

STATE ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON IRRIGATION DISTRICTS

Minutes - Board of Directors and Legislative Committee meeting, Friday, December 14, 1956, at Moses Lake, Washington.

Present - David P. Brown, H. E. Alexander, Wm. McAnlis, Keith McDaniels, Kermit Rudolf, C. M. Zediker, Directors; Paul Lemargie and A. D. MacKelvie, Legislative Committee; Ted Newstrum, Secretary, and Rep. Roy Mundy and Senator Nat Washington. Paul
Mundy

The meeting was held in the P.U.D. auditorium for the purpose of discussing and approving legislation to be sponsored by the Association during the 1957 session of the State Legislature.

First discussed was a proposal to amend Sec. 87.36.050 RCW to permit special assessments for the purpose of covering O&M expenditures for L.I.D.s within irrigation districts. Upon motion the draft of this amendment was approved and the Association agreed to sponsor such a bill.

Mr. Lemargie then discussed in detail draft of a bill to "authorize drainage improvement districts, joint drainage improvement districts, and consolidated drainage improvement districts to merge with irrigation districts." This would permit a number of now-existing drainage improvement districts to combine and merge with an irrigation district upon petition to do so to the Board of County Commissioners and after certain proceedings are carried out. Upon motion this draft was unanimously approved (subject to further revision by Mr. Lemargie) and the Association agreed to sponsor such a bill.

There was then discussion regarding a proposal to introduce an amendment to Sec. 51.16.140 RCW to provide an alternative for employers to deduct the medical aid premium from employees' wages or to pay the entire amount. There was doubt that such an amendment would be approved by the legislature but after considerable discussion and a recommendation by Senator Washington that no harm would be done by trying, it was moved and unanimously approved that draft of an amendment to the above section be prepared to change the word in the present law from "shall" to "may", and the Association agreed to sponsor such a bill.

Mr. Rudolf then discussed a proposed amendment to Sect. 87.01.060, 87.01.061 and adding new sections to Chapt. 87.01, which would permit the State Department of Highways to make payments for O&M costs to irrigation districts on lands taken from those districts for highway rights-of-way purposes, and to pay a pro-rata share of bonded indebtedness or indebtedness by the government for construction against such lands. Mr. Rudolf had met with highway department officials and representatives from the Attorney General's office at various times since the previous session to discuss this proposal. Altho there was not much enthusiasm shown, Mr. Rudolf understood the highway department would not oppose such a bill as they had stated such legislation was necessary to enable them to make payments. However, at his most recent meeting their attitude had changed somewhat and Mr. Rudolf was not optimistic about their cooperation. However, it was moved and unanimously approved that the Association have such a bill introduced and Mr. Rudolf's draft was approved.

There was then a general discussion with Senator Washington and Representative Mundy regarding the tactics to be employed by the Association in presenting these bills to the legislature. It was agreed that Mr. Mundy should introduce them in the House. During the 1953 session our bills had been introduced in both House and Senate; to which there seemed no particular advantage. The Secretary was introduced to mail out to all members of the Legislature copies of the bills, together with short explanations of each sufficiently in advance so they could be studied before the legislature convened.

After some general discussion, there being no further business, the meeting adjourned.