

Susan Goodrich
8626 W Sylte Ranch Rd.
Rathdrum, ID 83858
(208) 659-8881

RECEIVED
APR 12 2019
DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

April 12, 2019

Mr. Gary Spackman, IDWR Director
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0098

Case # PFCD-2018-01

Mr. Spackman:

I recently received a copy of Mr. Semanko's motion to have me and three others denied from intervention in the petition to remove Gordon Sylte as FCD#17 Commissioner. I had the impression from the pre-hearing conference on March 21, 2019 that our requests to intervene had been accepted by you as the hearing officer.

I was not, however, surprised by Mr. Semanko's effort to limit challenges to his clients. Such is to be expected from his and their past history and is, in fact, part of the essence of their hearing request.

In all fairness, the emails IDWR received regarding the appointment of Gordon Sylte, as you pointed out, were less than specific in many instances. I don't know for certain if all the rules have been followed to the letter up to this point but suspect there might have been exceptions. I understand that we are in somewhat uncharted territory here, so latitude for all parties would seem to be in order. I tend to think that has been the case for IDWR which seems appropriate.

None of us, if the petitioners prove their case, would seem to be able to do them any harm. One would wonder why Mr. Semanko has moved to eliminate us. On the other hand, as interveners we could possibly offer evidence, background and perspectives useful to IDWR in making an informed decision. It would also be difficult and also place an excessive burden upon Mr. Sylte to take on the petitioners single handedly.

Neither Mr. Sylte nor any of us have retained legal counsel. Also, as you have obviously noticed, the deck is heavily stacked in terms of the petitioners' numbers. I have no desire to turn this hearing into a circus. However, I and others have witnessed the behaviors of some of the parties opposing Mr. Sylte's appointment and fear they may do just that. No doubt IDWR is fully aware of those behaviors just as you were fully aware of Mr. Sylte's litigation when you reappointed him.

I am in a position to defend Gordon Sylte's actions as FCD#17 Commissioner and offer a perspective on the past. Simply said, much of the information in the petitioners' emails is not true, incorrect, incomplete, misleading, or self-serving to say the least. It will be up to you as the IDWR Hearing Officer to sort that out. I would like to help with that process if I am allowed.

Doug Jones has informed me that you are preparing an order relative to the hearing and Mr. Semanko's motion. This letter may or may not reach you before that is issued. If you grant his motion then we will be forced to only appear as witnesses which I consider to place an undo burden upon Mr. Sylte. Should you deny the Semanko motion (although he will no doubt appeal however he must) I will try my best to present my testimony and question that of others in an objective and civil manner as you indicated would be your requirements.

Thank you for your consideration and courtesy.

Susan C. Goodrich