

Malad Valley Water Measurement District
Annual Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2022
Elementary School Auditorium
7:00 p.m.

Austin Tubbs conducted meeting

Introduced: Chris Holmes (Preston Office)

He talked about adjudication process, water rights and claims, update documents
Q & A

Budget for 2022

Assessments for well owners \$25.00 are due.

New assessment for 2023 was voted on by the well owners
\$42.00 per well and is due by April 1st 2023

Election for committee members

Tom Willie

Pat Work

Antone Jensen

Lex Firth

Justin Lake

Hydrographer: Mark Miller

Treasurer : Callie Smith e-mail address: Callie_Smith@rocketmail.com

Carol Stevens (secretary for MVWMD)

MEMO

Department of Water Resources

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To: Malad Valley Water Measurement District File
From: Tim Luke
Date: December 15, 2022
Subject: Malad Valley Water Measurement District Annual Meeting

Attached are meeting minutes from the Malad Valley Water Measurement District Annual Meeting, held on November 7, 2022 in Malad, ID at the Malad Elementary School. I attended this meeting with Chris Holmes, IDWR Preston Office. This memo supplements the meeting minutes. These minutes were received by IDWR on December 15, 2022 via email from meeting secretary, Carol Stevens.

Austin Tubbs, Advisory Committee chair and last year's meeting chair, opened the meeting and took nominations for meeting chair and secretary. He was nominated with a second motion and voted to chair the meeting, and Carol Stevens was nominated and voted to serve as meeting secretary. Austin asked Chris Holmes of IDWR to give an update on the Bear River Adjudication process. Chris spoke for some 20 minutes or more, including addressing questions.

Austin asked Tom Willie, current advisory committee member, to discuss a proposed budget. Tom explained that the district voted to assess users at \$25 per well last year, but this amount was too low to cover expenses. He proposed the district needed about \$5,900 for the coming year, which would equate to an assessment of about \$42 per well. Tom highlighted some of the expenses including hydrographer and treasurer compensation, mail and office supply costs, hydrographer mileage and a few other items. No itemized budget was presented to the users on paper. Tim Luke of IDWR reminded Austin that the budget would need to include cost to obtain required workers compensation insurance through the state. Austin said that cost is covered in the \$42/well assessment/budget.

Some discussion ensued about the number of wells. Several estimates were mentioned. Tim said that the Bureau of Reclamation grant was based on about 135 wells as identified from users who signed up to participate in the grant. Tim Luke thought the 135 represented most of the production wells in the valley subject to measurement requirements and assessments in the district. There are more wells recorded in water rights that may be unused or abandoned. The users voted to assess at \$42/well without a firm total budget amount or itemization of budget items or expenses.

Austin took nominations for district hydrographer after explaining that current hydrographer Mark Colton did not want to continue in the position for another year because he had taken other employment. Mark Miller was nominated, and elected hydrographer as reported in the minutes. Austin then took nominations for treasurer and advisory committee, and selections were made as reported in the attached minutes. Tim Luke gave an update on the inventory and confirmation of installed flow meters based on the field site visits during the year by hydrographer Mark Colton. Mark visited about 88

wells and confirmed that 80 meters were installed. The 80-meter installations represent nearly two-thirds of the total wells identified in the grant. Mark did a great job checking and documenting meter installations. He used an IDWR mobile application to document installations and was thorough in his inspections and documentations. Meter inspection and meter information have been transmitted to IDWR using the mobile app. Mark's documentation was helpful towards reimbursing individual users through the BOR grant. Tim noted that IDWR staff conducted a one-day training session with Mark Colton last January and gave support to him through the year by addressing many questions and offering guidance via numerous phone calls and email communications.

Tim Luke also noted the following:

- A new USGS measurement station/gage was installed on the Malad River at Woodruff last spring. This replaces the gage that had been inactive for many years.
- IDWR expanded the well monitoring network with five additional wells, mostly in the middle of the valley. IDWR is still working on expanding the network further.
- On November 3, 2022, IDWR issued an order extending the Malad Valley water right moratorium order. The moratorium was extended another five years.
- IDWR staff requested water measurement data from area irrigation, reservoir, and canal companies on the several streams and reservoirs in the valley. IDWR omitted surface water diversions from the measurement district because the companies said they were already measuring their water and IDWR only need to ask for the data. IDWR asked for such data over two years but received little or no information. As a result, IDWR will consider adding surface water diversions to the water measurement district over the next year.