

State Association of  
Washington Irrigation Districts

Minutes of Directors Meeting

August 27, 1962

Meeting was called to order by President Alexander at 10:00 a.m. in Paul Lamargie's office at Ephrata.

Present were President Alexander, Nutley, Eidenmiller, Sterling, Rowdell Hoppe, Hendrick, Kuhlis, Steger, Rudolf, Haggood, Storlie, Robbink, Ahlquist, Thomas, Lamargie, and Brown.

Proposed legislation was discussed for about four hours. There was some discussion on the proposed water resource bill, a copy of which will be sent to secretaries of all irrigation districts in the near future.

In the discussion on the water resource bill it was brought out that at the time of the meeting no one had time to study it. Some felt that it would be easier to work through the legislature on water laws, others felt that by tying together all water problems and having an administrative group to take over the heads of departments would be a better way to work out water problems.

On the request for a bill to be presented on multiple polling places by the Quincy District. It was the opinion of the Board that polling places are not necessarily set up one to each director division, but are set up one polling place to a precinct. There may be any number of precincts set up as the board of Directors of each district wish.

Changes were asked in the wording in the qualifications for electors law "title or evidence of title". There was some discussion on this but no one came up with a change that would seem to spell it out any better.

Regarding director compensation, Don Stock moved that the present law be changed to read \$25 per diem instead of \$10 per diem and 10¢ per mile. This is permissive legislation. After some discussion Van seconded motion and it was passed to present such a change to the legislature.

Harold Eidenmiller brought up subject of bill to permit the abandonment of LIDs. Van Nutley moved that the Association sponsor such a bill. After some discussion and no second the motion was dropped for the time being.

Regarding minimum assessment fee for small tracts. Some felt that there should be a statutory minimum set by law. There are some districts with tracts being assessed only 50¢ per year. This is entirely up to the board of Directors, they may set the minimum at whatever they wish. There are districts that now have minimum assessments of \$15.

There was some discussion on ground water within district boundaries. There is a law on the books now giving the rights to ground water within district boundaries to the district. It was the opinion of the group that the State should not have the right to give water rights on water put there by the district.

Regarding the law on the redemption of lands taken over by an irrigation district for non payment of assessments. It was asked that the wording "may redeem by paying one dollar" be changed to read "may redeem by paying actual and necessary expense". There was discussion on this but no action taken.

Some districts are having problems with sewage and disposal in their districts. Suburban areas especially, are expecting this to become serious as some of them are pumping from wells. Maybe Walt Petersen could be prevailed on to write up a bill and a synopsis for our annual meeting.

Motion was made, seconded and passed to present bill to legislature to make change in the voting law, so that there would be 5 days from the last day of filing to the posting date.

Committee was formed to meet and work with county treasurer regarding the collection of assessments. Gale Sterling was named chairman. Mr. Sterling announced there would be a meeting in Yakima to study the accounting and bookkeeping procedures with the county treasurer and secretaries of irrigation districts.

There was some discussion on voting rights of partners. General opinion that all in an unincorporated partnership could vote. In a corporation there can be only the one vote.

Motion was made, seconded and passed to ask Kermit Rudolf to write bill to authorize a blanket bond for directors instead of individual bonds.

Regarding wage and hour laws, it will be up to all members of the Association to watch and see that there is no legislation passed that will hurt irrigation districts.

Gale Sterling stated there should be some change made in laws to permit the use of federal funds for the acquisition of property for highway rights of way, not only to federal projects but to all irrigation projects. Should be expanded to include both federal and local projects.

Motion was made, seconded and passed that Kermit Rudolf be authorized to carry Dept. of Highways vs. Kittitas Irrigation District case through to final conclusion.

Henry Alexander brought up the problem of Port District-Benton County taking over an airport within an irrigation district and refusing to pay assessments. Trial is set for some time in October. This should be watched closely as the outcome of the trial could have some serious effects both on local and federal projects in many ways. Mr. Alexander will get all the information to Mr. Rudolf and he will use his judgement as to the help that he could give through the association.

Motion was made, seconded and passed to hold the annual meeting of the State Association of Washington Irrigation Districts in Othello, Wash. on November 8, 1962. Bill McAnlis was named chairman with Harold Eidemiller and Dick Hendrick on the committee. Others will be called on by Bill to help out.

It was moved, seconded and passed to authorize President to attend the National Reclamation meeting in Portland, Oregon.

Mr. Van Nutley said he would be gone this winter during the legislative session and tendered his resignation as chairman of Legislative Committee. Mr. Gale Sterling was appointed temporary chairman until Van's return.

Motion made, seconded and passed to provide Association president with a telephone credit card for the transaction of Association business.

Remember annual meeting--Othello, November 8, 1962.  
Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.



David P. Brown, Secretary