

**MINUTES OF EMERGENCY MEETING OF JOINT COMMITTEE  
OF THE OWYHEE PROJECT**

March 17, 2017

An emergency meeting of the Joint Committee of the Owyhee Project to discuss water releases from the Owyhee Dam was held at the offices of Stunz, Fonda, Kiyuna & Horton, LLP, 106 Main Street, Nyssa Oregon, at 2:00 p.m., on March 17, 2017, Eric White, Chairman, presiding.

The following members of the Joint Committee were present:

Brett Nielsen	Eric White
Frank Ausman	Jerry Nagaki
Dan Tschida	Chris Landa

Also present were: Jay Chamberlin, Manager of the Hydro Projects; John Eells, South Board Manager; Monty Culbertson from the Owyhee Ditch Company; Harvey Manser, OID Assistant Manager; Bruce Corn, OID Alternate; Michael W. Horton, Secretary; Andy Peutz, Owyhee Ditch Company Board Member; Dylan Mitchell, Owyhee Ditch Company; Lieutenant Hunsucker, Malheur County Sheriff's Office; Bob Peterson, Landowner; and Larry Meyer, *Argus Observer* Reporter.

MEETING NOTICE. Mr. Chamberlin stated that this is an emergency meeting and that the reason for the meeting is to discuss the incoming water situation and potential flooding. Mr. Chamberlin said that he did contact the *Argus Observer* and notified them of today's meeting prior to the meeting.

WATER INFLOW SITUATION AND FORECAST. Mr. Chamberlin recapped the water releases from the dam to date. He said a second jet flow valve was opened today. He said there is currently 1,690 cfs in the river below the Owyhee Dam. He said the reservoir is filling 3/4 of a foot per day. He said Mudflat should play out in the next couple of days. He said the weather forecast show precipitation for early next week. He said the river never did get quite to 10,000 cfs at Rome.

WATER RELEASES. Mr. Chamberlin said that the Committee will want to top the reservoir off when the river is going down, not up. He said that if the river averages 6,500 cfs over the next few days, the facility could lose all of its free space and would fill completely in 14 to 15 days. He said he is not sure the canal system will be ready for water by Wednesday. Chairman White said that rain is forecasted for next week. Mr. Chamberlin made a recommendation that the third jet flow valve be turned on. The amount of time it would take water to reach Owyhee Junction was discussed and timing the additional releases to have the increase in water level at the junction occur in the afternoon was discussed. Mr. Chamberlin advised the Joint Committee members of the current snow levels.

Mr. Chamberlin's recommendations were discussed. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Nielson, seconded by Mr. Ausman, and unanimously carried authorizing Mr. Chamberlin to open a third jet flow valve with the timing to be in the manager's discretion.

Lieutenant Hunsucker said he will get public notice out on the county's Emergency Management System. Chairman White said that if there is another inflow event over the weekend, the Joint Committee can meet on Monday.

Water levels in the Snake River were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Secretary

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_