

STATE ASSOCIATION  
OF  
WASHINGTON IRRIGATION DISTRICTS

JOINT MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS STATE ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON  
IRRIGATION DISTRICTS AND IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, MANAGERS AND  
SECRETARIES.

August 20, 1958  
Chinook Hotel  
Yakima, Washington

ATTENDANCE:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Clifford Kail	Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District
Lloyd G. Berry	Icicle Irrigation District
Wm. L. McAnlis	East Columbia Basin Irrigation Dist.
Melvin Stepon	West Columbia Basin Irrigation Dist.
H. de Schepper	Franklin County Irrigation Dist.
F. B. Mason	Columbia Irrigation District
Doyl O. Mowery	Columbia Irrigation District
Judd Cecil	Granger Irrigation District
J. H. Sexson	Oroville-Tonasket Irrigation Dist.
A. L. Gjerde	Oroville-Tonasket Irrigation Dist.
Otto Halverson	Yakima Reservation Irrigation Dist.
Mark Taylor, Jr.	Wapato Irrigation Project
Lilly Dellere	Sunnyside Irrigation Dist.
G. L. Sterling	Kittitas Reclamation Dist.
D. M. Storlie	Brewster Flat Irrigation Dist.
C. O. Matson	Naches-Selah Irrigation Dist.
A. D. MacKelvie	Sunnyside Valley Irrigation Dist.
C. A. Tissell	Naches-Selah Irrigation Dist.
Lester E. Zirkle	Naches-Selah Irrigation Dist.
Dave Brown	Okanogan Irrigation District
R. W. Hendrick	Okanogan Irrigation District
Van E. Nutley	Kennewick Irrigation District
Leonard F. Burrage	Cascade Irrigation District
A. J. Seibel	Cascade Irrigation District
M. J. Crawford	Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District
Keith J. McDaniels	Sunnyside Valley Irrigation Dist.
C. C. Houghton	Roza Irrigation District

The meeting was called to order by Keith J. McDaniels, President of the State Association of Washington Irrigation Districts at 1:15 p.m. He explained that the calling of this meeting had been prompted as a result of a prior meeting held the previous Sunday, August 17, 1958 in the Chinook Hotel with Representative Robert Timm of Harrington, Washington and several Irrigation

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District representatives. At this prior meeting Mr. Timm, who is Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Agriculture for the Legislature, explained he had been assigned by the Legislative Council to look into the matter of a proposal made by Representative Mike McCormack to consider placing Irrigation Districts under the authority of the Public Service Commission.

In order to contact the various Irrigation Districts in the short time available, telegrams and telephone calls were made to thirty-three Irrigation Districts. The response was very good with twenty-seven people being in attendance representing nineteen different Irrigation Districts. One telegram and three long distance telephone calls were received from others who could not attend but who said they wanted to go on record as opposing any placing of Irrigation Districts under the control of the Public Service Commission. They were: J. W. Custer, Vera Irrigation District; Ralph Overbay, Lake Chelan Reclamation District; Kermit Rudolf of Spokane; and Paul Lemargie of Ephrata.

Due to the fact that this whole matter of proposing control of Irrigation Districts seemed to stem from several drownings in the Columbia Irrigation District Canal at Kennewick, Washington, President McDaniels called on F. B. Mason, Manager of the Columbia Irrigation District to give his views on the subject.

Mason told of a drowning which occurred last May 8 in the Columbia Irrigation District Canal where it goes thru the City Park. It appears that as a result of this Mrs. Biggs had written a great many people trying to get ditches fenced thru cities and inhabited areas on a statewide basis. Mason explained their District was opposed to the fencing because it would bankrupt them if they had to pay for it. He felt that an L. I. D. under the City was the only answer for financing a fencing program of this kind.

Nutley quoted from Mike McCormack's letter in which the latter requested the Public Service Commission to conduct an investigation into the matter of operating Irrigation Districts. This would involve all operations of Irrigation Districts.

MacKelvie said the feeling Representative Timm had was that McCormack would introduce a bill on this very matter.

McAnlis advised against talking this up because he felt the publicity would not do us any good.

Kail reported having attended a meeting with the Red Cross and several safety organizations regarding drowning prevention. A committee of about seven was appointed there. He felt we should know that a bill was being prepared by Representative Petrie of Yakima to present at the next Legislature. Recommendations were made at that meeting to post warning signs pointing out the immediate danger such as undercurrents, etc.

deSchepper moved we go on record that all Irrigation Districts present write Representative Timm and local Legislators opposing this legislation and set out in that letter the reasons for opposing it. MacKelvie seconded the motion and it carried.

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Nutley and McDaniels both urged everyone present to join the State Association.

deSchepper moved that the Legislative Committee be instructed to present to this organization a positive bill along this line in regard to proposed legislation to place Irrigation Districts under control of the Public Service Commission. McAnlis seconded the motion and it was duly carried.

Hendrick asked what our next move was regarding water policy and Gale Sterling said we should voice the oppositions of Irrigation Districts.

Burrage felt non-member Districts and Ditch Companies should be kept informed.

Sterling mentioned another problem was that of highways and the way rights-of-way were taking so much land out of irrigation.

Hendrick explained the problem of Irrigation Districts running into financial difficulties because of taking so much land out of irrigation and making no provisions for assessments to continue.

deSchepper said he is a member of Interim Committee and that this matter is still in the process of being studied. He had a promise that at the next Interim Committee meeting they will have a report ready.

Burrage said verbal advice from State Attorney General's Office was that they continue to assess on same descriptions as before the highway bought the right-of-way. If they did otherwise the bond holders could come back on the directors and say they were not collecting assessments on the same land which was put up for security when the bonds were issued.

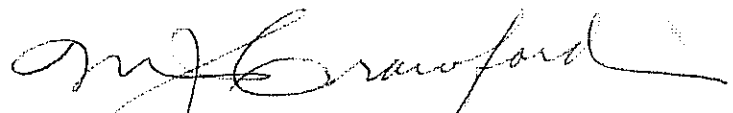
McDaniels announced legislation must be in the hands of the State Association by September 1st.

Mowery informed the group that approximately one-third of the Columbia Irrigation District had been taken out of cultivation by the Federal Government and so far the District has been unable to get any payment from the Government.

McAnlis said to be sure the owners are made aware that the debt of the Irrigation District is taken care of when land is sold by condemnation.

A letter was read bearing date of August 7, 1958 from Lew Holcomb, Secretary, Interagency Water Quality Basic Data Committee regarding a study of water quality. Sterling moved the President appoint a representative from the Association to attend their next meeting and report back to this organization. Seconded by deSchepper and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

  
M. J. Crawford, Secretary

Note: David P. Brown was appointed by President McDaniels on September 2, 1958 as the State Association representative to the Interagency Water Quality Basic Data Committee.