

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

March 16, 2021

A meeting of the Joint Committee of the Owyhee Project was held on March 16, 2021, at 1:10 p.m., by teleconference due to Covid-19. 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; J.L. Eldred and Mark Carpenter, OID Employees; Linda Henderson and Carl Morton, OID Patrons; Harvey Manser, Former OID Employee; Jerry Nagaki, OID alternate; and Larry Meyer, Newspaper Reporter.

MEETING NOTICE. The meeting agenda showed that public notice of the meeting was given on March 11, 2021.

MINUTES. The minutes of the meeting of the Joint Committee held on February 16, 2021, were reviewed by the Committee members prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Tschida, seconded by Mr. Landa, and unanimously carried approving the minutes.

TUNNEL #1 POWER PROJECT.

Tunnel #1 Financial Report. The financial report for the Tunnel #1 Power Project was included in the Committee members' meeting packets. The Committee members reviewed and discussed the financial report. Mr. Chamberlin said that the hydraulic pump should be here soon. He said the plant can operate without it. Mr. Eldred said that the plant is ready to go. Mr. Chamberlin said that Idaho Power is proposing to update the switch gear at the plant like they did at the Dam Power Plant. He then explained the work which was done on the switch gear at the Dam Power Plant. Mr. Eldred reported on a test run and a hydraulic issue that arose.

Tunnel #1 Power Project Accounts Payable. The Committee members reviewed the accounts payable listed on the agenda for the Tunnel #1 Power Project. A motion was made by Mr. Landa, seconded by Mr. Nielsen, and unanimously carried approving payment of the accounts payable as follows:

Stunz, Fonda, Kiyuna, Horton	\$573.50
WIN-911	880.00
Owyhee Irrigation	24,279.14
Oregon Idaho Utilities	<u>130.65</u>
Total	\$25,863.29

OWYHEE DAM POWER PROJECT.

Owyhee Dam Financial Report. The financial report for the Owyhee Dam Power Project was included in the Committee members' meeting packets. The Committee members reviewed and discussed the report. Mr. Chamberlin said that other than the little hydraulic pump, the plant is ready to go.

Owyhee Dam Accounts Payable. The Committee members reviewed the accounts payable listed on the agenda for the Owyhee Dam Power Project. A motion was made by Mr. Landa, seconded by Mr. Tschida, and unanimously carried approving payment of the accounts payable as follows:

Oregon Idaho Utilities	\$112.70
WIN-911	880.00
Owyhee Irrigation	<u>19,067.61</u>
Total	\$20,057.61

FACILITY APPRAISAL. Mr. Chamberlin said that the appraiser from SDIS came out and visited the site. He said that once he got to the site, he said that they would not insure the power substations. He said they do not insure those type of facilities.

SNOW PACK AND WATER FORECAST. Mr. Chamberlin made a presentation on the snow pack and water forecast. He said the February snowfall "Saved our bacon" with some record snowfall at some sites. He said that on average, the stream flows hit their peak in March. He provided handouts and he said that the NRCS report shows a three-month outlook for colder and wetter weather conditions. The stream flow forecast from NRCS predicts 66% of normal. The USBR forecast for March through June is predicting 350,000 acre feet of inflow.

Mr. Chamberlin said that he flew the snow course last Friday and the snow pack appears to have doubled since the last time he flew. He said that everything was still iced up.

Mr. Chamberlin said that the storage right now could deliver three acre feet. He said he received two phone calls that both said to wait until the 15th of April before turning on water so that there will be water later in the year. Mr. Landa and Mr. White said that they have received calls to go both ways.

Mr. Chamberlin said that the historic low for inflow is 145,000 acre feet. Chairman White said that he would prefer to set the allotment at what is in the reservoir right now. Mr. Nielsen said that he would like to help the growers prepare. Mr. Ausman said that he would like to set the allotment as a tentative allotment and meet again in a couple of weeks. The matter was discussed, and after discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Corn, seconded by Mr. Nielsen, and unanimously carried tentatively setting the allotment at three acre feet, with the Joint Committee to meet regularly to review and possibly increase the allotment.

TURN ON DATE. The Committee members reported on phone calls they received about a possible turn on date. Mr. Ausman said that he would prefer to hold off until later for a turn on date since the water supply will possibly be short. He said the turn on date seems to keep getting earlier and earlier each year.

At 1:50 p.m., Dan Tschida left the meeting and Jerry Nagaki took his place on the Joint Committee. J.L. Eldred reported on Owyhee Irrigation District being ready to run water. Jon Eells reported on the process for starting the South system. Mr. Eells said that the calls he has received are about 50/50 on turning on early versus turning on later. After an in-depth discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Ausman, seconded by Mr. Nielsen, and unanimously carried to set a tentative turn on date of April 8, with the Joint Committee to meet on March 30 to revisit the turn on date.

DAM TENDER TRAINING. Mr. Chamberlin reported on Dam Tender training.

ANNUAL USBR INSPECTION. Mr. Chamberlin reported on the recent USBR inspection. He said that it went well. He said there were no category one items. He said the category two item is the coating on the outside of the jet flow valves.

POWER RATES. Mr. Chamberlin reported on a recent meeting he attended on power rates. He said that it sounds like they will be going up in a couple of years.


PROPOSED DAM BREACHING. Mr. Nielsen asked about opposing proposals to breach the lower Snake River dams. The matter was discussed.

INVASIVE SPECIES. Mr. Chamberlin said that aquatic invasive species were found in an aquarium plant in southern Oregon.

DROWNING AT OWYHEE RESERVOIR. Mr. Chamberlin reported on a recent drowning at Owyhee Reservoir.

ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Secretary

APPROVED: _____