

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WASHINGTON STATE WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION

July 20, 2011
Lake Chelan Reclamation District
Chelan, WA

CALL TO ORDER: 10:00 a.m. President Tom Monroe presiding.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Tom Monroe, Maury Balcom, Mark Booker, Joe Carroll, Dave Solem, Rick Smith, Jim Trull, Ron Van Gundy, Bill Watson, Justin Harter.(10)

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Myrum, Mike Schwisow, Larry Martin, Richard Lemargie, Dick Erickson, Shannon McDaniel, Mike Pearce, Ron Rodewald, Roger Satnik, Rod Anderson, Kathy Tobin, Roger Sonnichsen.

MINUTES: Motion was made by Ron Van Gundy and seconded by Joe Carroll to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2011, Board of Directors meeting. MOTION CARRIED

FINANCIAL REPORT: Motion was made by Maury Balcom and seconded by Ron Van Gundy to accept the financial report ending June 30, 2011: Revenue - \$524,227.19 : Expenses - \$278,500.92; Current assets - \$451,698.32. MOTION CARRIED

AUDIT LETTER: Motion was made by Joe Carroll and seconded by Mark Booker to accept the internal audit letter presented by Mike Hamilton. MOTION CARRIED.

ENDOTHALL FISH STUDY: Ian Courter, fisheries biologist from Cramer Fish Sciences, called in and reported on the progress of the endothall fish study. Ian reported that he has finished three of the six trials. He has identified an increase in mortality after day four of the seawater challenge. He is working with Laurie Morgan and Randy Marshall from the Dept. of Ecology and Perry Harvester from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as the study progresses to identify potential issues and changes to the study. Perry Harvester wants to continue with the 10 day seawater challenge despite the mortality after day 4. Randy Marshall asked that Ian test fish blood sodium levels during the seawater challenge to identify any latent long-term effects of the endothall during the seawater challenge. The board agreed to add the approximate \$1,500 cost of the blood testing to the scope of the study. Ian anticipates that the study will be done by late August and the write up will begin shortly after that.

FEDERAL AFFAIRS REPORT: Mark Limbaugh of The Ferguson Group called in and reported that the House Energy and Water Appropriations bill is being drafted and the current version calls for no spending on the EPA waters of the United States rule making. The Bureau of Reclamation funding is set at \$934M which is \$17M above the President's budget request. The House Interior Appropriations bill has included the text of HR 872 which gets rid of the need for NPDES permits for FIFRA approved pesticides. It may be difficult for bills to get to conference committee this year. It is likely that the federal government will operate on a continuing resolution as in recent years. The Senate will take up the President's nomination of Rebecca Wodder for Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Wodder is a past Executive Director of American Rivers. There has already been significant opposition to Wodder's appointment. She could benefit from a "recess appointment" President and fill the job until the end of the current congressional session. Mark reported that the House Water and Power Subcommittee will introduce a small hydro bill aimed at building a process for the Bureau of Reclamation to approve installation of small hydro projects in Reclamation facilities. Mark has been working on behalf of WSWRA to shape the bill. The bill would provide a right of first refusal to the operating entity before the lease is offered to an outside entity. Not

all of the WSWRA suggestions were accepted by the Committee. WSWRA is especially interested in the outcome of the Bureau of Reclamation's Lease of Power Privilege policy. The Bureau is working on this policy but no date is set for the issuance of a draft policy. Mark reported that he has an appointment with Steve Stockton at the Corps of Engineers to discuss the definition of "canals" under the control of the National Committee on Levee Safety. The NCLS has interpreted a broad definition of canals in the interest of covering the greatest number of potential risks. The NCLS is adamant that this is in line with Congressional intent.

CANAL ENROACHMENT LETTER AND CANAL INSPECTION PROGRAM: Kris Polly of Water Strategies called in and reported that the Bureau of Reclamation's urban canal inspection process is complete and they are beginning to draft recommendations. However, Reclamation still does not have policy in place for dealing with emergencies. Kris reported that he is working with Tom Myrum on a letter to Reclamation that questions Reclamation's approach to canal encroachment issues when they are presently requiring via the terms of contract amendments that districts protect against all encroachments while the Bureau has the sole authority to approve easement and crossing agreements. Kris will schedule a call between WSWRA and Bureau of Reclamation representatives to discuss this and other encroachment issues.

HASTINGS LUNCHEON: Tom Myrum reported that a luncheon has been planned for August 2nd at the Red Lion Inn in Pasco to present the WSWRA Water Statesman Award to Congressman Hastings. The current Congressional debate over the debt limit may require the luncheon date be changed, however the location will remain the same.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Mike Schwisow reported that he will attend the Columbia River Policy Advisory Group meeting in Ellensburg next week. The Governor's office has planned an event on August 2nd to highlight the signing of the water rights agreements between the Department of Ecology and the Bureau of Reclamation for the distribution of water to municipal and instream entities. The event will be held at the Weber Siphon northeast of Moses Lake. Mike reported that Ecology will once again begin a process to address key water rights issues. This could culminate in legislation. Mike reported that Rep. Bill Hinkle will not seek re-election but will run for Kittitas County Commissioner instead.

SELAH MOXEE SEEPAGE CASE: Larry Martin reported that the SMID seepage case has been appealed by SMID but the issues may not be framed for several months.

WUULC DIG LAW: Tom Myrum reminded everyone that Don Evans of the Washington Underground Utility Location Center will give a presentation of the new "dig law" at the WSWRA Executive Committee meeting on August 17th at the SVID office in Sunnyside. The presentation will be after the executive committee meeting during the lunch hour.

ADMINISTRATIVE: Tom Myrum reported that the wage data survey is nearly complete and will be in final form to the participating districts in early August.

Adjourn 12:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas G. Myrum, Executive Director