

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

June 3, 2019

A special meeting of the Joint Committee of the Owyhee Project to discuss water releases from the Owyhee Dam was held at the offices of Stunz, Fonda, Kiyuna & Horton, LLP, 106 Main Street, Nyssa Oregon, at 10:30 a.m., on June 3, 2019, Brett Nielsen, Vice-Chairman, presiding.

The following members of the Joint Committee were present:

Bruce Corn	Frank Ausman
Dan Tschida	Jerry Nagaki (OID Alternate)
Brett Nielsen	

Also present were: Jay Chamberlin, Manager of the Hydro Projects; John Eells, South Board Manager; J.L. Eldred, OID Watermaster; Larry Meyer, Newspaper Reporter; Lieutenant Rich Harriman, County Emergency Management Officer; Michael W. Horton, Secretary; Joel Fenoglio, John Rochs, and Ryan Hendrick, Bureau of Reclamation; and Troy Lindquist, National Weather Service.

Introductions of those present at the meeting were made. Mr. Chamberlin explained the operations and organization of the Joint Committee. He said he appreciates Reclamation's involvement and their staff members who worked with him over the weekend.

WATER SITUATION. Joel Fenoglio of Reclamation said that the watershed received 1/3 of the annual precipitation for the year from May 10 through May 25. He said this was a very significant event. He said it looks like the weather will dry out later this week. He said Mr. Chamberlin has made a surcharge request from Reclamation which has been verbally approved by the Regional Director to allow an additional 9,000 acre feet of storage above the 715,000 acre feet limitation which can continue for 10 days or so.

Mr. Chamberlin explain the operations of the ring gate.

Mr. Lindquist gave a weather forecast. He said there is a 20% to 30% chance for rain storms in the Owyhee Mountains, but that they are not predicted to be as wide-spread as the last system that came through. He said there is another system predicted to come into the upper basin after Thursday, but that it does not appear to have the heavy rains as the last storms.

Mr. Chamberlin said the watershed received another 1/2 inch of rain at Mud Flat. Mr. Fenoglio said that any storms that come through now will most likely go right into the river. Mr. Lindquist said the six to ten day outlook is for slightly wetter and colder than normal conditions and then back to normal for this time of year. Mr. Fenoglio said the predictions are for the flows in the Owyhee River at Rome to be between 5,000 to 6,000 cfs for the next three to four days and then drop to 3,500 cfs this coming weekend.

OWYHEE RIVER FLOOD STAGES. Mr. Lindquist said that he can work with locals in determining the flood stage for the Owyhee River. He then asked for suggestions on where those

flood stages might be. Mr. Chamberlin said that road crossings begin to be lost at 2,500 cfs. He said that there is some concern for public safety at anything over 1,000 cfs as it impacts campers, trailers, and recreationalists along the river. He said typical flows for this time of year are 250 to 300 cfs. The Committee members discussed the matter. Mr. Chamberlin said that minor flooding could probably be set at 3,000 cfs with moderate flooding at 5,000. Mr. Lindquist said he will start the process of having the flood stages updated. Mr. Nielsen said that it would be good to get this done before this winter as there will be a lot of carryover in the reservoir going into the winter and spring.

Lieutenant Harriman reported on the roads and recreationalists impacted by the rising water.

WATER RELEASES. Mr. Chamberlin said that he sees no reason to change the current 7 to 10 day fill schedule. He said it is good that the storms backed off. He said that as inflows slow down staff will begin slowly decreasing releases from the Dam to try to keep fish from being trapped in pools. He said the Dam operating systems are being checked every other day. He said the road to the Dam Power Plant is getting hammered pretty good. He said that Idaho Power is now going to wait until the generation season is over to do the work on the switch gear at the Power Plant.

HYDRO POWER PLANTS. Mr. Chamberlin said the generators are running good. He said the canals cannot be run full out yet as there are chemical treatments that need to be done.

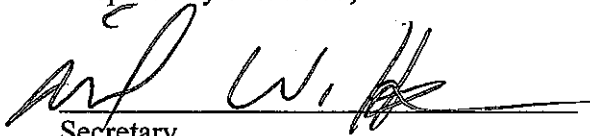
B-2H MEETING. The Committee members discussed the upcoming B-2H meeting. Mr. Hendrick said he will have Reclamation staff attend that meeting.

PALISADES SWITCH YARD. Mr. Eells presented a letter which was written to Reclamation on behalf of four Idaho irrigation districts requesting that the timing of the change out of the Palisades Switch Yard scheduled for 2020 be rescheduled during the off season that year in order to lessen the impact on districts' power costs. He said that South Board's attorney is asking the individual districts to do similar letters.

LONG TERM WEATHER FORECAST. Mr. Lindquist provided a long term forecast. He said the 3-month outlook is for warmer and wetter weather than normal. He said that May is the second wettest on record at the Boise Airport.

ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Secretary

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_