

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

March 14, 2017

An emergency 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 2:00 p.m., on March 14, 2017, Eric White, Chairman, presiding.

The following members of the Joint Committee were present:

Brett Nielsen	Eric White
Frank Ausman	Jerry Nagaki
Dan Tschida	Chris Landa

Also present were: Jay Chamberlin, Manager of the Hydro Projects; John Eells, South Board Manager; Monty Culbertson from the Owyhee Ditch Company; Harvey Manser, OID Assistant Manager; Bruce Corn, OID Alternate; Michael W. Horton, Secretary; Andy Peutz, Owyhee Ditch Company Board Member; Dylan Mitchell, Owyhee Ditch Company; Jeremy Peterson, Landowner; Ron Jacobs, State Watermaster; and Larry Meyer, *Argus Observer* Reporter.

MEETING NOTICE. Mr. Chamberlin stated that this is an emergency meeting and that the reason for the meeting is to discuss the incoming water situation and potential flooding. Mr. Chamberlin said that he did contact the Argus Observer and notified them of today's meeting prior to the meeting.

REPORT ON SNOW COURSE FLIGHT. Mr. Chamberlin and Frank Ausman reported on the snow course flight. Mr. Ausman said that the flight was like riding a drunk horse with one short leg. They reported that the sno-tel reports on the computer appear to be accurate. The sites all still have snow. Mudflat still has a lot of snow but it appears to be like jello. Mr. Chamberlin estimated that Mudflat should be played out in about eleven days.

WATER INFLOW SITUATION AND FORECAST. Mr. Chamberlin passed around handouts on inflows and storage. Mr. Chamberlin updated the Committee on the amount of water that has come into the reservoir since January 1. He said the basin is wet everywhere and that the reservoir has approximately 153,000 acre feet of capacity before it fills. He said that according to the USBR forecast, there is still 616,000 acre feet of water left to come out. He said that if the watershed does not get a quick warmup or rain, staff should be able to manage. He said he would like to fly the snow course again in ten days to see if Mudflat is played out. The weather forecast is for a cool down and then a warmup. The river at Rome is averaging 4,500 to 5,500 cfs for the last five days. Mr. Chamberlin said that he is confident with the USBR projected inflow forecast.

Mr. Chamberlin said that Tunnel #1 is ready to go. He said the tunnel could go to 500 cfs next week. He said there is still a lot of snow on the South sites. He noted that the lower Owyhee River is holding up. He said that the Snake River is up where the mouth of the Owyhee River comes in. Mr. Nielson asked if opening another jet flow valve would help clear out the Owyhee River channel. Mr. Chamberlin said that it would help. Mr. Ausman said that by running water through the tunnel system it would keep some of the water off of the Snake River.

Ron Jacobs reported on Antelope Reservoir and Jordan Creek which flows into the Owyhee River.

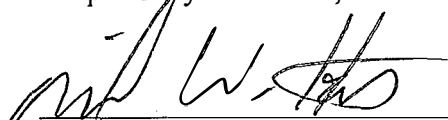
WATER RELEASES. Mr. Chamberlin made a recommendation that another jet flow valve be opened and water started in the tunnel system on Wednesday. Mr. Chamberlin's recommendation was discussed. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Nielson to open another jet flow valve with management having discretion on opening and closing of the valve. Mr. Landa seconded the motion. The Committee members discussed the motion. Mr. Peutz said that he thinks that if the second jet flow valve is opened, it will push some water out into the fields by the mouth of the Owyhee River. Jeremy Peterson said that he thinks the river can take the increase in flows and he would like to see a little now rather than more later. After discussion, a vote was had on the motion. Mr. Nielsen, Mr. Landa, and Mr. Nagaki voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Tschida, Mr. Ausman, and Chairman White voted against and the motion failed. Chairman White said the parameters set at the March 10, 2017 meeting will remain in effect.

NEXT MEETING DATE. Mr. Chamberlin reminded the Committee members that their next meeting is one week from today on March 21.

TUNNEL BOND LOAN. Mr. Horton gave an update on negotiations with the Oregon Department of Energy on the Tunnel Bond loan.

ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

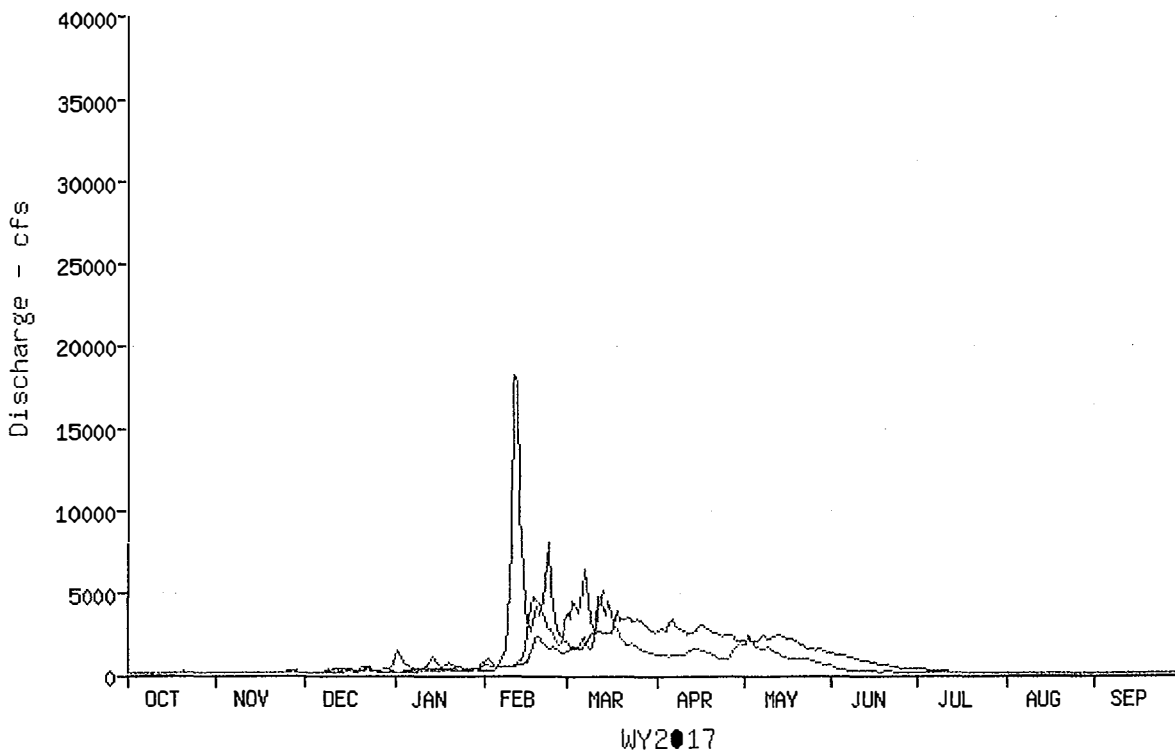


Secretary

APPROVED: _____

Owyhee River near Rome

- Current Year
- Previous Year
- Average



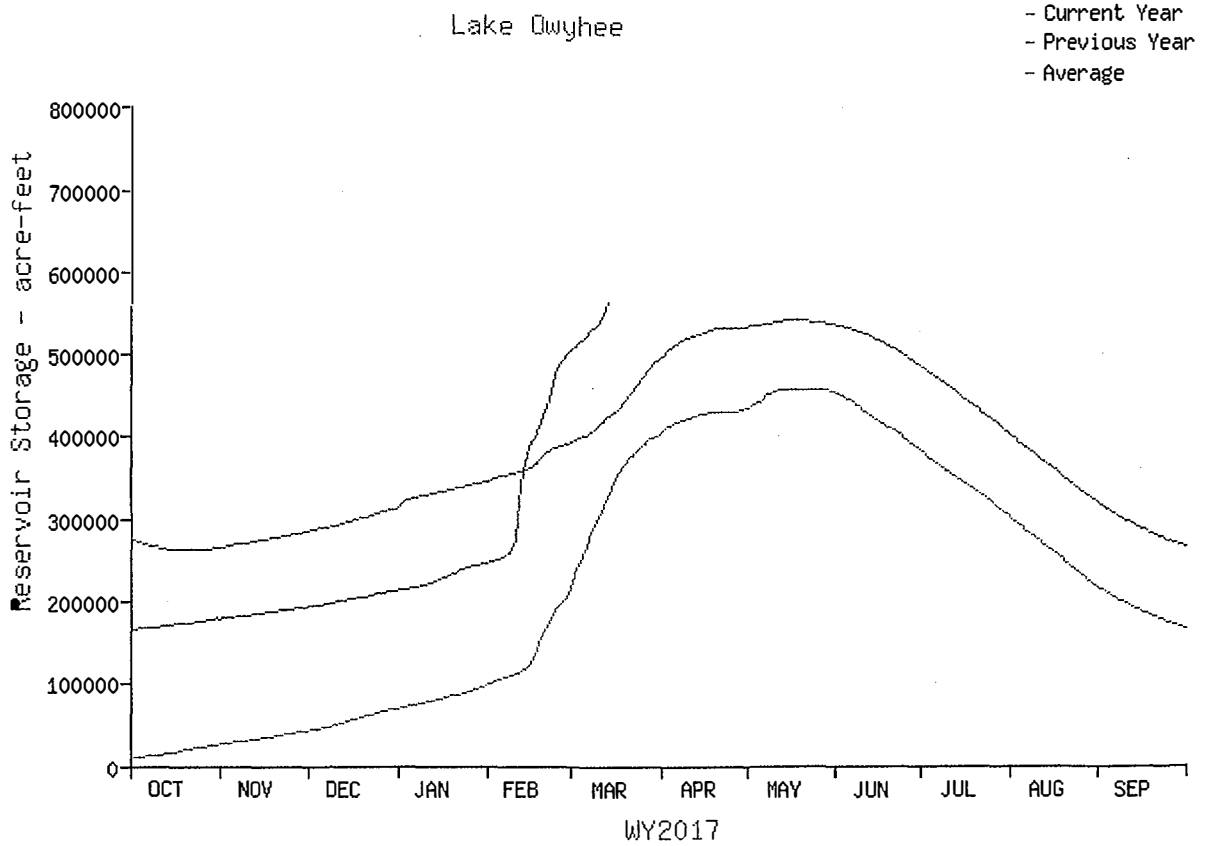
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Current Data Graph

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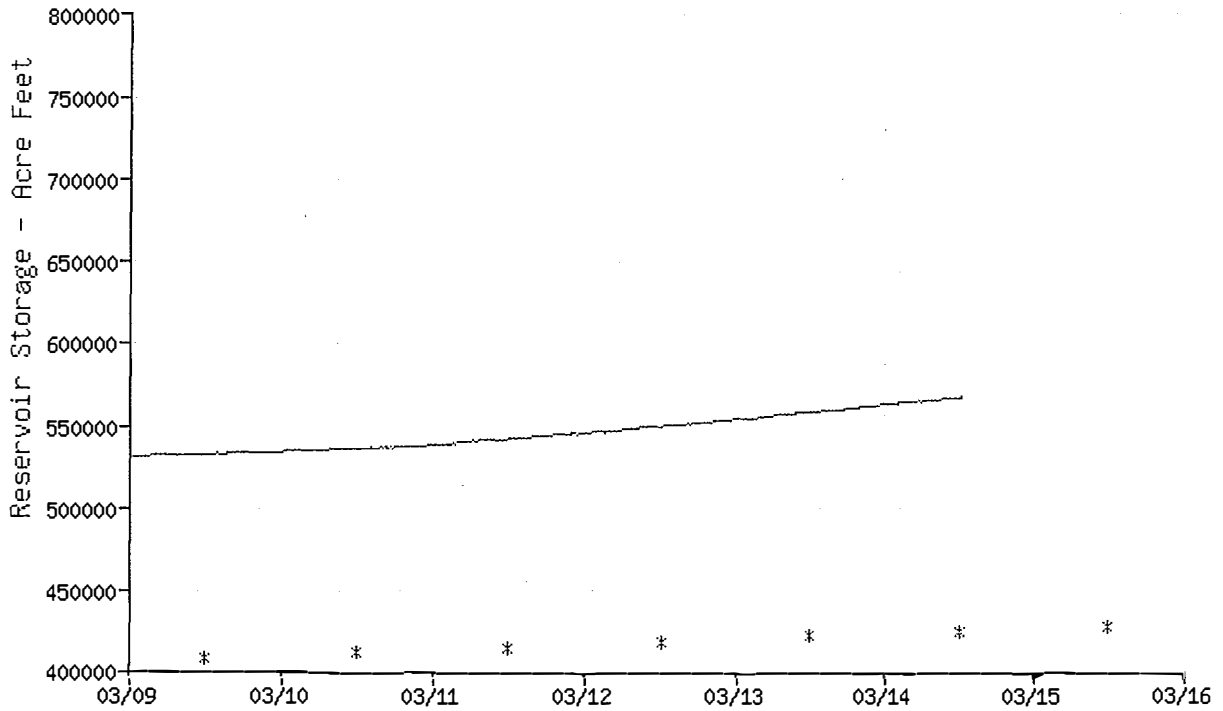
Current Data Graph

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Lake Owyhee

* Average for Date
- Current Reading



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Water Year Graph

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