

STATE ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON IRRIGATION DISTRICTS

Minutes - Board of Directors meeting, Wenatchee, Wash., March 27, 1953.

Present - Fred Beisner, R. W. Hendrick, G. L. Sterling, N. D. Thorp, C. W. Zediker and Ted Newstrum.

As David Brooks had indicated he should be replaced as President of the Association, Fred Beisner, Vice President, was appointed as President to succeed Mr. Brooks for the remainder of his term, and N. D. Thorp was appointed Vice President for the remainder of Mr. Beisner's term.

There was a review by the Board of the legislation presented to the recent session of the State Legislature of concern to irrigation districts. It was suggested that perhaps before the next session of the Legislature some arrangements could be made for cooperation with other associations and groups, such as the Grange, the Farm Bureau, the Soil Conservation Supervisors, etc. to pool resources and cooperate in checking on proposed legislation at future sessions. It was suggested that the Presidents and Secretaries of the various groups could form a committee for this purpose.

A motion was made and carried that the Secretary write letters to Senator Ivy and others who had been of assistance during the session thanking them for their help and cooperation.

In discussing the problem of the vote in district elections by owners of small tracts of land, Mr. Beisner referred to a report made by a committee of landowners on the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District which had investigated this problem. This committee submitted in its report four plans of action for consideration by the Board of the Yakima-Tieton: 1. Ask for an opinion from the State Attorney General regarding the restriction of voting by lot owners. 2. Consider changing the method of voting, and vote according to acreage. 3. Start a court action to clarify the intent of the law. 4. Ask for legislation to amend the law.

It was the decision of the Board that as a step toward the solution of this problem the Association should ask the Department of Conservation & Development to request an opinion from the Attorney General regarding the possibility of restricting the vote of owners of small tracts in district elections which involve district policy or finances.

It was suggested by Mr. Sterling that the most simple solution to this problem would be the exclusion of such lands from district boundaries, with agreements entered into between the landowners and the various districts concerned to cover the delivery of water to such lands.

A letter from B. R. Bertramson, Chairman of the Department of Agronomy, State College, Pullman, asking that the Association appoint a four-year man to serve with the Association's President on the Agronomy Advisory Board was read. The Secretary was instructed to contact Paul Booker to see if he would accept this assignment.

The Board next discussed the "First Progress Report of the Land and Water Policy Committee of the National Water Conservation Conference" held in St. Louis on February 12, 1953. This report was read, paragraph by paragraph, and each paragraph discussed and approved with the following comments:

Paragraph 3: The intent of this recommendation was entirely approved, but the means for carrying it out are indefinite. If it is the intent that a group or board should be formed for the purpose of carrying out these recommendations, we believe such group or board should be composed of individuals experienced in the utilization of water resources.

Paragraph 7: It is suggested that the wording of this paragraph be confined to the following: "Priorities for the use of water shall be determined by the laws of the state or states affected". As it stands, the paragraph seems to make a statement and then qualify it.

Paragraph 13: Clarify the meaning of the second paragraph, which begins: "the subsidy of reclamation features" etc. Our Board members could not agree on the meaning of this paragraph.

Paragraph 15: Just what are the provisions of Section 1 of the 1944 Flood Control Act? No one present at the meeting was informed regarding this.

There was considerable discussion of the items in the report dealing with private-public power. While there was complete agreement with the statements made in the report, a resolution was passed at the close of the discussion that the Association should make it emphatically clear that it will not engage in any controversy on this subject.

With the above perhaps minor exceptions the Board enthusiastically approved the report. It was stated and seemed to be the unanimous opinion of the Board that this report far exceeds that of the N.R.A. Water Policy Committee and should supercede the report of that committee.

A motion was made and carried that the approval and comments of the Board on this report should be transmitted to Mr. Cheadle with the request that he prepare a draft of a letter to Mr. Galbraith, to be signed by Fred Beisner as President of the Association, giving the Association's reaction to the report as requested by Mr. Galbraith.

It was suggested that a letter be sent to Mr. Floyd Hagie stating that the Association has reviewed the report and that with a few minor suggestions it is felt a wonderful job had been done.

The meeting of the Columbia River Resources Committee in Portland on June 1st was discussed and it was moved and carried that the Association request that a place be made on the program for Ken Cheadle as representing the Association and that his expenses for attending the meeting be paid by the Association.

After some general discussion, the meeting adjourned.