

STATE ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON IRRIGATION DISTRICTS

MINUTES - Board of Directors and Legislative Committee meeting, Friday, December 10, 1954, at Ephrata, Wash.

Present - A. D. MacKelvie, Fred Beisner, David P. Brown, H. deSchepper, R. W. Hendrick, Chris Larsen, Wm. L. McAnlis, Keith McDaniels, G. L. Sterling, C. M. Zediker, Directors and Committee members, and Paul Lemargie, Robert S. O'Brien, Mrs. Margaret Harris and Ted Newstrum.

Drafts of three bills prepared for introduction in the State Legislature were reviewed and approved with the following changes:

- (1) Posting or Publishing Delinquent Lists - approved without change.
- (2) Voting in Irrigation District Elections - approved with addition of definition of residence or business lots "not used for agricultural or horticultural purposes"; with addition under director qualifications of wording "or more than fifty percent of the owners in the district subject to assessment have individual ownerships of less than five acres"; and with deletion from Sections 2 to 6 inclusive of provisions for more than one vote per landowner.
- (3) Sales of Land for Delinquent I.D. Assessments - approved with addition of wording "purchase price" in paragraph 2 of Section 1.

A letter from Mrs. Gertrude Rivers, member of the Treasurers Assn. Legislative Committee, regarding proposed change in delinquent dates and interest rates on assessments was read to the Board. A motion was made and carried that the Association oppose such change insofar as irrigation district assessments are concerned.

A letter from Charles Powell regarding the authorization of the platting of property without the payment of irrigation district assessments was read to the Board. Mr. Powell proposed an amendment to the law which would require the payment of anticipated irrigation assessments as well as anticipated taxes. As Mr. Powell had not drafted such an amendment a motion was made and carried that the matter be tabled for further study.

Drafts of two proposed amendments had been received the morning of December 10th from Mr. Stephen Chaffee. These drafts were discussed individually, with the following results: "Limitations on Acts for Injuries" - There was disagreement with Mr. Chaffee's time limit of 30 days as a requirement for filing claims because of the possibility, depending on the type of claim, that damage might not be evident for a considerably longer time. The Board considered altering this requirement to cover intention to file claim, but this was thought too indefinite. The Board objected to the wording "defect that caused the injury". It was suggested such an amendment might infer that districts were liable for all kinds of claims. Motion was made and carried that this draft be referred back to Mr. Chaffee for further study.

"Easements or rights of way for Public Use" etc. - The objection to this draft was that it would grant to irrigation districts the same condemnation powers as has the Government, which the legislature might not consider favorably and which other political subdivisions of the state do not have and would want if granted to irrigation districts. It was suggested that other groups are interested in the subject of drainage laws and these should be consulted as the problem is too vast to be solved without careful study. A motion was therefore made and carried that this draft also be referred back to Mr. Chaffee for further study.

A suggested amendment, submitted by Homer T. Manley of Spokane for consideration by the Board and Legislative Committee, to require reasonable costs to be paid by the redemptioner on lands sold to the districts, was discussed. It was decided that this proposed amendment was too limited in application, that such costs are a regular

accepted operation and maintenance charge. For these reasons it was moved and carried that the Association do not introduce this proposed amendment.

There was discussion regarding replacing Paul Booker as Director at Large, which term expires in 1955. It was suggested that as the Quincy-Columbia Basin I.D. is not represented on our Board of Directors someone from that district might be selected to serve. There were three suggestions: Earl Gregory, Elmer Gerkin, and Robert Billingsley. As there was to be a joint meeting of the Boards of the three Columbia Basin districts within a short time, it was moved and carried that Chris Larsen and Wm. Manlis talk with these people at that meeting.

Plans for the distribution of the three drafts of proposed amendments were discussed. The Secretary was instructed to mail to all members of the legislature copies of these bills together with a short explanation of each. It was suggested that perhaps the Dept. of Conservation & Development might introduce the bills on delinquent lists and sales of delinquent property at Department request. It was suggested that Roy Mundy might introduce the bills in the House and perhaps Eugene Ivy or W. C. Raugust in the Senate. It was suggested that copies be sent to the members of the Treasurers Association Legislative Committee and the Columbia Basin Commission.

Mention was made of the problem and difficulties created by the taking of irrigated lands for rights-of-way by the State Highway Department.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Ted Newstrum, Secretary