

**Water District 37 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, January 13, 2020 1:30 p.m.**  
**Lincoln County Community Center, Nance Hall, Shoshone Idaho**

(Copies of Meeting Agenda, 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes, Proposed Resolutions 2020, Proposed Budget 2020, on table near sign-in)

**ITEM #1 CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION**

Watermaster Kevin Lakey called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm.

**ITEM #2 RECOGNITION OF SERVICE -ROB STRUTHERS**

Watermaster Lakey presented a plaque of recognition for Rob Struthers (not present) 26 years of service.

**ITEM #3 SOIL HEALTH DISCUSSION**

Watermaster Lakey gave an overview of the importance of soil health, and introduced NRCS soil conservationist Daniel Romano, for the soil health presentation and discussion. D. Romano passed out a soil health hand-out to the members and discussed the five principals of soil health including: soil armor, minimizing disturbance, plant diversity, microorganisms, and livestock integration. D. Romano gave an overview of NRCS technical and financial assistance programs including CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program) and EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program).

**Announcements:**

Keep a Living Root Soil Health Workshop Burley Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with soil health pioneer Gabe Brown, and soil ecologist Dr. Christine Jones (also see Christine Jones on YouTube). TNC (The Nature Conservancy) is initiating financial partnerships. TNC in Idaho contact: Mark Davidson)

**ITEM #4 SELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN ACTION ITEM**

Fred Brossy nominated Pat McMahon as chairman of the Annual Meeting. Vote. Motion passed unopposed.

**ITEM #5 SELECTION OF A SECRETARY ACTION ITEM**

Sharon Lee nominated Sunny Healey as Secretary of the Annual Meeting. Motion seconded by Fred Brossy. Call for discussion. Vote. Motion passed unopposed.

**ITEM #6 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING ACTION ITEM**

Chairman McMahon allowed time for review of the Meeting Minutes from 2019. Nick Purdy made a motion to approve the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes. Fred Brossy seconded the motion. Call for vote. Vote. Motion passed unopposed.

**ITEM #7 RESOLUTION #14 DISCUSSION ACTION ITEM**

Watermaster Lakey read Resolution #14 aloud and gave a background of the proposal, noting that IDWR recommended D37 have a resolution. Lakey called for questions and comments. N. Purdy commented that he supports cloud seeding, Silver Creek Alliance is contributing, and he encouraged other entities including cities of Sun Valley, Ketchum, Hailey, and Bellevue to contribute. Larry Schoen asked if we will be voting on all resolutions at one time or will #14 be separate? Chairman McMahon asked how L. Schoen would prefer to vote. L. Schoen commented he would prefer a separate vote. Chairman McMahon asked for additional questions and commented that this is a commitment D37 members made last year. Fred Brossy asked if there was anyone from Idaho Power in attendance today. Watermaster Lakey answered no, they have another meeting. F. Brossy commented that they did not fly the full season last year because of the major snow. F. Brossy asked if they needed a full budget, when they stopped flying in February (*paraphrased: do they need a full budget if they don't fly the whole season?*) Watermaster Lakey explained the process and associated costs. Carl Pendleton explained that it is a fixed cost paid upfront and the only variable cost is the number of flares that are shot. C. Pendleton explained the cost per flight, the high cost of propane for ground units and cost of chemical, and that the plane is a fixed contract. Lakey commented that he has asked the State what would happen if they didn't pay the full amount (\$150,000). Pete Van Der Meulen explained they would probably shut the program down. Lakey explained the process of sharing the flight cost with other basins. L. Schoen said he still had concerns over the conversation he had with the USGS at the previous annual meeting and that he felt his questions were legitimate. L. Schoen expressed his opposition to atmospheric manipulation.

Chairman McMahon asked for any further discussion. No further discussion. Nick Purdy made a motion to approve Resolution #14. Rod Hubsmith seconded the motion. Vote. Resolution 14 passed with one opposition, 1 nay - Larry Schoen.

**ITEM #8 ADOPTION OF 2020 RESOLUTIONS ACTION ITEM**

Watermaster Lakey read through the resolutions and gave an overview of each resolution. Lakey noted Ryan Fuchs is monitoring some surface diversions every other day during the winter months, groundwater use is recorded 3 times during the irrigation season. Chairman McMahon called for questions. Larry Schoen made a motion to adopt the 2020 resolutions 1-13a. Motion seconded by Dave Cropper. Call for further discussion. Vote. Motion passed unopposed.

**ITEM #9 ADOPTION OF 2020 BUDGET ACTION ITEM**

Chairman McMahon called for discussion of the 2020 budget. L. Schoen commented he whole-heartedly supports the work of the District 37 staff but that he will have to vote against the budget because of the major cost of the cloud seeding. F. Brossy asked for an explanation of the WMIS/GPS position. Lakey described WMIS, how it works, the process of electronic monitoring, and how it relates to the black book hard copy process (which is provided to the IDWR). He noted that the State would also like to see surface water diversions included in the WMIS reporting system. D37 is updating electronic records for this process. C. Pendleton asked if it goes beyond GPS. Lakey described the process and noted wells are checked 3 times per season. WMIS records show the beginning and end of season readings, so there is a yearly Acre Foot total but no instantaneous flow data. Fred Brossy made a motion to adopt the 2020 Budget. Motion seconded by Sharon Lee. Call for further discussion. Vote. Motion passed with one opposition. 1 nay - Larry Schoen.

**ITEM #10 CURRENT ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS ACTION ITEM**

Watermaster Lakey explained the yearly election of the Advisory Board and introduced each member and described the area they represent. Carl Pendleton made a motion to approve the election of the currently serving members of the Advisory Board. Motion seconded by Fred Brossy. Call for discussion. Vote. All in favor. Motion passed unopposed.

**2020 Advisory Board for Water District 37**

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| (2) Big Wood River Representatives:                    |                  |
| 1- Above Magic   | Sharon Lee       |
| 1- Below Magic   | Howard Morris    |
| (1) Little Wood River/Silver Creek                     | Nick Purdy       |
| (1) Hydropower   | Bill Arkoosh     |
| (2) Canal Companies/Irrigation Districts               |                  |
| 1-2020 Rep – American Falls Res. Dist #2               | Rod Hubsmith     |
| 1-2020 Rep – North Side Canal Company                  | Mike Elliott     |
| (1) Groundwater Municipals                             | Pat McMahon      |
| (1) Groundwater Small Users (Less / 40 Acres)          | Dave Bell        |
| (1) Groundwater Large Agricultural (Larger / 40 Acres) | Justin Stevenson |

**ITEM #11 DISTRICT NEWS AND UPDATES**

Watermaster Lakey gave an overview of the goals and history of the past 10 years including increase in ability to collect information, development of new technology, the existing surface water measurements, added groundwater measurements, and the addition of the water call which caused a major increase in the request for information from D37. Lakey described the process of data collection and the increase in efficiency of the District. He explained the need for more information and future budget needs for increased data and future station needs. Lakey described the predictive tools developed by Ryan Santo WRLT (Wood River Land Trust) that show how long we can predict delivery of decrees on the Big Wood River. Lakey gave an overview of the 2019 season and mentioned data experts Bill Hazen and Ron Abromovich, whose work may be helpful in the future. Dave Stevenson, Big Wood Canal Company manager commented on the Cloud and that Lakey has been doing a great job and very helpful with the process of moving information to the Cloud. P. McMahon concurred. L. Schoen noted that data collection is very important and asked if the District is cooperating with the USGS. Discussion followed concerning tools to predict streamflow using

groundwater levels, number of USGS wells being monitored, additional measurements and data needs, possible help from Bill Hazen, the need for a water science center, and data needs for model runs. Lakey then called for additional questions. Cooper Brossy commented that we need to think about how we can utilize the tool for predictive flows from snowpack. C. Brossy thanked K. Lakey for pointing out GPS location of wells. C. Brossy thanked K. Lakey for introducing members of the Advisory Board and commented he would like to see all District employees in attendance at the annual meeting. C. Brossy commented that Wednesday January 15<sup>th</sup> there will be a Wood River Collaborative meeting and Bill Hazen would be presenting. P. Corso-Harris asked for clarification on the activities and purpose of the Wood River Collaborative. C. Brossy explained he would like people to attend and shared the details of the meeting location and time: 3-4pm at the WRLT in Hailey.

**ITEM #12 ADJORN ACTION ITEM**

Carl Pendleton made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Robin Lezamiz. Call for discussion. Motion passed unopposed. The meeting adjourned at 2:32 pm.

Respectfully,

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Pat McMahon, Chairman

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Sunny Healey, Minutes Secretary

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Cyndi McCowan, Treasurer