

Minutes - Board of Directors Meeting - Wednesday, September 12, 1951, at Yakima, Wash.

Present - Paul E. Booker, Fred Beisner, David C. Brooks, Henry deSchepper, Walter Franz, Clifford Kail, G. L. Sterling, N. D. Thorp, J. A. Weber, Claude Zediker, Ted Newstrum and Evan Hall.

The Directors attended the morning session and luncheon of the meeting of the Washington State Reclamation Assn. During the morning session of this meeting, Mr. Kail gave a report of the committee which had been appointed by Mr. Moore to consult with the Directors of our Association regarding the possibility of an affiliation of the two associations. Mr. Kail reviewed the meeting his committee had with our Directors at Ephrata on June 22nd, and reported that at that time a decision had been made by the Directors that the two associations could better perform their functions separately. Mr. Sterling was then called on and gave a brief review of the history, purposes and activities of the Association.

After lunch the Directors met to discuss plans for the program for the annual meeting of the Association and other matters.

The first subject discussed was a letter received by the Secretary from Mr. C. A. Tissell, Secretary of the Naches-Selah Irrigation District, in which was outlined a problem which that district had in connection with a temporary wing dam in the Naches River. Under Chapter 99, Laws of 1949, "any project that uses, diverts, obstructs or changes the natural flow of any river or stream" must secure written approval from the Director of Fisheries and the Director of Game, and plans and specifications for the construction of any such works or projects must be approved by the Directors of those Departments. The Departments had approved a temporary wing dam for the Naches-Selah district use, but had recommended the construction of a permanent structure (which would be expensive for them) and reserved the right to make further restrictions "if it is deemed necessary for the protection of fish life". During the discussion of this matter it was brought out that if the Bureau had any interest in the operation of the wing dam the state could not interfere, but it was not known by those present whether the Bureau had any connection with the Naches-Selah district. It was recommended that Mr. Tissell be advised to try to carry on his operations as at present until such time as the Association could effect some changes in this law, and the Secretary was instructed to refer the matter to the Legislative Committee of the Association for study.

Mr. Brooks, Chairman of the Program Committee, gave a report on the work done so far in arranging the program for the annual meeting, which is set for November 28th and 29th at Yakima. He suggested the following subjects: 1951 legislation affecting irrigation districts, Bureau of Reclamation-Friend or Foe, More Acres or Increased Production, More Production or More Consumers, Expanded program of the Association, Soil Conservation Districts and relationship to Irrigation Districts, Social Security and State Retirement, Committee Reports, and discussion of the fields in which the Association can develop.

During the discussion of this program, it was suggested that perhaps it would be advisable to propose a joint banquet with the Washington State Reclamation Assn, which had set the dates for their annual meeting as November 29th and 30th. Mr. Booker suggested that this idea be mentioned to Mr. Moore, and it was recommended that the Program Committee meet with representatives of the Washington State Reclamation Assn. regarding such an arrangement.

A motion was made and carried that: "The preliminary program for the annual meeting be accepted and the Program Committee be given full authority to complete the program. In the event this Committee needs help it is free to call on any of the Directors of the Association."

Mr. deSchepper brought up the matter of a Director of an irrigation district performing labor for his district for which he is paid. It was thought that as a matter of policy such a situation should be discouraged. One similar instance was mentioned in which the State Examiner did not approve of such a practice. Section 86 of Laws Relating to Irrigation Districts was cited in this connection, which reads in part, "No director or any other officer named in this chapter shall in any manner be interested, directly or indirectly, in any contract awarded or to be awarded by the board, or in the profits to be derived therefrom..." It was thought that the hiring of labor would be considered as a contract entered into by a district, and that this law would apply in such cases.

The Secretary had mailed to each member of the Board copies of a Resolution passed at the Mid-Columbia Conference held at Kennewick on August 17th and 18th, which resolution endorsed the "comprehensive plan for development of the Columbia River and its tributaries as proposed and agreed upon and last set forth in Schedule T." etc., and also a copy of the Resolution passed by the Yakima Chamber of Commerce which criticized this Kennewick resolution. It was the opinion of those present that this Association should not enter into controversies of this nature, particularly those concerning power, as there is no irrigation district in this state which is directly concerned with such matters.

The meeting was then adjourned, after which Mr. Booker invited the members of the Washington State Reclamation Assn., who were still in session, to attend our annual meeting.