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Minutes - Board of Directors Meeting, Ellensburg, Wash., Monday, August 11, 1952:

Present - Paul Booker, David C. Brooks, Clifford Kail, G. L. Sterling, N. D. Thorp, J. A. Weber, Claude Zediker and Ted Newstrum.

Upon motion the reading of the minutes of the Board meeting of May 12, 1952 was dispensed with.

Western Beet Growers Assn. Meeting:

A letter of invitation to attend the meeting of the Western Beet Growers Assn. at Fargo, N.D. on September 9 and 10 was read. Mr. Weber, who is a Director of the Beet Growers Assn., stated he expected to attend, and Mr. Booker thought it possible he might go. After discussion, it was recommended by the Board that the three Columbia Basin districts, which are at present most concerned with the sugar beet situation, should send representatives.

Pacific Water Council Meeting:

The suggestion of Kenneth Sawyer, Secretary of the Pacific Water Council, that the first meeting of the Council should be held in Long Beach, Calif., prior to the N.R.A. convention was then discussed by the Board. It was thought the Association should have as many representatives as possible attend this meeting and should have a definite program to present. During this discussion on attendance, it was suggested that the President of the Association write to the Boards of Directors of the districts represented on the Association Board, explain the purpose of the Pacific Water Council, and ask that they consider sending delegates to the meeting. It was also suggested that perhaps a group could travel in one car, the expenses to be paid by the Association. Mr. Booker thought a committee should be appointed to work out a program for the Association to present and to secure attendance at the meeting, and appointed G. L. Sterling as Chairman, other members to be appointed later. Mr. Sterling is to find out first just which members can be counted on to attend the Water Council meeting.

L.I.D.s in Irrigation Districts:

The Board then discussed the letter received from the Pasco Heights Community Club regarding the formation in the South Columbia Basin I.D. of an L.I.D. for a domestic water system for the Burbank Part-Time Irrigation Project. Two of the Board members present were familiar with this and explained the situation to the other members. After discussion, it was the decision of the Board that the L.I.D. was set up in accordance with existing laws and nothing could now be done about it. However, there seemed to be some necessity for clarification of the laws pertaining to L.I.D.s in irrigation districts, and it was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the matter be referred to the Legislative Committee for study and the preparation of any desired amendments to the law.

Seepage:

There was discussion on the subject of seepage from canals and irrigated lands, in which it was mentioned that the suit recently brought against the Roza Irrigation District had been dismissed because that project is being operated by the Bureau and the District is not liable for such damages. Mr. Zediker mentioned the decision in the case of Longmire vs Yelm Irrigation District (1921 - 114 Wash. 619), which states: "An irrigation district impounding and conveying water is bound to exercise only ordinary care in the construction of ditches, and an owner of land lying below the ditch cannot recover damages caused by overflowing the land through seepage without showing that the ditch was negligently constructed; and in the absence of evidence, negligence will not be presumed."

Water for Sprinkler Irrigation:

There was discussion regarding a letter received some time ago inquiring if the Association had plans "to request changes of present statutes to cover problems arising because of the development of this new method of irrigation" (which refers to sprinkler irrigation). It is presumed the question refers to the allocation of water to certain irrigable lands and whether the water allocated is confined to those particular lands or can, by the use of sprinkler irrigation, be used to irrigate adjacent or other lands.

It was generally agreed by the Board that it is within the power of the State Superintendent of Hydraulics to change the allocation of water if, in his judgment, the acreage does not require the amount allocated, and that the use of water is confined to the land to which it is allotted. It was agreed to refer the matter to the Legislative Committee.

Labor:

Mr. Zediker again expressed concern over the labor situation and the possibility of legislation being presented to the State Legislature regarding collective bargaining with employees of political subdivisions of the state. He compared wages paid by industries and construction firms with those the districts and farmers are able to pay, and thought the districts may run into trouble before long in connection with wages paid.

State-Owned Lands:

There was again discussion regarding the leasing or selling of state-owned lands within irrigation district boundaries. It was decided the Secretary should secure figures from three or four districts to ascertain what the returns and expenses are to the state on lands under lease.

Principles:

The proposed set of principles for the Association were then taken up and each article was read and discussed separately. The action of the Board on these articles was as follows:

Article 1 - Approved as read.

Article 2 - First sentence - delete words "be approved only when they".
Tabled for further discussion.

Article 3 - Approved as read.

Article 4 - Approved as read.

Article 5 - Suggested changes: Delete words "such as 'valley authorities' or 'new concepts of Government responsibility'",
Add: "We do favor interstate compacts for the development of the Columbia River and its tributaries".
Tabled for further discussion.

Annual Meeting:

It was decided to hold the annual meeting of the Association in Ellensburg on Thursday and Friday, October 30 and 31, the meeting to begin the afternoon of the 30th, with probably an evening session that day, and end at noon on the 31st. It was suggested that we dispense with both banquet and luncheon.

It was proposed that a day be devoted to a field trip, possibly thru the Prosser Experiment Station or over an irrigation project, but decided the meeting would be too late in the year for such trips and it was thought perhaps a spring meeting could be held for that purpose.

Regarding the program, it was suggested, and the Secretary was instructed, to invite Arvin B. Shaw, Jr. as principal speaker for the meeting and as a representative from the California Association. It was also suggested and approved that a part of the program be devoted to legislative matters, the discussion to be in charge of a member of the Legislative Committee, and that we ask a member of the Sub-committee on Natural Resources of the Legislative Council of the state to take part in this discussion.

Subjects proposed for a round table discussion included: Crops, changing crop patterns; Irrigation, sprinkler irrigation; Fertilizers.

After a proposal that the Board meet again early in September to complete plans for the annual meeting, the meeting adjourned.