

STATE ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON IRRIGATION DISTRICTS

MINUTES - Board of Directors meeting held at Ephrata, Wash. on Friday, March 30, 1951.
Present - Paul E. Booker, Fred Beisner, David C. Brooks, Walter Franz, Clifford Kail,
G. L. Sterling, N. D. Thorp, Claude Zediker and Ted Newstrum.

The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held at Yakima on January 11, 1951 were read and approved as read.

Because of the election of Paul E. Booker as President of the Association a vacancy had occurred in the Directorship of Division 5. It was moved, seconded and approved that Walter Franz of the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District be appointed to serve as Director from Division 5 to hold office until the next annual meeting.

The bills which had been prepared by the Legislative Committee of the Association were reviewed. These include Senate Bills Nos. 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 242 and 243. These bills had been introduced in the State Senate by Senator Foster of Yakima and, with the exception of Senate Bill No. 118, had passed both the Senate and House and been signed by the Governor. It was moved, seconded and approved that the Secretary mimeograph these bills and send copies to all irrigation districts of the state. Senate Bill No. 118, on elections in Class A and first class counties, was not approved by the Senate Committee on Reclamation and Irrigation because it was thought to be a duplication and therefore unnecessary.

Other legislation passed at the 1951 session of the State Legislature which will affect irrigation districts was discussed, particularly Substitute House Bill No. 297 which provides for the coverage of employees of the state and political subdivisions under the provisions of the Federal Social Security Act. It was decided that all new laws of interest to irrigation districts should be called to their attention as soon as definite information is obtained on them, and that the districts should also be informed of the proposed legislation, such as that on the fencing of canals, collective bargaining with employees, etc. which the Association was instrumental in defeating. The Secretary was also instructed to send copies of Senate Bill No. 125 to the three Columbia Basin districts.

It was moved, seconded and approved that the Secretary write letters to Senators Foster, Washington, Ruaugst, Representative Henry, and to George Thompson expressing the thanks and appreciation of the Association for their assistance in securing the passage of the legislation sponsored by the Association.

It was moved, seconded and approved that the Treasurer pay the expenses submitted by Charles Powell and any to be submitted by Harry Olson in connection with the preparation of bills and travel expense to Olympia, etc. It was mentioned that the Association has heretofore given Mr. Cunningham \$100.00 each year in appreciation for his work on legislative matters and that perhaps Mr. Powell and Mr. Olson should be given some remuneration in addition to their expenses. It was pointed out that this was a matter which had been approved by the membership at each annual meeting, and it was therefore moved, seconded and approved that it be made a matter of business at the next annual meeting.

The matter of Directors who fail to attend meetings was again discussed. As Mr. Ray Bailey of Division 2 has attended only one meeting since his election, it was decided he should be replaced, and the Secretary was instructed to write Mr. deSchepper of the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District asking that someone be recommended as Director from that Division.

It was also suggested that it might be advisable to make a redistribution of the Director Divisions of the Association.

The suit of the Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District against the Yakima County Auditor for reimbursement of a voucher paid was then discussed. It had been suggested by John Rummell, former Secretary of the Association, that it might prove to be advantageous to all the irrigation districts if the Association attempted to have this case appealed to the Supreme Court and a favorable decision obtained there. Mr. David Brooks

reviewed the history of the case and stated that Judgment was expected to be entered about March 31st. After considerable discussion, it was decided that the Judgment as entered in Yakima County would be a sufficient precedent for similar instances in other Counties, and the Secretary was instructed to send out copies of this Judgment for the guidance of other irrigation districts in their relationship with County Auditors.

There was discussion regarding the laws covering payment of claims against an irrigation district, as covered particularly under Section 79 of the Laws Relating to Irrigation Districts (R.7453, P. 3231) "District Treasurer, Funds", especially the wording of the law relating to Revolving Funds. It was suggested that the Association work on legislation for presentation at the next session of the State Legislature to clarify the wording of this section of the law, what should be submitted to the County Auditor in connection with reimbursement of Revolving Funds, the general procedure in connection with the Revolving Fund, change in wording from "current expenses" to "current expenditures", etc.

Mr. Booker then brought up the subject of the Irrigation Districts Association of California, the publication "California Water News" issued by that Association, and the possibility of expanding the purposes of our Association and its program to make it the dominant irrigation association of the state, patterned somewhat after the California association. Mr. Booker suggested that we request the names of those Directors who do not now receive copies of the "California Water News" be placed on their mailing list, that we watch what their Association is doing, and eventually broaden our purposes and activities to build up an organization that would be a strong spokesman for irrigation interests of the state. It was brought out that the purpose of the Association is covered by Article 2 of the Constitution, which would have to be amended by vote of the membership, and it was moved, seconded and approved that the President appoint a committee to redraft Article 2 of the Constitution and to study and report to the Board the possibilities of expanding the aims and purposes of the Association. President Booker appointed the following committee: G.L. Sterling, Chairman, Clifford Kail, David Brooks and Charles Powell.

Further discussing this matter, it was suggested that some member of the organization should keep the Directors advised of what action is being taken by various other organizations, such as the Bureau of Reclamation, the Columbia Basin Commission, the State Dept. of Conservation & Development etc. and it was mentioned that there is to be a meeting in Portland on May 7th of the Columbia River Resources Committee of the Pacific Northwest Development Assn. It was moved, seconded and approved that the Secretary attend this meeting at Association expense, and it was recommended that he attend all other such meetings that might be of interest, together with any members of the Board who will be able to attend such meetings.

Mr. Booker then stated it was not too early to begin thinking about the annual meeting, and suggested that the Directors consider subjects to be discussed at that time. He stated that perhaps we could have on the program a report on sprinkler irrigation. It was suggested that perhaps the annual meeting should be held at Pasco or Kennewick, since none has been held in that territory, and it was also suggested that the meeting could be combined with a tour of the Columbia Basin, with one day for a tour and one day for a meeting. Mr. Booker also suggested that the subject of soil conservation might be taken up at the annual meeting.

It was suggested that the Association send out a release covering sources of information on sprinkler irrigation. Since Mr. Scott had indicated interest in this subject at the last Directors meeting, the Secretary was instructed to write him asking that he gather information on this subject as the basis for such a release to be sent to all districts.

Mr. Thorp was given a copy of the Summary of the Report of the President's Water Resources Policy Commission and asked to make a report on it at the next meeting of the Directors.

After some general discussion, the meeting adjourned.