

STATE ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON IRRIGATION DISTRICTS

Minutes - Board of Directors meeting, Spokane, Wash., Saturday, June 27, 1953:

Present - Fred Beisner, Paul Booker, J. K. Cheadle, H. deSchepper, R. W. Hendrick, A. D. MacKelvie, G. L. Sterling and Ted Newstrum.

Chapter 216, Laws of 1953 - Notice of Board Meetings;

Some of the Directors still question whether this law cannot be interpreted as requiring notice of special meetings rather than all meetings. There were also questions regarding the type of notice, whether by "public" is meant the general public or could be interpreted as only landowners in an irrigation district, etc. Mr. Cheadle suggested that a simple form be mimeographed, with date and hour to be filled in, giving notice of meetings, which could be mailed to newspapers and radio stations.

A suggestion was made that this law be amended to exclude irrigation districts from its provisions, but a motion was made and carried that the matter be referred to the Legislative Committee for study and preparation of an amendment to clarify the law.

Amendment to Wage & Hour Act:

The Board discussed the amendment, now in Congress, to this law which would include canal company employees under the definition "agricultural" in the Wage & Hour Law. As this amendment has passed the House of Representatives, the Secretary was instructed to write Washington State Senators urging that they support the bill in the Senate.

Livestock Grazing Bill:

The latest information indicates that this bill would not pass the Congress, but a motion was made and carried that C. M. Zediker, who first called it to the attention of the Association, should be authorized to make use of the Association in any way necessary to oppose the passage of the bills.

Landowners Vote:

An opinion had been received from the Attorney General concluding that "The owner of a city lot within an irrigation district, otherwise qualified, may vote at district elections". After some further discussion of this matter, it was suggested that a bulletin be sent to all irrigation district Secretaries requesting that the problem be discussed with each district board and attorney and their comments and ideas be given the Association.

Reclamation Survey:

The suggestion made by F. O. Hagie to Wm. Welsh at St. Louis that the Ford Foundation be approached with the request that it furnish funds for an independent, objective survey by some institution or college of the needs for development of new farm lands was discussed. It was decided that copies of the correspondence with Welsh be sent to the Secretaries of the California and Oregon Pacific Water Council with the suggestion that the Pacific Water Council take up this suggestion independently of the N.R.A.

Washington State Grange Resolution:

The Board was informed that at the annual meeting of the Washington State Grange held in Wenatchee on June 12th, a resolution was passed "favoring legislation to exempt all irrigation districts of the state from the 1949 law requiring permission from the department of game and fisheries before work can be done on any stream used for irrigation". The Secretary had written the Grange asking who proposed this resolution, etc., but had received no reply as yet. Mr. Hendrick thought this may have been instituted by the Omak Grange since he had discussed this subject with them this past winter.

Directors Expenses:

The matter of the Association paying the expenses of Directors who attend Director meetings was brought up. It was thought it would be more fair if the Association could pay these expenses than that a few districts in the state should have to stand this additional expense, and there are some Directors who cannot secure reimbursement for their expenses in attending meetings. Action in the matter was postponed until the annual meeting.

Director, Division No. 6:

Mr. John C. Scott, the Director of Division No. 6, has suggested that he be replaced since he cannot attend meetings because of ill health. The Secretary was instructed to write Mr. Scott asking that he make suggestions regarding someone to take his place on the Board.

N.R.A. Annual Meeting:

A motion was made and carried that a letter be sent to the National Reclamation Association Directors inquiring whether the dates of the N.R.A. annual meeting - October 14, 15, 16 - were deliberately set to discourage attendance by water users. Mr. Cheadle agreed to prepare such a letter.

Association Annual Meeting:

Since the N.R.A. annual meeting is to be held so early in the fall, it was decided to hold a meeting of the Directors of the Association early in October to discuss matters in connection with that meeting, and the regular annual meeting of the Association to be held at some later date. Yakima was suggested as the place of meeting. Mr. Booker reported that Mr. Bertramson, of the Agronomy Advisory Board, had offered to assist in any way with the program of our meeting.

The meeting then adjourned.