

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

March 21, 2017

A meeting of the Joint Committee of the Owyhee Project was held at the Four Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario, Oregon, on March 21, 2016, at 11:10 a.m. Eric White, Chairman, presiding.

The following members of the Joint Committee were present:

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

Also present were: Jay Chamberlin, Manager of the Hydro Projects; John Eells, South Board Manager; Michael W. Horton, Secretary; Harvey Manser, OID Assistant Manager; Bruce Corn, OID Alternate; Larry Meyer, *Argus Observer* Reporter; J.L. Eldred, OID Watermaster; Monty Culbertson, Old Owyhee Ditch Company Manager; Michael Blackaby, Old Owyhee Ditch Company Secretary; and Old Owyhee Ditch Company Board members.

MEETING NOTICE. The meeting agenda showed that public notice of the meeting was given on March 15, 2017.

MINUTES. The minutes of the meeting of the Joint Committee held on February 20, 2017, were mailed to the Committee members prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Ausman, seconded by Mr. Nielsen, and unanimously carried approving the minutes.

TUNNEL #1 POWER PROJECT.

Tunnel #1 Financial Report. Jay Chamberlin handed out a financial report for the Tunnel #1 Power Plant. The report was reviewed by the Committee members.

Tunnel #1 Hydro Report. J.L. Eldred gave a report on the Tunnel Power Plant. He said it is about ready to run. He gave a report on the work which was recently done. He said there are a pump and parts that need to be installed. He said the plant should be ready to operate by next Wednesday. He said the grates protecting the tunnel's intake structure have been pulled out a bit and will need to be reset this fall. He said that the reservoir level is too deep and cold for divers to get down and reset the gate until this fall.

Tunnel #1 Power Project Accounts Payable. The Committee members reviewed the accounts payable listed on the agenda for the Tunnel #1 Power Project. A motion was made by Mr. Nagaki, seconded by Mr. Tschida, and unanimously carried approving payment of the accounts payable as follows:

AT&T	42.06
Oregon Idaho Utilities	2,671.45
Nichols Accounting	<u>335.00</u>
TOTAL	\$3,048.51

OWYHEE DAM POWER PROJECT.

Owyhee Dam Financial Report. Jay Chamberlin handed out a financial report for the Owyhee Dam Power Plant. The report was reviewed by the Committee members. Mr. Corn noted that the report does not show any money received for the February generation of power. Mr. Chamberlin said that he will check into this.

Owyhee Dam Hydro Report. J.L. Eldred said that the Dam Power Plant is running good and the generator is just about maxed out.

Owyhee Dam Accounts Payable. The Committee members reviewed the accounts payable listed on the agenda for the Owyhee Dam Power Project. A motion was made by Mr. Ausman, seconded by Mr. Landa, and unanimously carried approving payment of following accounts:

Stunz, Fonda, Kiyuna & Horton, LLP	\$797.47
Nichols Accounting	<u>335.00</u>
TOTAL	\$1,132.47

WATER SEASON STARTUP. Mr. Chamberlin said that April 1 is when water for irrigation can be legally released. The Committee members discussed the situation and a motion was made by Mr. Landa, seconded by Mr. Nagaki, and unanimously carried that management can begin releasing water after April 1 once the canals are ready and water user demand is there.

WATER ALLOTMENT. Mr. Tschida made a motion to set the water allotment at four acre feet with excess water also being allowed this year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nielsen and passed unanimously. Mr. Chamberlin said that water transfers will not be allowed from farm to farm this year.

STORAGE AND RELEASES. Mr. Chamberlin said the sno-tel sites are showing snow pack at 90% of normal. He said that currently three jet flow valves are running. He said that the snow on Mud Flat appears gone and that overall, inflows appear to be 30 days ahead of normal. He said he does not think that inflows will drop off very fast. He said that 409,000 acre feet of water has been stored in the reservoir since January 1. He said the reservoir will be full with another 67,289 acre feet of water. He said he recommends slowing up the rate of fill as he does not think the inflows will drop below 3,000 cfs during the month of April. He said he will try to fly the snow course again on Thursday.

Mr. Chamberlin made a recommendation that releases from the reservoir be increased. He said that the USGS gauge below the reservoir is not accurate. He said that right now it is showing 2,700 cfs being released below the dam when in actuality it is closer to 2,400 cfs. Mr. Chamberlin said the lower Owyhee River is doing really well. He said he would like to have authority to begin operation of the ring gate along with the jet flow valves and maintain a 50,000 acre feet capacity cushion in the reservoir through April 1.

The Committee members discussed putting water into the tunnel system. Mr. Eells said that South Board can start taking out approximately 100 cfs slowly ramping up to 200 cfs. Mr. Nielson said that the Committee should begin making the effort but needs to be careful to be sure the canal

systems are ready to handle inflows. Mr. Eells said that the canal banks are saturated and staff will need to be careful. Mr. Chamberlin said the Committee has authority to begin putting water into the canals, they just cannot begin delivery to farms until after April 1.

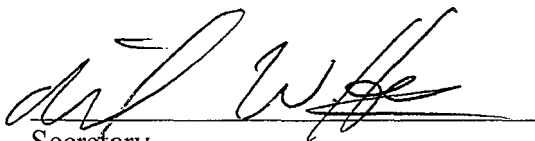
Operation of the ring gate was discussed. Monty Culbertson said that when the third jet flow valve was open, it took less than nine hours for the water to get to Owyhee Junction.

The Committee continued to discuss water releases. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Ausman to authorize operation of the ring gate and jet flow valves to get up to and then maintain a 50,000 acre foot capacity cushion in the reservoir through April 1 with flows below the dam not to exceed 5,000 cfs and to have a meeting of the Joint Committee called if management determines it is necessary. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nagaki. The Committee members discussed the motion and after discussion, a vote on the motion was had and it passed unanimously.

COUNTY BOAT RAMP. Mr. Chamberlin said the repairs to the boat ramp are done except for the concrete barriers along one side. Opening of the boat ramp was discussed. Mr. Tschida said that he went up to the dam and it looks like a lot of trash is built up against the dam and he would like to see some cleanup. A motion was made by Mr. Ausman, seconded by Mr. Nielsen, and unanimously carried that the boat ramp be opened once the side barriers are in place.

ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Secretary

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