

State Association of Washington Irrigation Districts.

Minutes - Board of Directors Meeting held at Moses Lake on Friday, June 16, 1950:

Present - Clifford Kail, President, N. D. Thorp, J. A. Weber, Paul Becker and G. L. Sterling, Directors, and Ted Newstrum.

Mr. Kail opened the meeting with the discussion of two matters which he thought should be referred to the Legislative Committee, of which Mr. Fred Cunningham had been appointed Chairman. This pertained to a fund of \$50,000, which the State has available for payment of assessment by Local Improvement Districts, Drainage Districts, etc., but which it has been ruled cannot be used for the payment of irrigation assessments against State lands, and the possibility of the forthcoming special session of the State Legislature making a raid on the Reclamation Revolving Fund in its efforts to raise revenue for other purposes. It was thought advisable to have a Director's meeting before the special session, which is to begin on July 17th, at which Mr. Cunningham could be present and discuss these matters.

Mr. Kail read a letter from Mr. Cunningham in which he referred to the Area Conference in Spokane on June 16th and 17th by the Water Resources Policy Commission in which Mr. Cunningham outlined the attitude he thought the Association should adopt at this conference, and in which he urged that the Association maintain close contact with the special session of the Legislature to see that the State Reclamation Revolving Fund is not molested.

After considerable discussion, it was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that Mr. Thorp and Mr. Sterling represent the Association at the conference in Spokane on Saturday, June 17th, and present a statement to the effect that the Association is opposed to any change in the water rights now existing under state law and favoring the continuation of the existing policy of local control of all irrigation projects constructed or to be constructed with Federal funds.

Mr. Cunningham had suggested a joint meeting, prior to the National Reclamation Association meeting, of the Association with the State Reclamation Association, each to have a short separate session pertaining to its own affairs. There was then discussion regarding the annual meeting of the Association, particularly as to the best location for the meeting. It was suggested that a Board meeting be held shortly to plan the annual meeting, and to discuss the activities of the Association before that time.

It was decided that the President should call a meeting of the Board of Directors at Spokane on Wednesday, June 28th, to discuss the above matters.

There was discussion regarding the inability because of ill health of the Secretary-Treasurer, John Rummell, to be active in the affairs of the Association. As Mr. Rummell has repeatedly stated that his resignation is available to the Board at any time, it was moved, seconded, and approved that the resignation of John Rummell as Secretary-Treasurer of the Association be accepted, and that Ted Newstrum be appointed Secretary-Treasurer in his place. It was also moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that a letter of appreciation be written to Mr. Rummell.

There was discussion regarding the C.V.A. and the Comprehensive Plan for the Columbia Basin. It was the opinion of those present that the Association should take no action on these issues.

The matter of 1950 dues to the Association was brought up. It was suggested that the books of the Association be reviewed to see which Districts had paid these dues and that letters be sent to all other Districts requesting payment of their

of their 1950 dues and that the same letter contain a resume of the proposed actions of the Association. This was approved and Mr. Kail stated that such a letter would be mailed.

Mr. Kail then brought up the matter of Federal excise tax on equipment, stating that the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District had been requested to pay excise tax on a truck purchased because it was a "locally owned irrigation system". Reference was made to the release by the Association on April 27, 1949 on the subject of exemption by irrigation districts from the payment of Federal excise tax, and it was thought that the ruling made to the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District was in error.

There being no further business, upon motion the meeting adjourned.