

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF JOINT COMMITTEE
OF THE OWYHEE PROJECT**

March 30, 2021

A special meeting of the Joint Committee of the Owyhee Project was held on March 30, 2021, at 11:04 a.m., to review the water turn on date. Eric White, Chairman, presiding.

The following members of the Joint Committee were present:

Eric White	Frank Ausman
Bruce Corn	Dan Tschida
Brett Nielsen	Chris Landa

Also present were: Jay Chamberlin, Manager of the Hydro Projects; Michael W. Horton, Secretary and Legal Counsel; John Eells, South Board Manager; Jerry Nagaki, OID Alternate; and OID staff.

MEETING NOTICE. Mr. Chamberlin said that public notice of the meeting was given.

TURN ON DATE. Mr. Chamberlin provided handouts on storage and stream flows. He said that a little bit of rain came in, but USBR thinks the system hit peak runoff at 2,300 cfs. The Committee members discussed stream flows.

Mr. Chamberlin said that unless the weather helps out, the system may see historic low inflows. He said that Dunaway Pumping Plant can add about 25,000 acre feet of delivery. He said that it is not enough to change the allotment at this point.

Mr. Nielsen and Mr. Landa reported on the huge wind storm which dried out everything in their area. They said they did not get much rain in their area. Mr. Eells said that his patrons are wanting to turn on the water April 5. He said the "Wind gutted us." Mr. Chamberlin said that the wind storm filled the canals with weeds. Mr. Corn said that the fields in his area are dry. Mr. Tschida thinks that if the water is turned on the 5th, it will just run down the canals into the river. Mr. Ausman said that he would like to hold off on turning on the water. Mr. Corn said that the temperatures are predicted to be in the 60s to 70s in the foreseeable future with no rain in the forecast. Mr. Nagaki said that it is dry in his area.

Mr. Ausman said that his concern is with farmers being prepared to get their fields ready in time for water. Mr. Tschida said that the farms should know not to plant their crops until they can get water which is typically on the 15th of April. Mr. Corn said that he thinks more checks need to be put into the canals so that the Districts can irrigate at lower water levels. Mr. Chamberlin explained the issues with doing that and he said that with automation, the Districts can micromanage the water a little better than in the past.

Mr. Chamberlin said that he would prefer to start water into the system a little earlier because if it warms up, the Districts will have a hard time keeping up with demand. Mr. Eells reported on using ecology blocks in the South Canal to bring water levels up. Mr. Chamberlin explained that the North system is too big to use that approach.

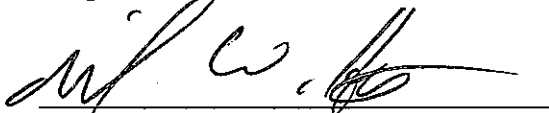
Mr. Chamberlin said that the hydro plants are ready to run. The timing of bringing on the pumping plants was discussed.

A motion was made by Mr. Nielsen and seconded by Mr. Corn to start water on April 6. A vote on the motion was had. Mr. Corn, Mr. Landa, Mr. Nielsen, and Mr. White voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Tschida and Mr. Ausman voted against the motion which passed on a vote of four to two.

The consensus of the Committee members is to start the pumps as soon as feasibly possible.

ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary

APPROVED: _____