

STATE ASSOCIATION  
OF  
WASHINGTON IRRIGATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of Board of Director's meeting held in the Chinook Hotel, Yakima, Washington on January 15, 1958 at 10:00 a.m.

Purpose of the meeting was to discuss the new water policy as proposed by the State of Washington and the effects it might have on irrigation districts.

Due to the fact that Ted Newstrum had resigned as Secretary of the State Association of Washington Irrigation Districts a matter of business had to be attended to by appointing someone to take his place.

Motion was made by H. E. Alexander that Malcolm J. Crawford be appointed regular Secretary-Treasurer of the State Association of Washington Irrigation Districts. The motion was seconded by Clifford Kail and carried.

Gale Sterling reported a balance of \$2,683.18 in the Association funds and moved the balance in full be turned over to Crawford as the new Secretary-Treasurer. Motion was seconded by Van Nutley and carried.

Dick Hendrick moved the Secretary send a letter of thanks to Ted Newstrum for his services during the past years. Motion carried following a second by H. E. Alexander.

MacKelvie moved the regular monthly salary of Crawford as Secretary-Treasurer be set at \$75.00 per month with authority to hire such secretarial help as reasonably required for the job and that his expenses for official travel on State Association business be paid by the Association. Motion seconded by Clifford Kail and carried.

Annual dues came up for consideration and upon the motion of H. E. Alexander, seconded by MacKelvie and duly carried it was decided that the annual dues for member irrigation districts in 1958 would be on the same basis as the previous year. One dissenting vote was cast by Van Nutley.

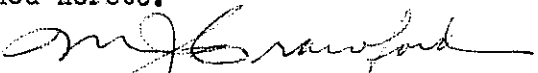
Clifford Kail asked Paul LeMargie if the status of the Indian Reservation could be determined because there was a question as to whether the Reservation land would be under State laws or Federal laws.

Discussed the possibility of bringing in other Irrigation Districts such as Roza and South Columbia Basin. It was suggested meeting with some of these non-members.

LeMargie asked to consider lobbying business. He pointed out that if Irrigation Districts cannot pay for doing any lobbying it is a good talking point to be active in State Association of Washington Irrigation Districts.

At 11:00 a.m. Cecil Clark, President of the Washington State Reclamation Association came in as previously arranged, to discuss the proposed State water policy. This subject was discussed at considerable length to get the thinking of our group before taking the matter up again after lunch with representatives of Washington State Reclamation Association.

Meeting adjourned at noon. A complete record of the minutes of the combined group was prepared by Lew Garbutt and is attached hereto.

  
M. J. CRAWFORD, Secretary

JOINT MEETING  
 REPRESENTATIVES OF  
 ASSOCIATION OF IRRIGATION DISTRICTS AND WASHINGTON STATE RECLAMATION ASSOCIATION  
 January 15, 1958  
 Chinook Hotel  
 Yakima, Washington

ATTENDANCE:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>DISTRICT</u>
H. E. Alexander	Granger	Sunnyside Valley Irr. District
H. Calvert Anderson	Spokane	Columbia Compact Commission
Eloyd G. Barry	Cashmere	
Dave Besuen	Okanogan	Okanogan Irrigation District
Cecil C. Clark	Rd. 2, Wapato	President W. R. A.
H. J. Crawford	Rt. 6, Yakima	Sec. Yakima-Tieton Irr. District
Lew Garbutt	Yakima	Yakima Chamber of Commerce
Richard W. Hendrick	Omak	Okanogan
C. Kail	Yakima	
O. W. Lindgren	Yakima	Bureau of Reclamation
Paul Lemargie	1530 C. St. S. W.	Department of Interior
	Ephrata	
C. R. Lentz	Yakima	Bureau of Reclamation
D. B. Leonard	P. O. Box 1288	Pacific Power & Light
A. D. MacKelvie	Zillah	SVIC - Director Board Legislature
L. W. Markham	Spokane	Chamber of Commerce
Art Mayer	Spokane	Washington Water Power Co.
Keith J. McDaniels	Sunnyside	Sunnyside Valley Irr. District
Ross Morris	Zillah	Roza Irrigation District
Ernest Myers	Outlook	Sunnyside Valley Irr. District
Van E. Nutley	Box 615, Kennewick	Kennewick Irrigation District
Charles Powell	Box 125, Kennewick	Kennewick Irrigation District
John A. Richardson	Olympia	Department of Conservation
G. L. Sterling	Ellensburg	Kititas Reclamation District
Robert J. Willis	Yakima	

Cecil Clark president of the Washington State Reclamation Association opened this joint session by inviting the group to name a chairman and secretary for this meeting. Nominations for chairman were called for and Dick Hendrick was nominated. It was moved that nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot cast for Dick Hendrick. This was done. Mr. Clark then called for nominations for secretary. Lew Garbutt was nominated. It was moved that nominations be closed on a unanimous ballot cast. This was done.

Mr. Hendricks assumed the chairmanship and advised those present that this joint meeting of the Association of Irrigation Districts and the Washington State Reclamation Association had been requested by Cecil Clark for the purpose of discussing a legislative proposal concerning water resource problems of the state which is under consideration by the Legislative Council through its subcommittee on natural resources. Because of the length of the report to be examined by this group, Mr. Hendricks laid down a few ground rules for conducting this meeting which would serve to expedite the discussion. He then called upon Paul Lemargie to provide background information concerning the development of the legislative proposal to be examined. There followed some discussion of the subject in general at which point Mr. O. W. Lindgren superintendent for this district for the Bureau of Reclamation reported on correspondence which he had prepared and forwarded to Mr. Robert Bernethy who is chairman of the subcommittee on natural resources. The context of Mr. Lindgren's letter is as follows: "The following comments are made on the 'Legislative proposals under consideration re: water resource problems of the State'. This is a joint report by the Superintendent of the Yakima Project, O. W. Lindgren, and myself, in answer to your letter of December 3, 1957.

First, we wish to point out that the Yakima Project, Bureau of Reclamation, has the rather unique distinction of being the operating agency which has over all control of the storage water and the regulation of water deliveries in the Yakima watershed and its lower valley irrigated area. It has been vested with that responsibility through state permits for the development of storage reservoirs and irrigation facilities serving nearly 500,000 acres of land. The administration of water rights includes: those rights which were established by limiting agreements in 1905 when the United States first filed for the waters of the Yakima River and its tributaries. Subsequent permits have been issued to the United States as the project progressed. Those permits were all issued by the State upon satisfactory showing of progress in putting the water to beneficial use. Such use has been for irrigation purposes with incidental power development.

The total investment in such facilities, by the Bureau of Reclamation, is approximately \$60,000,000. To that must be added about another \$40,000,000 in irrigation works built by the Indian Service, municipal irrigation districts and private individuals. The storage facilities, which provide the largest part of the water, cost approximately \$10,000,000. In addition to the construction costs, the irrigation farmers are paying about \$90,000 annually for operation and maintenance of the Storage Division. All of these payments have been made by the irrigation water users with no costs having ever been charged off for any other purpose. Ownership of water has thus become appurtenant to the land.

We point out this financial, structural and administrative set up to direct attention to the fact that inasmuch as the Yakima Valley irrigation water users pay for all of the facilities constructed, as well as the operation and maintenance of them, they are very apprehensive of any legislation which might wrest control from them.

With regerence to Paragraph 1e, "Flood control and reclamation", which has to do with defining two basically different purposes, we wish to point out that it will be difficult, on the Yakima Project, to establish operating policies and procedures which will accomplish both objectives, in a positive and predetermined manner. That can only be done by constructing supplemental storage reservoirs whereby definite amounts of storage space can be allocated for specific purposes. All existing dams on the Yakima watershed are only for storage of irrigation water.

Regarding the "Appeals Board" we find considerable concern expressed over the possibilities of getting a board which has no knowledge of the rather unusual and special administrative problems existing in the Yakima Valley. The language, "each representing, but not necessarily confined to be the following uses or users of water" plainly makes it possible to have no representative from the Yakima Valley on the board. Should the board be dominated by persons who do not understand the Yakima situation, serious conflicts could arise.

Improvement is desirable in the collection of hydrologic data, with close coordination between the several state and federal agencies engaged in this work deemed worthy of consideration. Also, records and management of both surface and groundwater usage on Federal Indian lands within the State should be considered in the proposed legislation.

We concur in the fundamental belief that water resources shall be directed to make the maximum contribution to the public benefit, and require a regulating body with authority to control water users; however when an allocation has been made to some basic industry, such as irrigation farming, which is the life blood of the Yakima Valley, that must be recognized as a prior right which cannot be amended by an Appeals Board.

Representative Cecil Clark has advised us of a meeting of water users which is to be held in Yakima on January 15, 1958, to discuss this subject. We are pleased that such a conference is being called as it will give an opportunity to discuss proposed legislative proposals in greater detail.

We thank you for the opportunity of reviewing this water resource legislation."

In anticipation of eventual action as result of today's examination of the proposal, it was moved by Gale Sterling seconded by Keith McDaniels that the chairman immediately appoint a committee of five members of this group to be prepared to re-work this legislative proposal and to represent the Association of Irrigation Districts and the Washington State Reclamation Association before the Legislative Council sub-committee to express the viewpoints determined today. The motion carried. Chairman Hendricks called for nominations and the following nominations were offered: Cecil Clark Chairman, Keith McDaniels, Paul Lamargie, Charles Powell and Gale Sterling. At this point Mr. Markham moved that nominations be closed and that the unanimous ballot be cast for the five men nominated. Motion carried.

It was generally agreed that the best analysis of the proposal would be made if it were read word for word and all present invited to offer their comments concerning any portion of the proposal as it was being read.

In Paragraph 1 and on motion by Mr. McDaniels second Mr. Sterling it was unanimously agreed that reference to the establishment of an Appeals Board should be removed from the proposal altogether.

~~Item~~ 1A (Completely re-work)

~~Item~~ 1B (To be coordinated with existing agencies)

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- Item 1C (needs clarification)
- Item 1D (out of our jurisdiction)
- Item 1E (recommended that this be re-worked with a question raised as to the application of this paragraph to existing facilities)
- Item 1F (protect legislative responsibilities)
- Item 1G (delete)
- Item 1H (seemed to be O.K.)
- Paragraph 2A (socialistic)
- Paragraph 2B (no comment noted)
- Paragraph 3 (seems to indicate a desire to substitute regulation for statute. Complete opposition to this paragraph)
- Paragraph 4 (must be clarified)
- Paragraph 5 (sufficient to notify the state thus permitting intervention)
- Paragraph 6 (suggest we take a long look at this one)
- Paragraph 7 All of the items listed under paragraph 7 are definitions of the terms to be used in the proposed legislation.
- Paragraph 7A (concerns beneficial use suggested that Mr. Powell and Mr. Lemargie and Mr. Anderson will provide suggested definitions of this term)
- Paragraph 7C (needs to be re-worked)
- Paragraph 7D (irrigation districts should be itemized)
- Paragraph 8 (re-work)
- Paragraph 9 (get some kind of report from the department people explaining the reason for the inclusion of this paragraph)
- Paragraphs 10 and 11 (should be examined carefully)

On motion by Mr. Nutley second Mr. Alexander it was unanimously agreed that the 5-man committee convey the thinking of this group to the Legislative Council's subcommittee and urge that final drafting of this bill be delayed beyond the next session of the state legislature to permit a more thorough study of this subject.

MEETING ADJOURNED 3:45 P.M.

Immediately following the adjournment of the joint session the chairman of the special committee, Cecil Clark, met with his committee and it was agreed that he would make contact immediately with Mr. Bernethy requesting an opportunity to meet with him within the next ten or twelve days to express the viewpoints outlined above. It was agreed that all members of the committee would be advised of the date, time, and meeting place with Mr. Bernethy so that all could make arrange to be in attendance.