

STATE ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON IRRIGATION DISTRICTS

MINUTES - Directors Meeting, Spokane, Washington, Thursday, December 11, 1952:

Present - David C. Brooks, Paul Booker, J. Kennard Cheadle, H. deSchepper, R. W. Hendrick, Chris Larsen, A. D. MacKelvie, G. L. Sterling, J. A. Weber, Sterling Whitener, and Ted Newstrum.

Mr. Cheadle reported on the meetings of the Pacific Water Council and the National Reclamation Assn. at Long Beach, California, which he attended as one of the representatives of the Association.

He stated he believed the Pacific Water Council would develop into a very effective organization and he approved the formation of such an organization with the purpose of bringing the three Pacific Coast states together to discuss their mutual problems. He had introduced one resolution at this meeting with reference to "Conflicting reports on Food Requirements" which was unanimously passed and incorporated in N.R.A. Resolution No. 4 (see below).

His report on the N.R.A. meeting dealt primarily with the action of the Washington State Caucus in not approving the blanket endorsement requested of the report of its Water Policy Committee. An endorsement of this report had been requested without time for adequate study. In addition to a reluctance to make such an endorsement, some objections to the content of the report were: Statements regarding electric power, use of the Basin Account, loose wording regarding intangible benefits which are to be considered as non-reimbursable features of irrigation development, and the apparent confining of a statement of National water policy to the 17 western states. The Washington caucus voted 12 to 10 against approving the report.

Mr. Cheadle made a motion that the Secretary be instructed to write the President of the N.R.A. for the names of the committee members he was to appoint under Resolution No. 1 of that Association. The paragraph of the resolution referred to reads as follows: ". . . that the President of the National Reclamation Association shall appoint, with the approval of the Board of Directors, a committee composed of one member from each of the 17 reclamation states for the purpose of carrying into action the policy outlined in the report of the Water Policy Committee, in cooperation with the Legislative Committee and subject to the direction of the Board of Directors of the Association." Mr. Cheadle recommended that upon receipt of the name of the committee members, the Association follow the matter up with a request that they keep us informed of their progress. This motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Mr. Sterling moved that the Directors pass a resolution endorsing the position taken by our representatives at the N.R.A. meeting, which was seconded and unanimously carried.

Mr. deSchepper inquired if there should not be a definite amount set as a guaranty fund which is to be established upon the approval of an L.I.D. within an irrigation district. After discussion, in which it was brought out that the district becomes a guarantor upon the approval of an L.I.D. within its boundaries, it seemed to be the general opinion that such a statement of a definite amount was not necessary.

A suggestion had been received from Mr. Ross Morris that the Association print and distribute to landowners in irrigation districts a periodical similar to the Idaho Reclamation News or the California Western Water News. There was consideration of this subject and the idea was thought a good one. There was considerable discussion regarding costs, mailing, contents of such a periodical, and particularly the means of financing. It was suggested that perhaps the publication could be financed by the sale of advertising. As it was recommended that a committee be appointed to check into printing costs and the possibility of securing advertising, Mr. Brooks appointed Mr. Morris to check into these matters and report to the Directors at a later meeting.

On the subject of legislation for the 1953 session of the State Legislature, Mr. Brooks proposed that the Secretary should request from all districts ideas and suggestions on proposed legislation, and that the Directors meet with members of the Legislative Committee the second week in January to go over proposed bills.

After discussion of the subject of representation of the Association at Olympia during the session, it was decided the Association should hire someone to represent it and keep a check on legislation introduced for its affect on irrigation districts.

As several of the subjects discussed involved expenditures, the President decided to appoint a Budget Committee for the year 1953, which consists of: G. L. Sterling, Clifford Kail, and R. W. Hendrick.

In the matter of the N.R.A. Water Policy Report, it was agreed that copies of this report should be obtained and submitted to the districts for study and comment.

After some general discussion, the meeting adjourned.

(Pacific Water Council Resolution No. 2:

"WHEREAS, different agencies of government have on many occasions presented conflicting reports and figures on food production and future food requirements, and,

"WHEREAS, such conflicting reports can and have been used to the detriment of further reclamation development,

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the President of the National Reclamation Assn. appoint a committee to make an objective study of such conflicting reports and figures and report back to the next annual meeting.

"RESOLVED further, that representatives of federal agencies be excluded from such committee, such exclusion not to include representatives of Land Grant Colleges")