

Abbreviated Meeting Notes

Water District 01

Upper Snake River Advisory Committee Meeting, April 11, 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)	Lyle Swank (WD01)
Jon Bowling (IPC)	Tony Olenichak (WD01)
Dan Shewmaker (Co9)	Peter Anderson (TU)
Brian Olmstead (TFCC)	Teresa Molitor (GFCC)
Dale Swenson (FMID)	Travis Thompson (BRS)
Dan Davidson (MID)	Al Lockwood (NSCC)
John Simpson (BRS)	Roger Chase (IWRB)
Brian Patton (IWRB)	Lynn Harmon (AFRD#2)
Mat Weaver (IWRB)	

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

3:11 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 at 76% of capacity. He indicated that the cool weather in April was very good for the water supply. Mike indicated that there was 4% remaining capacity in American Falls Reservoir (AFR) and that fact was generally a good thing, but it could be a double edged sword. Mike also warned about projecting storage at this point, indicating that spills past Milner could have a significant effect on storage allocation. Mike identified four analog years for AFR: 1991, 2002, 2003, and 2004. Mike stated the likelihood of the entire system filling is dependent on climate conditions for the rest of the season; a cool wet spring and the system may fill, whereas a dry warm spring would likely prevent the system from filling. Mike discussed snow water equivalent data at Lewis Lake Divide, identifying four analog years 1991 and 2002 (delayed melt years) and 2004 and 2005 (quick early melts). Regarding Jackson Lake Mike indicated other similar years were not very good at describing the conditions this year. Finally, concerning Palisades Reservoir, Mike identified the dry years of 2002 and 2003 and being analogous to this year, indicating that we might get a physical fill of 800,000 AF (approximately 2/3 full). In summary, Mike indicated that overall storage was fair to good (except for Palisades), snow conditions were fair (and improving), and that onset of demand had slowed, which was a good thing.

1. John Simpson questioned whether the potential to fill Palisades depended on AFR staying full and he asked for further details regarding this issue. Mike responded that suppression of demand would allow junior Palisades's storage to fill because AFR would stay full due to lack of demand.
2. Brian Olmstead asked if there was any advantage to spills past Milner. Mike indicated that any perceived advantage due to spills past Milner depended on where you had storage.

3:30 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 the snowpack at Lewis Lake Divide looked good. Lyle described a storm system and precipitation event that lasted from approximately 4/7 to 4/13 that was very beneficial to the water supply, as it slowed demand as well as added a nice input of water into the system. Lyle indicated that demand had been slow but was picking up and that the Twin Falls Canal Company (TFCC), the Minidoka Irrigation District, the Aberdeen Springfield Canal Company, the Idaho Canal Company, the Reservation Canal, the Trego Canal, the Danskin Canal, the Great Feeder Canal company, and others had already called for water or would do so imminently. Regarding storage fill Lyle indicated that Island Park, Palisades Reservoir, and Grassy Lake were not full and would not fill until after AFR was full. Lyle closed by indicating that his message to water users this season would be two part: (1) do not expect a full allocation, and (2) conserve storage.

1. Brian Olmstead indicated that TFCC was currently diverting 800 cfs and that he anticipated demand would pickup the following Wednesday, but overall their demand was down from a year ago. Brian also indicated that the North Side Canal Company (NSCC) would be on the same diversion schedule as TFCC.

3:36 PM – Jon Bowling with Idaho Power Company (IPC) started his summary of IPC operations by noting that IPC was operating with standard flood control at Brownlee Reservoir. Jon also indicated that IPC was planning to release their storage past Milner Dam at 1,500 cfs beginning immediately on the heels of the Bureau's flow augmentation releases. He queried Mike Beus regarding the Bureau's plans for diverting flow augmentation. Mike indicated that the Bureau would not release flow augmentation until it was needed, maybe as soon as April 15, but later than that if it stayed cool and wet. Mike anticipated releasing flow augmentation at a rate of 2,500 cfs per day.

- a. Brian Olmstead questioned what the flow augmentation obligation would be this year. Lyle responded that two criteria determined the obligation, (1) the November 1 carryover from the previous year, and (2) the April 1 to September 30 Heise Forecast. Lyle indicated that currently the November 1 carryover was 1,600 KAF¹ and the Army Corps of Engineers' and the Bureau's joint Heise Forecast was 3,098 KAF, which per the "rainbow chart" from the 2011 Water District 1 Rental Pool Procedures would indicate an obligation of 60 KAF. However, as a reminder to everyone as to how small

¹ There has been some discussion between WD01 and myself since the 4/11/2013 meeting regarding this topic. We have determined that a more accurate description to "carryover" might be "reservoir system physical content on midnight of October 31". In addition, WD01 confirmed that the actual carryover number from the water right accounting was approximately 1,242 KAF.

differences in forecasts can swing circumstances, it was pointed out that the River Forecast Center (RFC) was forecasting 2,921 KAF and the Natural Resources Conservation Services' (NRCS) was forecasting 2,700 KAF, both for the same period of time (April to September). Both forecast volumes would make the obligation 0 AF. Lyle reminded everyone that in addition to effecting water supply, the obligation amount also affects the rental pool prices, and an obligation of 0 KAF would cause an increase in rental prices.

- b. Jon Bowling questioned whether there was 50 KAF available in the Rental Pool, and if so, would there be a high demand for that water. Lyle replied yes to both questions.
- c. Brian Olmstead questioned when rental requests were due, indicating that TFCC was in the market for 20 KAF. Lyle replied that requests were due within two weeks after the day of allocation and he anticipated that would be in the late May to mid-June timeframe.

3:55 PM – Mat Weaver presented the results of recharge that occurred at the newly constructed Milepost 31 recharge site on the Milner-Gooding Canal, refer to the attached presentation for a summary of results.

3:55 PM – Mat Weaver called for any new or additional business. None was presented.

4:00 PM – The group discussed the scheduling of the next committee meeting. It was decided to take a wait-and-see approach in determining when the next meeting would be needed. Lyle indicated that unusual runoff of hydrologic conditions might prompt a need for a meeting in May otherwise we could wait until later in the summer. Mat Weaver agreed to gage the need for a meeting in May and schedule accordingly.