

## Abbreviated Meeting Notes

### Water District 01

#### Upper Snake River Advisory Committee Meeting, March 7, 2013 (Teleconference Meeting)

3:05 PM – Introductions were made and an attendance list was circulated. The following 12 people were in attendance:

Mike Beus (USBR)	Dale Swenson (FMID)
Matt Howard (USBR)	Kent Fletcher (MID)
Jon Bowling (IPC)	John Simpson (BRS)
Dan Shewmaker (Co9)	Mat Weaver (IWRB)
Brian Olmstead (TFCC)	Lyle Swank (WD01)
Alan Hansten (NSCC)	Tony Olenichak (WD01)

3:06 PM – Mat Weaver outlined the agenda, which included:

- Introduction and Attendance
- Water Supply Briefing – Mike Beus
- WD01 Briefing – Lyle Swank
- Idaho Power Company Operations Update – John Bowling
- New Business

3:07 PM – Mike Beus with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR or Bureau) gave a brief presentation on the state of the reservoirs and the water supply. Mike started by noting that the reservoir system was so far under the formal flood control rule curves that flood control will not be much of a factor in operations unless the system experiences very large precipitation events between now and runoff. Mike indicated that at the present rate American Falls Reservoir (AFR) would fill about April 8. The river flow below AFR dam will increase on March 22 to fill Lake Walcott. That will delay the fill of AFR by about 7 days. Irrigation diversions will likely cause an additional delay of the fill.

1. Brian Olmstead indicated that TFCC is looking to call for delivery of water to fill Lake Murtaugh in early April.
2. John Simpson indicated that reach gains into AFR were very steady all winter long, more steady than in previous years. Mike Beus acknowledged that inflows into AFR were several hundred cfs greater than recent years. He attributed about 100 cfs of that increase to releases out of Island Park Reservoir.
3. Someone asked Mike if this was the last year that Lake Walcott surface elevations would be held down to support construction activity at Minidoka Dam. Mike indicated there would be one more year of reduced reservoir stages.

3:17 PM – Lyle Swank, Watermaster of Water District 01 (WD01), gave a brief recap of upper Snake River water supply conditions from his perspective. He started by indicating that 2002 and 2005 were

good analog years for considering AFR fill. Lyle also indicated that AFR was filling at a faster rate than other recent drought years. Lyle went on to note that Spring Creek flows were up from the historic low flow conditions observed in February; he attributed at least some of this recovery to recharge. Lyle announced that Tebbin Johnson had been replaced on the Committee of Nine (Co9) by Darrel Ker. Lyle also questioned why releases out of AFR had increased recently from 350 cfs (his understood minimum flow) to 420 cfs. Mike Beus replied that only a single gate was open and that it was operating at its minimum mechanical threshold or opening. As storage accretes in AFR, the head driving flow through the gate also increases, leading to an increase in the minimum discharge that can be released out of AFR.

1. Brian Olmstead indicated that he would like to use a few hundred cfs of natural flow spilling past Milner to fill Lake Murtaugh towards the end of March.
2. Alan Hansten indicated that NSCC would start diverting water into their system between 4/1-4/8.
3. Mat Weaver inquired into the minimum flow requirements out of Palisades Reservoir. Lyle and Mike replied that the operational minimum flows for Palisades have fluctuated through the years from 500 cfs up to 1,500 cfs. However, the current operational standard is to maintain minimum flows out of Palisades at or above 900 cfs.
4. Mat Weaver asked what the implications of the low snow pack would be on water demand in the upcoming irrigation season. Lyle indicated there was a good chance that storage space holders in Palisades will receive less than a full allocation. Jackson Lake and AFR space holders on the other hand will likely receive a full allocation. A less than full storage allocation in Palisades would most likely affect carryover at the end of the year, and not so much water supply in the current water year. Lyle prefaced his statements by indicating that everything could change between now and early summer depending on temperature and precipitation conditions between now and then. Mike Beus followed up by agreeing that this year everyone should be okay when it comes to water supply, assuming we didn't have a repeat of the unusually high demands seen in 2012, but carryover for the following year will be a concern for Palisade's space holders.
5. Mat Weaver asked Lyle about the possibility of spring recharge. Lyle indicated that he did not anticipate there would be any opportunity for recharge with natural flow above Minidoka Dam.

3:37 PM – John Bowling with Idaho Power Company (IPC) started his summary of IPC operations by noting that IPC would start decreasing flows through their hydropower facilities at Milner dam by 50 cfs a day, starting on March 18. He anticipated the flows would be at zero by the last week of March. John also indicated that he did not expect that flood releases would play into their operations this season.

1. Mat Weaver asked John to give an update on cloud seeding efforts in the Upper Snake River basin. John indicated that the combined run time of all cloud seeding generators in the Upper Snake was 124 hours in January and 144 hours in February.
2. Brian Olmstead reiterated his desire to turn natural flows into the Milner South Side Canal to fill Lake Murtaugh towards the end of March and wondered if it would interfere with IPC's operational plans. John did not think that it would as they intended to be down to zero flow

through their facilities by that time. They agreed to coordinate their respective diversions as necessary.

- a. Mat Weaver followed up this discussion with an inquiry into the possibility of conducting a few days of recharge in the newly constructed Milepost 31 recharge facilities on the Milner-Gooding canal. The new facilities have a diversion capacity in the range of 80-120 cfs. Brian indicated that he was hopeful that they could accommodate a few days of recharge at the site to test out the integrity of the new construction and canal banks.

3:50 PM – Mat Weaver called for any new or additional business. The idea of having someone come and present to the committee on the Columbia River Treaty issue was proposed. After some discussion it was agreed that Jim Yost might be the best choice to come and address the committee on this subject. Jim Yost is one of the State of Idaho's representatives in the Columbia River Treaty matter. Mat Weaver agreed to take the lead on coordinating a discussion or presentation on this matter. It was also suggested that the matter of the Columbia River Treaty should be scheduled for a committee meeting in the latter part of the year, well after the irrigation season was underway.

4:00 PM – The group coordinated the scheduling of the next committee meeting for the afternoon of Thursday April 11, 2013. It was decided that a teleconference format meeting would be adequate. The meeting was adjourned shortly thereafter.