

Water District No. 2
Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2017

Water District No. 2 advisory board meeting was held at the Glenns Ferry City Hall, August 23, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.. Members present were Mark Frost, Merrill Brown, Jeff Blanksma, Mark Noble, Vic Conrad. Also present were Watermaster Rob Whitney, Kellie Smith, Chris Alzola, Kent Frisch, and Oscar Evans (running for State Representative). Mark Henslee, Billy Wolfe, Jon Bowling were absent. Justin Wootan came in at 3:30 p.m..

Motion by Vic Conrad to accept the advisory committee December 13, 2016 meeting minutes. Seconded by Mark Noble. Vote taken, all in favor, none opposed, motion passed.

Chris provided financial statement.

Mark Frost asked how many hours for IDWR to take care of Water District No.2. IDWR will provide summary at next meeting. Rob said they are still trying to get all sites up and running so they have put additional time into Water District No. 2. Rob outlined that they are having to route back to Grand View because they can only get one site to Hagerman so far. He believes the telemetry hardware is sufficient but may need additional towers or relay stations to communicate as intended. Last year 39 sites worked, this year 44 have communicated. There are 49 total sites. Still need to get King Hill (all four sites), and Black Mesa Farms to communicate with something (trying Hagerman still). Is something causing interference and preventing some sites from transmitting? Too many sites going back to Grand View? Kellie manually scheduling site transmission to see if that helps with suspected self-interference.

Kent said he felt if one doesn't communicate it is bad but six sites not communicating is significant.

Rob is meeting with Intermountain Communications to see if they know of a solution to remaining problems. Exploring ideas of adding/moving base station. Physically building own tower.

Vic asked how difficult is it to read six sites manually? Rob said some are easy to get to a couple are very difficult. Still have dataloggers in place, data just not being transmitted. Rob said the Hagerman tower in town does not seem to be the best location. The mobile license can do 30watt he's going to try that with some of King Hill's equipment.

Mark Frost said sounds like some that worked last year are not working this year. Rob said yes, still having intermittent connection with sites upstream of Crystal Springs. Kellie said getting data from Triple C down ok, but less reliably upstream particularly through South Elmore.

Discussion about 2018 assessments. Rob said that Idaho Code requires assessing by use. Tim Luke has asked Rob to consider the transition from assessing by acres to assessing by use. Rob is planning to assess by use in 2018. Mark Frost said that seems like it would be fair. Mark Frost said we need to provide information to users of new assessment 30 days prior to annual meeting.

Rob said IDWR had mailed out letter to 19 users that have meters that need to be fixed. Fugi meters seem to have the biggest problem. Jes has been following up on maintenance letters. The water this year being so high caused problems. Rob showed photos of measuring devices that need more frequent maintenance and transducer cables not being taken care of in the district. The Bybee station was moved because of broken cable. Simplot #4 has a problem, Rob will get with Kent of how to fix. Meters that do not function have to estimate. Letter from Watermaster gives users 10 days to get it fixed. Kent said datalogger needs to be working for measurement not telemetry.

Rob showed a power point presentation comparing IDWR data from Stream Pro (boat) with measuring devices below the CJ dam (GVID, GVMC, SRID). Boat is presumed to be most accurate.

Discussion about proposed resolution. Rob would like to add "once final assessment is sent it can't be disputed". Proposed assessments would be posted for users to review prior to the annual meeting. Mark Noble said that needs to be posted and highlighted any changes before the annual meeting. Watermaster will post 14 days prior.

Discussion about pumping no water in 2018 or in the water bank. Assessment based on previous year. Rob said state law says assessment based on use. Rob will provide comparison of assessment by acres and assessment by use, using 2016 information. This was requested by Mark Frost. Everyone was in agreement that preliminary assessments need to be out early before irrigation meetings.

Kellie said 13% of diversions have issues that would have to have estimated use for part of assessment.

Committee wants to have another meeting middle of November to discuss actual use assessments. Chris will contact everyone to see if meeting around 15th of November will work.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m..

Chris Alzola, Sec./Treas.