

C.L. "Butch" Otter Governor

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Roger W. Chase Vice-Chairman Pocatello

Pocatello District 4

Bob Graham Secretary Bonners Ferry District 1

Charles "Chuck" Cuddy Orofino At Large

Leonard Beck Burley District 3

Vince Alberdi Kimberly At Large

Jeff Raybould St. Anthony At Large

Peter Van Der Meulen Hailey At Large

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

MEETING MINUTES 3-12

Idaho Water Center 322 E. Front Street Boise, Idaho 83702

March 16, 2012

Chairman Terry Uhling called the meeting to order at 8:40 am. There were 7 Board members present. Mr. Graham was absent.

Agenda Item No. 1, Executive Session

At 7:55 am the Board resolved into Executive Session by unanimous consent pursuant to Idaho Code Section 67-2345(1)(c) and (f) to communicate with legal counsel regarding pending litigation in the SRBA and acquisition of real property not owned by the State. No action was taken by the Board during the Executive Session. The Board resolved out of Executive Session and into Regular Session at approximately 8:30 am.

Agenda Item No. 2, Roll Call

Board Members Present

Terry Uhling, Chairman Vince Alberdi Peter Van Der Meulen Chuck Cuddy Roger Chase, Vice-Chairman Jeff Raybould Leonard Beck Bob Graham, *Absent*

Staff Members Present

Brian Patton, Planning Bureau Chief Rich Rigby, Federal Liaison Cynthia Bridge Clark, Engineer Helen Harrington, Planning Section Manager Jack Peterson, Federal Liaison Diana Ball, Administrative Assistant

Guests Present

Peter Anderson, Trout Unlimited Candice McHugh, IGWA Counsel Lynn Tominaga, IGWA Peter Anderson, Trout Unlimited Shelley Davis, Barker, Rosholt & Simpson Jim Wrigley, Wedbush Securities Hal Anderson, Idaho Water Engineering Jon Bowling, Idaho Power

Agenda Item No. 3, Agenda and Approval of Minutes 3-12

There were no changes to the agenda.

Minutes 2-12 were not complete and Chairman Uhling recommended they be considered at the next regular Board meeting in May.

Agenda Item No. 4, Public Comment

Chairman Uhling asked for public comment regarding any items not included on the agenda. There were no comments.

Agenda Item No. 5, IWRB Committee and Other Reports

a. Water Resource Planning Committee (Leonard Beck, Chair; Helen Harrington, Staff)

The Committee held a meeting on March 14 and another meeting is scheduled for March 28 in Boise. The purpose of the meetings is to have the Committee review the Snake River Policy revisions to the State Water Plan. The Committee has completed their review of the remaining sections. An initial presentation of the proposed Snake River section was conducted at the March 14 meeting. At the March 28 meeting, a more in-depth discussion is anticipated as is public comment. The entire draft section for the Snake River, along with the entire State Water Plan revision, will be presented to the full Board for review and consideration at a future Board work session. Future planning and CAMP activities were also discussed by the Committee. Ms. Harrington reiterated that Interim Director Gary Spackman directed that no new planning initiatives be started without certain conditions specific to funding.

Chairman Uhling asked about the timing of a Board work session to discuss the Snake River Policy revisions. There is no particular date scheduled at this time. Mr. Leonard Beck extended his thanks to Ms. Harrington, Mr. Patton, Mr. Clive Strong, and others who have assisted in the revision process.

b. **Stream Flow Enhancement and Minimum Stream Flow Committee** (*Roger Chase, Chair ; Helen Harrington, Staff*)

The Committee held a meeting on March 14. The Alturas Lake Creek water right transaction was discussed, and Katie Breckenridge, the water right owner, presented additional information on the water rights and potential use of that water. At the January 27 regular Board meeting, the Alturas Lake Creek transaction was discussed and the Board declined to fund an appraisal for that water right at that time. The Committee is recommending that the Board consider entering into an agreement with the water right owner to fund an appraisal of the Alturas Lake Creek water right. Details regarding payment for the appraisal will be drafted by staff and presented to the Board formally at the May 17 regular Board meeting.

Chairman Uhling confirmed that at this point there is no action required by the Board other than consent to pursue negotiations for an appraisal of the water rights. He wanted to clarify that the full Board has not approved any action in this matter and any future actions would be subject to Board approval. He stated that the decision still needs to be made as to whether purchase of the water right itself would be a good decision for the State and future discussion regarding the parameters and benefits will be necessary. Board members supported future discussion on this transaction to determine if there is a reason to pursue the water right prior to entering into an agreement for an appraisal of the water rights.

The Committee also discussed the 2012 Lower Lemhi River Annual contracts and will present a funding resolution to the Board under Agenda Item 6c. The Committee reviewed the resolution and is recommending it for approval by the Board.

The Committee discussed the Cocolalla Lake minimum lake level permit. The Board originally applied for a permit for a minimum lake level and the Department permitted it. Legislature approval is required for minimum lake level and minimum stream flow permits. If no action is taken by the Legislature, the permits are considered approved. Following the introduction of the Cocolalla Lake permit in the 2012 Legislature, opposition arose. An alternative resolution to disapprove the minimum lake level permit was submitted to the Legislature and has been passed by the Senate. The legislation is currently in the House. It came out of the House Resource Committee with a due pass recommendation for disapproval, and is currently on the third reading on the House agenda. Mr. Patton spoke to several of the Legislative committees and at the Senate committee meeting indicated that the Board would cancel the permit based on recent local opposition. It was emphasized that a public meeting and public hearing was held during the permitting process, and there was no opposition at that time.

There was discussion about canceling the permit prior to the Legislature disapproving it. The Senate Committee elected to disaffirm through active submission of an alternative resolution as recommended by Legislative services.

c. Upper Snake River Advisory (Operations Forum) (Rich Rigby, Senior Advisor; Roger Chase, IWRB)

A copy of the BOR teacup diagram was provided showing current reservoir levels for the eastern part of the state. The Advisory group has met monthly since October. Meetings have been productive and beneficial among water users. A meeting was held on March 5, and the next meeting is planned for April 6. This Forum was initiated through an IWRB resolution and is supported by Water District 1.

As of March 5, BOR reported that they need 400,000 additional acre-feet of space in Palisades by May 1. The releases from Palisades are expected to be approx 8,000 to 9,000 cfs. The peak flood control period for Palisades Reservoir is approximately April 25 to May 10. The BOR is targeting American Falls to be near full by April 1.

Agenda Item No. 6, IWRB Financial Program

a. Status Report (Brian Patton, Staff)

As of February 1, the Board has approximately \$18.2 million committed but not yet disbursed, approximately \$18 million in loan principle outstanding, and a total uncommitted balance of approximately \$2.5 million.

Conant Creek Canal Company, located near Ashton, borrowed approximately \$240,000 from the Board to match federal grant funds from the NRCS to convert the open canal to a gravity-pressure pipeline system. The loan has been paid in full a few years ahead of schedule.

The Board has received the surcharge proceeds from the Upper Snake, Boise, and Payette Rental Pools, totaling \$435,341. Water District 65K has not reported but historically the amount remitted is very small. Approximately 525,127 acre-feet was rented in 2011 with \$3,813,871 returned to the spaceholders and \$592,212 held for Water District fees.

Potential loan applications coming to the Board total approximately \$4.3 million from Marysville Canal Company, Cub River Irrigation Company, and Preston-Whitney Irrigation District. Mr. Patton also noted that there are usually several dozen loan applications being considered at any one time, but these three will likely to be addressed in the near future, with the Marysville loan application scheduled to be reviewed by the Board at the regular May Board meeting.

Mr. Beck requested that staff compile a list showing original startup loan dates on outstanding Board loans and scheduled completion dates.

There was a brief discussion on the expenditure of Board AWEP program funds and pending applications.

b. Ground Water Districts Bonds Update (Brian Patton, Staff)

Mr. Wrigley, Wedbush Securities, addressed the Board at the work session held on March 15. Southwest Irrigation District will be entering into the bond process with a 100% approval from their members. Mr. Dean Stevenson, representing the four ground water bond districts, Southwest Irrigation District, and IGWA addressed the Board and publicly thanked the Board for their assistance and partnership with the Board.

Mr. Stevenson also provided a brief update to the Board on the recharge site being developed near Minidoka Dam and extended his appreciation for Mr. Rich Rigby's assistance in working through the process with them. This project requires crossing 800 acres of bird refuge, which will add cost and regulatory issues to the process. He stated that the project will entail approximately a half mile of buried pipe and a lot of rock work. Mr. Stevenson invited the Board members to visit the site. There was discussion about visiting the site in conjunction with a future Board meeting to be held in the Magic Valley area.

c. Water Transactions Program – Lower Lemhi (Helen Harrington, Staff)

A correction to the briefing memo on the first line in the first paragraph of the memo to read Lower Lemhi "2012" agreement was noted. A resolution was presented to the Board to consider approval of an expenditure commitment in the amount of \$29,860.15 in addition to the \$52,483.50 approved by the Board on January 27, 2012, for a total commitment of \$88,343.65. This funding is requested in an effort to meet the target flow of 35 cfs at the Lower Lemhi River L-6 diversion. The resolution in January was intended to meet the unmet target of 11.9 cfs. Because one planned project will not be completed this year, an additional annual rental of 4.32 cfs is needed to meet the state's flow target.

Mr. Raybould made a motion to accept the resolution to make a funding commitment for the Lower Lemhi 2012 Annual contracts. Mr. Alberdi seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Cuddy: Aye; Mr. Alberdi: Aye; Mr. Chase: Aye; Mr. Beck: Aye; Mr. Raybould: Aye; Mr. Van Der Meulen: Aye; Mr. Uhling: Aye; Mr. Graham: Absent. Motion carried.

Agenda Item No. 7, Water Supply Bank Rental Rate (Brian Patton, Staff)

The Water Supply Bank Committee met on January 10, 2012, and discussed increasing the current rental rate to be consistent with the Nez Perce flow augmentation rate, which will increase from \$14 per acre foot per year to \$17 per acre foot per year in 2013. The Nez Perce Agreement also increases the rate to \$20 per acre foot from 2018 - 2022 and \$23 per acre foot from 2023 - 2030. The Committee recommended that the Board support these increases by the approval of the resolution presented to them.

Mr. Alberdi made a motion to accept the resolution to establish the rental rate to be consistent with the Nez Perce Agreement. Mr. Raybould seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Cuddy: Aye; Mr. Alberdi: Aye; Mr. Chase: Aye; Mr. Beck: Aye; Mr. Raybould: Aye; Mr. Van Der Meulen: Aye; Mr. Uhling: Aye; Mr. Graham: Absent. Motion carried.

Agenda Item No. 8, Rathdrum Prairie CAMP Update (Helen Harrington, Staff)

The Board adopted the Rathdrum Prairie Plan last July and it was submitted to the 2012 Legislature for approval. The House Resource Committee and the House passed it with some opposition. The Senate passed the legislation with no opposition on March 15. The RP CAMP Plan is currently awaiting the Governor's signature.

The H2O Breakfast Meeting, a regional water coordination meeting, was held on February 9 in Coeur d'Alene. Interim Director Spackman, along with Pat Mulroy, General Manager of the Southern Nevada Water Authority, and Ted Sturdevant, Director of the Washington Department of Ecology, were speakers at this meeting. Ms. Harrington was also in attendance. The Board had requested that any materials from the meeting be distributed at this Board meeting; there were no materials from the meeting. A copy of an article discussing the forum was attached to the Board's briefing memo.

Interim Director Spackman commented that following the adoption and approval of the RP Plan it might be beneficial to the Board for Deputy Attorney General Clive Strong to address the Board regarding the processes for addressing an interstate water dispute and the legal process involved in dispute resolution. Chairman Uhling asked staff to include this as a Board work session agenda item at a future meeting.

Agenda Item No. 9, ESPA CAMP and Aquifer Management Efforts Update (Rich Rigby, Senior Advisor)

There was a brief discussion about the high water condition that BPA is dealing with and concerns with high water, recharge, and reduced flows in the river. BPA decided to curtail wind generators and give them power to offset their lost production. Mr. Rigby drafted a letter to BPA encouraging recharge as an option and sent it on behalf of the Board. Instead, BPA proposed to reimburse wind generators for their lost tax credit revenue, which is based on megawatts generated.

a. Managed Recharge

The Board adopted a resolution on January 27 establishing a five-year pilot program to undertake managed aquifer recharge on the Easter Snake Plain Aquifer. The current resolution before the Board requests that for the first year of the 5-year pilot recharge program, the delivery contracts will cover a period of one year and that recharge will be divided 50/50 above and below American Falls Dam to the extent practical. For 2012, the pilot managed recharge project will be limited to recharging natural flow to avoid placing additional pressure on storage supplies above Milner Dam, and the Board will limit its recharge efforts to implementation of the ESPA CAMP managed recharge goal.

Mr. Chase made a motion to accept the resolution to change conditions associated with allocated funds for the ESPA managed recharge pilot program. Mr. Raybould seconded the motion. Voice vote. All in favor. To ensure the vote covered allocation of Board funds a roll call vote was also taken.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Cuddy: Aye; Mr. Alberdi: Aye; Mr. Chase: Aye; Mr. Beck: Aye; Mr. Raybould: Aye; Mr. Van Der Meulen: Aye; Mr. Uhling: Aye; Mr. Graham: Absent. Motion carried.

b. MP31 Recharge Site

There was discussion on the proposal to expand the capacity of the MP31 recharge site. A correction was made to the information in the briefing memo on the first line of the second paragraph; the reference to "a six inch turnout" was corrected to "an 18-inch turnout" at the site. The total current cost estimate is \$25,580 for materials, engineering would be \$5,450, and in-kind labor from American Falls Reservoir District #2 would be \$5,550, with a total estimated cost of \$36,580. The resolution before the Board would authorize funds to cover the engineering work associated with this project. A cost share proposal will be presented to the Board at a future meeting. Chairman Uhling recommended "an amount not to exceed \$6,000" in the resolution to ensure the engineering costs would be covered.

Mr. Chase made a motion to accept the resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds not to exceed \$6,000 to cover the engineering costs associated with this project. Mr. Raybould seconded the motion.

<u>Roll Call Vote</u>: Mr. Cuddy: Aye; Mr. Alberdi: Aye; Mr. Chase: Aye; Mr. Beck: Aye; Mr. Raybould: Aye; Mr. Van Der Meulen: Aye; Mr. Uhling: Aye; Mr. Graham: Absent. Motion carried.

Agenda Item No. 10, TV CAMP Update (Helen Harrington, Staff)

A resolution was presented to the Board to accept the Recommended Treasure Valley Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan submitted by the Treasure Valley CAMP Advisory Committee. The Committee found consensus on all elements of the submitted Recommended Plan with the exception of the language specific to the Municipal Water Rights Act of 1996. At the March 15 work session, the Board received a detailed presentation on the Plan, and a number of Advisory Committee members addressed the Board regarding this unresolved language. Ms. Harrington suggested that staff will be able to resolve this issue and find language that everyone can work with before it is approved for public comment. The Board does not have the option of putting out alternative sets of language for public comment according to the Attorney General staff. Moving forward, the final language will need to be included in the Plan that the Board adopts for public comment. The Draft Plan will then be taken out to the Board for a 60-day comment period and several public hearings will be held to cover the expansive area of the Treasure Valley.

Chairman Uhling recommended removing language from the resolution under the fourth paragraph "and public comment" until the final language has been determined. Ms. Harrington agreed and made the change and prepared the corrected resolution for signature.

Mr. Cuddy made a motion to accept the resolution as corrected to accept the Recommended Treasure Valley Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan for consideration by the Board. Mr. Beck seconded the motion. Voice vote. All in favor.

Weiser-Galloway Project

Progress is being made on both the Geologic and Operations Studies, with the primary focus on the Geologic Study, which is intended to supplement drilling performed in the 1980s. The Corp has completed the basic drilling and exploration plan and is coordinating with the BOR and their regional drill crew located in Boise to drill up to 7 holes on the abutments approximately 150 to 300 feet deep. Cost estimates, scope of work, and agreements between the Corp, the BOR, and the IWRB should be completed by next week. Primary focus is also on the completion of the Environmental Assessment with the objective of moving forward by June 1. Chairman Uhling asked for clarification on when drilling would occur and how long it would take to get the analysis back. Ms. Clark stated the drillers expect to complete drilling within 4 months from the start date and preliminary results may be available while coring is being undertaken. The final report is expected to be complete by December 2012.

The Operational Analysis is being delayed until more progress has been made on the Geologic Analysis and the results are available. The Corp has updated basic basin hydrology, identification of modeling, and clarification of restraints and scenarios. The airborne LiDAR has also been received and is being reviewed.

Lower Boise River Interim Feasibility Study

The Corp completed an analysis for the potential for a raise or rebuild of the Arrowrock site in October 2011 and presented those results to the Board at that time. The Corp is continuing to seek out additional funding to continue study activities. Department staff are also actively coordinating with the Corp to participate in outreach activities related to the storage study with particular efforts to educate the public on flood risk in the valley. A series of public meetings will be initiated by the Corp and a presentation is planned for the Board at the May Board meeting.

Chairman Uhling asked for clarity on federal funding opportunities and asked if the Board can provide assistance. Ms. Clark stated that the next proposed step would be to look at source material issues or other major critical issues related to construction of the dam at the Arrowrock site. Mr. Patton clarified that the Board has allocated approximately \$350,000 dollars in cash in addition to \$500,000 in credit for prior work in planning efforts on the Boise River project. That credit was awarded through Congress through the passage of the Water Resource Development Act that authorized the Corp to move forward with this study. There is still credit available as well as a certain amount of cash available. The Department has been reluctant to spend this money until the Federal money is made available to ensure study activities will be ongoing. Chairman Uhling expressed concern over the timing of this project related to long-term planning for the state. He also commented that this project seems to be a potentially good proposal that meets a number of needs and more information is needed. Chairman Uhling suggested that the reallocation of money allocated by the Board be revisited to assist in future project efforts. Mr. Raybould asked how much in specific funding would be needed to move forward with study efforts. Ms. Clark stated that depends on how they decide to move forward with the scope of the project. At this stage, the Corp has an obligation to complete a review of the top three sites identified in the screening analysis. She commented that a funding estimate could be obtained from the Corp for the top site choice if the Board was interested in pursuing more information.

Henrys Fork Basin Study

The BOR is making good progress and completed a water needs assessment in the basin to help clarify and rank the water supply alternatives. That report has been distributed to the public for review. The BOR is also completing drafts of the reconnaissance level technical analysis for all the alternatives identified, including new and existing storage projects, managed ground water recharge, agricultural conservation and management, municipal and industrial conservation, and market based alternatives. Technical memorandums are being developed for each of the alternatives. The ranking process is also being worked on so a comparison of the alternatives can be made, with a short-list of alternatives to be recommended to the Board. The draft memorandums for the new surface water concepts are being finalized and will be distributed to stakeholders next week for review. The BOR expects to complete this reconnaissance phase by fall 2012 with the recommendations to find and then move forward with the appraisal level analysis. Several Board presentations are expected once the reviews are complete and Board guidance will be needed moving into the appraisal level phase.

Chairman Uhling requested that staff share any information made available from other regional studies or projects. Mr. Patton suggested that a current Yakima area study may be of interest from a planning perspective and is being considered for a future Board presentation.

Agenda Item No. 12, Director's Report (Gary Spackman, Interim Director)

At the March 15 work session, Interim Director Spackman presented the Department's JFAC presentation that he co-presented with Board member Roger Chase at the JFAC hearing in January. He highlighted the Swan Falls Agreement and all the accomplishments resulting from that agreement including: protection of minimum flows at Murphy Gage, subordination of Idaho Power Company's water rights to existing upstream water uses, giving water users certainty about future use, requirement for a general adjudication of water rights in the Snake River basin, recognition of the hydraulic connection between ground water and surface water, and establishment and regulation of Snake River water rights above and below Milner Dam as separate river systems. Mr. Spackman also extended his appreciation for Board member Chase's participation and the Board's support at the JFAC hearing.

He discussed the progress of the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA) and the significant progress made over the last year by the courts and the Department. There are currently 764 unresolved claims and approximately 300 of those are high-flow claims at Lemhi that are pending settlement. The courts are working for a 2014 unified decree deadline. The Department has been creating water districts in coordination with the SRBA project. Staff are currently working on the creation of Water District 02 from Milner Creek to approximately the Oregon state line.

The first round service is complete in the North Idaho Adjudication. Approximately 11,000 claims were received as of December 2011. Staff continues to be in budget and on time for this project.

Mr. Spackman also discussed the effects on Department staffing resulting from reduction in general funds and development of the ESPA Ground Water Model 2.0. He recognized the Department's award for efficiency in government with respect to the GIS efforts and ability to determine consumptive use from remote sensing data and imagery.

Department staff has improved the efficiency of processing transfer applications, reducing the backlog from 500 to 100. Ownership changes were reduced from approximately 900 to 300. The licensing backlog grew from 2010 to mid-2011 to approximately 3,500. As a result, an additional 4 to 8 Department staff, including Planning staff that supports the Board activities, will be reallocated for the next 3 to 5 years to address and prioritize this backlog. Mr. Spackman asked that no new planning efforts be initiated without an identifiable source of funds. All new initiatives will be evaluated to determine their immediate value to the Department's core responsibilities. With the possibility of a delivery call in the Big Wood, it may qualify as a modeling effort rather than a planning effort in the near future.

Agenda Item No. 13, Other Items IWRB Members May Wish to Present

Chairman Uhling challenged the Board and the Department to look strategically at the top 3 to 5 projects that should be considered to benefit the state. Mr. Patton requested that Board members direct any ideas directly to him so he can compile them, along with the Director's ideas for the Department.

Agenda Item No. 14, Next Meeting and Adjourn

The next regular IWRB Meeting is scheduled for May 17 & 18 in Boise, Idaho, at the Idaho Water Center. There was discussion about future Board meetings and possible locations. A suggestion was made to tentatively hold the July 26 & 27 meeting in the Magic Valley area. A suggestion was made to tentatively hold the September 6 & 7 meeting in the Rexburg, north Idaho, or Bear Lake area. The IWRB Meeting 3-12 adjourned at approximately 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted this <u>18</u> day of <u>May</u>, 2012.

/Bob Graham/ Bob Graham, Secretary

/Diana Ball/

Diana Ball, Administrative Assistant

Board Actions:

1. Mr. Raybould made a motion to accept the resolution to make a funding commitment for the Lower Lemhi 2012 Annual contracts. Mr. Alberdi seconded the motion.

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u> Mr. Cuddy: Aye; Mr. Alberdi: Aye; Mr. Chase: Aye; Mr. Beck: Aye; Mr. Raybould: Aye; Mr. Van Der Meulen: Aye; Mr. Uhling: Aye; Mr. Graham: Absent. Motion carried.

2. Mr. Alberdi made a motion to accept the resolution to establish the Water Supply Bank rental rate to be consistent with the Nez Perce Agreement. Mr. Raybould seconded the motion.

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u> Mr. Cuddy: Aye; Mr. Alberdi: Aye; Mr. Chase: Aye; Mr. Beck: Aye; Mr. Raybould: Aye; Mr. Van Der Meulen: Aye; Mr. Uhling: Aye; Mr. Graham: Absent. Motion carried.

3. Mr. Chase made a motion to accept the resolution to change conditions associated with allocated funds for the ESPA managed recharge pilot program. Mr. Raybould seconded the motion.

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u> Mr. Cuddy: Aye; Mr. Alberdi: Aye; Mr. Chase: Aye; Mr. Beck: Aye; Mr. Raybould: Aye; Mr. Van Der Meulen: Aye; Mr. Uhling: Aye; Mr. Graham: Absent. Motion carried.

4. Mr. Chase made a motion to accept the resolution authorizing the expenditure of funds not to exceed \$6,000 to cover the engineering costs associated with the MP31 recharge project. Mr. Raybould seconded the motion.

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u> Mr. Cuddy: Aye; Mr. Alberdi: Aye; Mr. Chase: Aye; Mr. Beck: Aye; Mr. Raybould: Aye; Mr. Van Der Meulen: Aye; Mr. Uhling: Aye; Mr. Graham: Absent. Motion carried.

5. Mr. Cuddy made a motion to accept the resolution as corrected to accept the Recommended Treasure Valley Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan for consideration by the Board. Mr. Beck seconded the motion. Voice vote. All in favor.