

STATE ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON IRRIGATION DISTRICTS

Minutes -- Board of Directors and Legislative Committee meeting, Thursday, April 18, 1957, at Wenatchee, Washington.

Present - David P. Brown, H. E. Alexander, R. W. Hendrick, Clifford Kail, Chris Larsen, Paul Lemargie, A. D. MacKelvie, Wm. L. McAnlis, Keith McDaniels, G. L. Sterling, Claude Zediker and Ted Newstrum.

The minutes of the Board and Committee meeting held in Moses Lake on December 14, 1956, were read and approved as read.

There was discussion of the taking of irrigated lands for highway purposes. After the 1957 session of the state legislature it was thought there was little chance of the districts obtaining any consideration of their problems in this connection, but we had been informed that the subject was on the agenda for a subcommittee of the interim committee of the legislature and it is hoped there will be a renewal of consideration of this problem by the legislature.

During this discussion it was brought out that another facet to the problem is the provision of adequate drainage for lands above proposed highways and suggested that this angle be brought into any discussion with an interim committee.

It was then suggested that a committee of the Association be appointed to analyze the problem in its entirety and cover the ground to be discussed at any hearing of the interim committee to which we might be invited. The President thereupon appointed the following: Kermit M. Rudolf, H. E. Alexander, Wm. L. McAnlis with Paul Lemargie as advisor.

There was then discussion of irrigation district election laws and of Senator Hallauer's attempt to amend the present statute. He has been invited to attend this meeting to discuss with the Board and Committee members his objections to the present law, but had been unable to attend. However, Mr. Hendricks reported the Senator had stated he did not want to propose anything to the legislature that was not agreed to by our group and that the subject would be discussed with us before any further attempts are made to amend the law.

Apparently the amendment proposed by the Association and passed by the 1955 state legislature to restrict the vote of city lot owners has not proved entirely satisfactory and it seems the subject will again be re-opened for further changes. A letter from Kermit Rudolf, who was unable to attend this meeting, was read in which he stated he felt the existing laws should be further amended.

Mr. Kail also stated that while the method provided in the last amendment for limiting voting by small landowners had been voted into use by the Yakima-Tieton I.D., there was still not entire satisfactory with the procedure and some angles of the problem created by the expansion of towns and cities still exists

There was then a review of a number of bills which had been introduced in the 1957 session of the state legislature which would either affect the operation of irrigation districts if passed of which would be of interest to the districts. Several of these bills either directly provided for collective bargaining by employees or were aimed in that direction. Altho no labor bills having direct effect on the districts had been passed, the number introduced on this subject indicated continued pressure by labor on the legislature for legislation of this nature.

Mr. Sterling informed the Board of a meeting to be held in Pendleton, Oregon, on April 25th to discuss Basin Account legislation. Mr. Brown reported on a similar meeting which had been held at Idaho Falls in February.

The Board was informed of the opinion by the Attorney General that "public funds" could not legally be used to pay expenses incurred while lobbying for either state

or national legislation.

The Secretary reported that statements for dues for the year 1957 based on the same scale as in former years had been mailed to the districts. The Board agreed that it was advisable no change in the rates charged be made at this time.

After some general discussion the meeting adjourned.

Ted Newstrum, Secretary