

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

March 30, 2018

A special meeting of the Joint Committee of the Owyhee Project was held at the Four Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario, Oregon, on March 30, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. Eric White, Chairman, presiding.

The following members of the Joint Committee were present:

Frank Ausman	Jerry Nagaki
Chris Landa	Bruce Corn
Eric White	Rick Smith (South Board Alternate)

Also present were: Jay Chamberlin, Manager of the Hydro Projects; John Eells, South Board Manager; Michael W. Horton, Secretary; Harvey Manser, OID Assistant Manager; J.L. Eldred, OID Watermaster; Linda Henderson, OID Patron; Dillon Mitchell and Monty Culbertson, Old Owyhee Ditch Company.

MEETING NOTICE. Mr. Chamberlin said that notice of the meeting was given in compliance with Oregon Public Meeting Law.

WATER TURN ON DATE. The Committee members each told of calls they had received for water in the areas which they represent. Mr. White and Mr. Landa both said that calls in their areas are for water to turn on Monday. Mr. Corn said that his area is wanting water a week from Monday. Mr. Nagaki said that the slope area could go another week. Mr. Culbertson said that Old Owyhee is not receiving calls for water yet, but that he would like releases from the dam to start Saturday morning at around 120 cfs. Mr. Eells said that South Board has a hole to fix in their system and they can be ready to go on Tuesday. He said he has been receiving lots of calls for water. Mr. Ausman said he received two calls asking for water sooner rather than later. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Landa and was seconded by Mr. Corn to turn on the water on Monday, April 2nd. A vote on the motion was had. Committee members Ausman, Landa, Corn, White, and Smith voted in favor. Mr. Nagaki voted against and the motion passed on a vote of five to one.

MOU WITH OLD OWYHEE DITCH COMPANY. Mr. Horton made a recommendation that the MOU with Old Owyhee be extended to cover this year. The matter was discussed and after discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Corn, seconded by Mr. Ausman, and unanimously carried that the terms of the MOU with Old Owyhee Ditch Company be accepted and implemented for the 2018 irrigation season. Mr. Horton was instructed to write a letter to Larry Sullivan, attorney for Old Owyhee Ditch Company notifying him of this fact. Mr. Chamberlin said that Old Owyhee Ditch Company's storage is back to full at 21,000 acre feet.

PUMPING PLANTS. Operation of the Dunaway Pumping Plant was discussed. It was determined that the Committee will discuss the operation further at its April meeting.

WATER SHUT OFF DATE. Mr. Corn said that OID needs to shut off the 1st of October in order to begin the repairs on the Malheur Siphon. He said that word needs to get out.

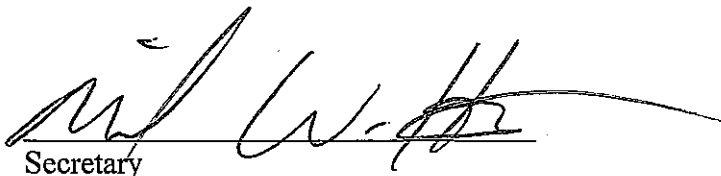
WATER FORECAST. Mr. Chamberlin said that NRCS is predicting pretty low stream flows for the season. He said that only the high sites have snow. Mr. Manser said that when he flew the snow course, the stock ponds were full. Mr. Chamberlin said that a report he got from Duck Valley Reservation is that they are in good water shape.

WATER CONSERVATION. J.L. Eldred explained how the OID system will be filled. He said that it is best to fill the Malheur Siphon at 6:00 a.m., at a temperature of 52 degrees. He said that there are quite a bit of weeds in the canals which have been blowing in from the desert. Mr. Ausman said the Districts need to conserve as much stored water as possible this year. He said he is worried about next year. Chairman White asked about setting a goal of how much water to leave in the reservoir at the end of the season. Mr. Corn said he thinks this is shaping up like the year 2012, which led into the three-year drought. Mr. Eells said that the South Board plans on running in drought mode from the get go. He said that he has been hearing from users in his area to save what water they can. Mr. Landa said the South Board will try to get word out about possibly shutting off October 1. Chairman White said the Districts will have to do the best they can this year.

OID WATER CONSERVATION PLAN. Mr. Manser said that OID is completing its water conservation plan. He said the law requires copies of the plan to go out to other water entities. He said that Old Owyhee and the South Board can expect to receive copies of the plan. He said that drainage districts will also be getting copies.

ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Secretary

APPROVED: _____