

MINUTES OF STATE ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING
MARCH 12, 1949

BEERATA CITY HALL 1:30 P.M.

Present: Clifford Kail, Gail Sterling, Fred Cunningham, Paul Booker, Dale Thorpe, Jake Weber, Claud Zediker, and Jim Downie.

This meeting was called to order by President Clifford Kail at 1:30 P.M.

The Board discussed means of creating more interest thus bettering the attendance of all Board Members. It was agreed that this group would adopt plans to make it compulsory for all Board Members to be active and participate in meetings.

Mr. Kail told of attending a meeting of the State Planning Commission of State Colleges. This was a two day meeting and was conducted at Seattle and Puyallup. He gave a brief outline of reports given by the State Central Committee and also the report of Cecil Clark of Yakima. Mr. Kail's expense for this trip was about \$30.00. \$27.00 had been paid to Mr. Kail by the Secretary, Mr. John Russell. This expenditure was authorized by motion of Fred Cunningham seconded by Claud Zediker.

Mr. Kail called for Fred Cunningham's report on progress of the Legislative Committee. Mr. Cunningham reported as follows:-

The Committee consisting of Mr. Powell, Olson and Cunningham had one joint meeting most of their other contact was handled through mail. Mr. Cunningham reported that all bills presented the Legislature regarding Irrigation and Reclamation had been forwarded to him through the Spokane Chamber. He also said that copies were mailed to Mr. Kail, Olson and Powell.

The first bill discussed was regarding the Walla Walla area in brief this bill would allow Irrigation Districts to place structures when necessary without and Engineers report being filed.

Spokane Valley entered a bill which pertains to seven small Districts which all take their water from the same source at Post Falls. The bill in brief is to give these Districts the right to join as one organization.

Another bill related to revenue bonds which might be issued by Districts which deliver domestic water and/or power. This bill permits the issue of bonds payable from revenue from actual service rendered.

Another bill explained was a bill asking the permit for State Associations to join with National Reclamation groups.

A bill presented by Chaffee, of Sunnyside, was to allow Districts to pay insurance for employees. He also had a bill which if passed would allow travel expense to National Meetings.

At this time there was a general discussion regarding insurance plans, social security and the State Retirement Plan. It was reported that the Okanagon District is now operating under the State Retirement Plan. Mr. Cunningham lead a general discussion which covered all the advantages and disadvantages of the plan. He felt that the money invested by younger employees would be too great. He also pointed out that the rate could fluctuate because it is to be based on actuarial experience.

The next item of business was advanced by Jake Weber. Mr. Weber asked how far shall our group go along the lines in joining with other Associations. Mr. Cunningham explained that should this group decide to join other State Associations we would still maintain our own identity.

Mr. Kail reported on the activities of the State Reclamation Association and there was a general discussion regarding the advisability of our group joining that group. Mr. Becker reported that it is thought by several that our group should take over the Reclamation group. Mr. Sterling pointed out that it was definitely to our advantage to have a definite in with Reclamation groups. He feels that State groups are dominated to too great an extent and all agreed this should be reversed.

The meeting to be held the 18th in Seattle was discussed and careful plans were made covering our activities at that meeting. Mr. Cunningham told of having a set of by laws drawn up which may be adopted at that meeting. It was definitely understood by all that our by laws would not be affected. It was also agreed that our group is definitely opposed to taking a stand on political issues such as GVA and PUD in other words this group will adopt a hands off program of all political issues. Mr. Cunningham reported the following facts which he thought would come before this meeting in Seattle. Directors should be made up by a majority of land owners. Mr. Zediker suggested that as well as being land owners this should include anyone closely involved with irrigation. Mr. Cunningham suggested that three could be a quorum if a report be made in writing to a majority of Directors and then a return made in writing showing either approval or disapproval. Mr. Cunningham suggested that if a Director is absent for three consecutive meetings his office should be declared vacant and the Board have the power to appoint a new member. It was generally agreed that our group would if possible try to prevent taking issue on GVA, however this group will oppose any new agency that would delay the Columbia Basin Project.

Mr. Kail then took up the subject of our own group. This discussion lead to some very fine suggestions for planned future operations. Mr. Sterling suggested that each Director should take turns in sending some story of interest to all Districts. It was suggested that the Okanagon District send in a little story on weed control, Mr. Zediker, of the Icicle Irrigation District, on pipe lines and Fred Cunningham on Legislative, etc. These could be mailed to the Secretary's office and would be assembled so that a monthly bulletin could be prepared and mailed to each District. Mr. Sterling reported that the accounting committee's main function would be to set up basic minimum requirements for small Districts. The above committee consists of Mr. Sterling, Manley, Downie and Thorp. It was agreed that we send letters out urging payment of Association dues.

It was agreed that letters would be mailed to our Board authorizing them to attend the Seattle meeting.

JOHN RUSSELL, SECRETARY