKSKIN	BIA IRR.
Laverne L. Jim	T.W.R.C. 239-4589
Elberta Eschiet	Shoshone Bannock Water Commission, Fort Hall
Clance Villa	Sho-Ban Tribal Water Resource Comm.