

Minutes - Board of Directors Meeting - Friday, June 22, 1951, at Ephrata, Washington.

Present: Paul E. Booker, Harry J. Allyn, Fred Beisner, David C. Brooks, Don Bowsher, Henry deSchepper, Clifford Kail, G. L. Sterling, J. A. Weber, C. M. Zediker and Ted Newstrum.

Mr. Booker announced that he had been informed that Washington State College has in its curriculum a course on irrigation practices under which students can work on an approved farm, get paid for their work and credit at the college. There has been little interest shown in this course by the students and Mr. Booker suggested that members of the Association should make an effort to interest students in this to develop good irrigation operators.

The minutes of the Board meeting held at Ephrata on March 30, 1951 were read and approved as read.

It was moved, seconded and approved that Henry deSchepper of the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District serve as Director from Division No. 2, in place of Ray Bailey, until the next annual meeting.

There was discussion of Chapter 184, laws of 1951 (Sub.H.B. 297) which provides for coverage of irrigation district employees under the Federal social security act. Some members of the Board expressed a desire to have a breakdown as to the advantages and disadvantages of social security as compared to the State Retirement System, and the Secretary was instructed to refer the matter to our Legislative Committee. It was suggested that the subject be discussed at the annual meeting, and that perhaps a representative from the Federal Social Security Administration could be present at that meeting.

The question of whether the Association should request the State Auditor to appoint one State Examiner for irrigation districts was brought up. It was at the Association's request that Mr. Earle Buzzell had been designated Examiner for irrigation districts, and there was considerable discussion as to the comparative merits, from the districts' and the state's standpoint, of having one Examiner assigned to do all district auditing, or having each auditor assigned by the state to different territories do irrigation district as well as the other types of audit. It was moved, seconded, and carried that the matter be tabled.

Mr. Brooks gave a resume of the preliminary report of the President's Water Policy Commission report, and the Secretary read a report on the same subject from Mr. N. D. Thorp. It was the opinion of both that the report advocates Government control of the resources of a region, and therefore of the people of that region. Mr. Bowsher stated that the Spokane Chamber of Commerce expected to get something out in mimeograph form on this subject and offered to furnish the Association a copy. He suggested that certain features of the report be studied and discussed at some future meeting.

The Secretary reported on the meeting of the Columbia River Resources Committee of the Pacific Northwest Development Assn. held in Portland on May 7th, which he had been instructed to attend. All the speakers at this meeting had opposed excessive, uneconomical, and duplicating development of natural resources, socialistic tendencies, regimentation, competition by the Government with private industry, etc.

Mr. Booker stated that he had read in the California Water News that the President of the Irrigation Districts Association of California personally called on and met with each irrigation district board of that state. As it would not be possible for him to undertake this himself, he suggested that each of our Directors make it a point to meet with as many district boards as possible in each Division, explain to them the purposes of the Association, and ask their cooperation.

Upon motion, the President was authorized to appoint a committee to study the revision of the Director Divisions of the Association, this committee to analyze the acreage and location of the districts and make recommendations as to any changes in the Division boundaries at the next Directors meeting. Mr. Booker appointed the following committee: David C. Brooks, Chairman, Fred Beisner, Henry deSchepper.

It was decided by the Board that the ruling that three consecutive inexcusable absences from Board meetings by Directors should constitute their resignation should also apply to the President and two Vice Presidents. It was therefore moved, seconded and approved that Clifford Kail be appointed Vice President, to replace Kenneth C. DeMerchant, until the next annual meeting.

Regarding the annual meeting of the Association, it was moved, seconded and carried that a committee be appointed to work with the Secretary to investigate accommodations at Yakima and make final arrangements as to dates, meeting place, etc. Mr. Booker appointed the following committee: G. L. Sterling, Chairman, Clifford Kail, Fred Beisner. The matter of having a joint meeting with the Washington State Reclamation Assn. was considered and it was decided this could be taken up with that organization at the meeting with them to be held on September 12th. As a part of the program for the annual meeting, Mr. Booker suggested that we invite representatives from the Soil Conservation Service and Soil Conservation Supervisors to present a discussion on the relationship between the S.C.S. and irrigation district officials and operators.

Mr. Sterling reported for the committee which was appointed on the expansion of the Association program and the revision of Article 2 of the Constitution. He stated that the only way the Association program can be expanded, other than locally on the state level, is by entering the national picture, and if we want to expand to that extent we should be very closely allied with the Washington State Reclamation Assn. The committee had concluded that since consolidation with the Washington State Reclamation Assn. was to be discussed they would make no definite recommendations until that matter is decided, but made the following tentative suggestions to be considered in expanding the Association program:

1. Preserve the integrity of existing development.
2. Oppose unsound development.
3. Bring forth discussion of operation and maintenance costs - not only on existing projects but the probable O&M costs on proposed projects.
4. Promote soil conservation.
5. Any Basin Account established to work for the benefit of existing as well as proposed projects.
6. Oppose encroachment on state rights.
7. Continue the promotion of worthwhile state legislation.
8. Work for a program of improved crop practices.

Mr. Sterling asked if it was the wish of the Board for the committee to continue its work and present to the annual meeting something definite on the revision of Article 2 of the Constitution. A resolution was passed that this be done.

There was present at this meeting the following members of a committee appointed by President Moore of the Washington State Reclamation Assn: Clifford Kail, Chairman, Harry J. Allyn, Don Bowsher, J. A. Weber. This committee had been appointed by Mr. Moore to consult with the Directors of the Association regarding the consolidation of the two Associations.

After lengthy discussion of the subject of consolidation with the Washington State Reclamation Assn., it was agreed by those present as follows: That the problems of our Association are primarily irrigation and those of the Washington State Reclamation Assn. are more or less promotional and should be kept that way; that the objectives of the two associations are different; that this Association does not want to lose its identity and wishes to keep the organization as a water users organization.

It was therefore decided that the Association keep its organization intact, expand its program, and work toward closer cooperation with the Washington State Reclamation Assn.

It was moved, seconded and approved that the invitation of President Moore of the Washington State Reclamation Assn. to meet with them on September 12th be accepted, and Mr. Booker appointed Mr. Sterling to present the expanded aims and purposes of this Association at that meeting.

Upon announcement by Mr. Booker that the next meeting of the Board of Directors would be held on September 12th, the meeting adjourned.