

STATE ASSOCIATION
OF
WASHINGTON IRRIGATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of Board of Directors' meeting held in the office of Kittitas Reclamation District, Ellensburg, Washington on May 8, 1958 at the hour of 10:30 a.m.

Purpose of the meeting was to discuss various problems relative to irrigation districts as well as ways and means of best accomplishing the objectives of the Association.

Attendance included the following: Keith McDaniels, R. W. Hendrick, Lloyd Berry, M. J. Crawford, G. L. Sterling, David P. Brown, Chris Larsen, Van E. Nutley, Clifford Kail, H. E. Alexander, A. D. MacKelvie, Bill McAnlis, Paul LeMargie, and Charles L. Powell.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by President Keith McDaniels followed by Secretary M. J. Crawford reading the minutes of the previous board meeting held January 15, 1958. There being no corrections or amendments it was declared by President McDaniels that the minutes would stand approved as read.

A discussion centered around the status of the Indian Reservation. Powell felt their laws were entirely separate from the laws governing irrigation districts. Sterling said that even tho such an organization might not be able to become a member of the associatilm we should still keep them informed as to what we are doing.

Powell gave a brief report on the hearing held in Olympia, March 7, 1958 regarding State Water Policy. He pointed out that many other interests besides irrigation districts are concerned as to whether or not a revised state water policy would be harmful to them.

LeMargie said he had talked to John Richardson who said Murray Walker was discouraged with the progress being made on the proposed State Water Policy which he is pushing and this, of course is encouraging to us.

Powell said Murray Walker had been talking to University of Washington law school regarding this matter. To keep on top of this matter of water policy Powell said another approach we should consider is that of keeping contact with Virg Cunningham in Joe Dwyer's office in the State Department of Agriculture.

Sterling suggested publicizing the situation and acquainting our membership with this State Water Policy.

Nutley suggested these releases also be sent to other irrigation districts even tho they may not be members of our association now.

The subject of an attempt to enter into the control of irrigation district operation and maintenance work by the State Pollution Control Commission was introduced by Crawford reading a letter dated April 23, 1958 addressed to the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District which has also been

received by several other irrigation districts. Referring to the use of aromatic solvent this letter requests "The Eastern District Office of the Pollution Control Commission located at 919 Summitview Ave., Yakima should be notified far enough in advance of each application of these weed-killing chemicals to enable the staff of the Commission to make any necessary inspections to safeguard receiving natural watercourses."

LeMargie felt someone should look at pollution laws and determine how much the Pollution Control Commission can back up its request.

Powell offered to make a brief of the pollution control laws and send copies to the Association President and Secretary for possible further distribution to our Board and Association Members.

Powell suggested the Secretary might arrange with the State Legislators to be put on mailing list of all bills coming up.

Alexander reported on the meeting regarding State Highway Rights-of-Way which was also held in Olympia on March 7, 1958. He said they recognized the damage to irrigation districts and felt the matter could be worked out thru right-of-way.

Crawford read a copy of a letter addressed to Kermit Rudolf telling of an Interim Highway Committee meeting scheduled for May 15, 1958 in Othello. This letter was from Representative Roy Mundy and he recommended that some key men from our Association attend because the committee will consider at that time the matter of Highway Department taking lands within an irrigation district for highway purposes.

Alexander stated he had understood this meeting of the Highway Committee was to be held in Pasco so a telephone call was made to Representative Roy Mundy who verified the meeting in Pasco but stated it was being held at noon there while the Othello meeting was at 5:30 p.m.

It was suggested by LeMargie that we ask Olaf Lindgren regarding what agreement has been reached with the State of Idaho to pay construction charges for land taken out of irrigation for highway purposes.

Another suggestion was to contact such organizations as the Oregon Irrigation Congress and the California Irrigation Districts Association to outline our problems and ask if they have any similar ones.

McAnlis, Larson and Sterling said they could attend the meeting in Othello while McDaniels and Alexander said they could be at the Pasco meeting on May 15. Hendrick said another meeting would be held in Okanogan at a different date which he and Brown would attend. All other Board Members who could attend any of these meetings were urged to do so.

LeMargie reported on the \$105,600 judgment awarded widow of Reikofski who was killed in the Kennewick Irrigation District. The whole subject of liabilities of Irrigation Districts and the Bureau of Reclamation for accidents occurring on projects was thoroughly discussed.

McAnlis aired the matter of irrigation districts doing their own assessing and making collections that they might also be given the right to issue delinquent deeds. The general opinion of the group appeared to be that they preferred to continue on the present basis where the County Treasurer handles the collection of delinquent accounts and issues Treasurer's Deeds when necessary.

Nutley suggested we watch for any legislation regarding County Treasurers charging a high rate for handling irrigation district accounts.

LeMargie asked Hendrick if voting rights were still a problem in Okanogan. It appears that Senator Webb Hallauer has some legislation in mind regarding this subject.

Sterling moved the Board Members from Okanogan find out what Senator Hallauer has in mind regarding voting and report back to the Association. Motion was seconded by Powell and carried.

Hendrick recommended keeping watch on the Cowlitz Dam initiative that is being circulated. It is tacked on the bottom authority to the fisheries and defines areas.

Nutley said we should watch out for any adverse labor legislation.

Among those suggested for contacts to obtain advance information on legislative bills were Senator Ivy and Representatives Roy Mundy and Cecil Clark.

The question was raised as to the responsibility of the State to pay assessments currently. Kail explained that legislation was passed a few years back which permitted the State to do this but didn't order them to do it so the State has just been continuing on the old basis of paying every two years.

Sterling suggested using these problems as tinder to unite or bring other districts into action and ask for their opinions.

Sterling and Powell both moved the members of the Legislative Committee as at present constituted be reappointed to continue in this capacity. They are Dick Hendrick, Bill McAnlis, Claude Zediker, Paul LeMargie and Kermit Rudolf. Motion was seconded by Dave Brown and carried.

Ordinarily any legislation to be used by this association must be submitted at least one month prior to the annual meeting. Any recommendations for legislative changes should, therefore, be in the hands of the Secretary of the Association (M. J. Crawford) by September 1.

President McDaniels proposed that we go ahead with plans for our next annual meeting. Sterling moved Kennewick be chosen as the meeting place for our next annual meeting. Motion was seconded by Brown and carried. No date was set and neither was any program decided on.

Nutley said we should show more people what we are doing.

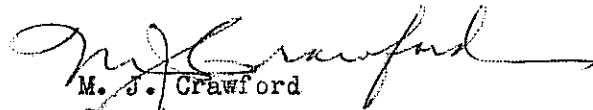
LeMargie suggested contacting Greater Wenatchee re membership.

President McDaniels brought up the matter of appointing someone as Director-at-Large to fill the vacancy created by the appointment of M. J. Crawford as Secretary-Treasurer. It was generally approved that Dick Hendrick would contact Sid Flanigan, who lives in Quincy, to see if he would accept the appointment.

Accounting problems including the handling of warrants, sale of gasoline to employees and other related matters was brought up by Sterling and discussed at length by the group.

There being no further business it was moved by Hendrick, seconded by Alexander and carried at 3:20 p.m. that the meeting be adjourned.

Oh! Yes. I forgot to report that we ate lunch during noon hour at the Highway Grill.


M. J. Crawford
Secretary