

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

March 10, 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 2:10 p.m., on March 10, 2017, Eric White, Chairman, presiding.

The following members of the Joint Committee were present:

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|---------------|--------------|
| 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 Henggeler, Snake River Area 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 said that he spoke with Brian Sauer at the Bureau of Reclamation. He said currently one jet flow is operating and water is running through the Dam Power Plant. He said that currently 955 cfs is being put into the Owyhee River below the Owyhee Dam. He said that he has driven along the lower Owyhee River and the channel seems to be holding up. He said he has been watching the sno-tel sites and it looks like Mudflat is starting to come out. He said there is currently 536,000 acre feet of water in the reservoir. He said the ring gate is floating and that the river gauge at Rome is showing 3,400 cfs. He said that when the acre feet in the reservoir gets to 570,000 acre feet, the water can then start to spill over the ring gate if it is dropped to its lowest level.

Mr. Chamberlin reported that the upper sno-tel sites have all held their snow. He said that three sites around Wild Horse Reservoir have hit historic highs this year. He said he would like to have the Joint Committee authorize him to open a second jet flow valve. He then read from the USBR fill schedule. He said the goal is to keep the lower Owyhee River below 12,000 cfs which is flood stage. The Committee members discussed Mr. Chamberlin's proposal on opening a second jet flow valve. Mr. Chamberlin said he will fly the snow course on Monday.

Mr. Chamberlin said that the 7-day forecast does not show much precipitation.

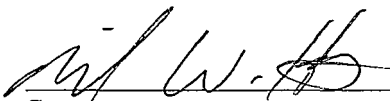
WATER RELEASES. The Joint Committee discussed water releases at length focusing on potential impacts to landowners along the river and the need to fill the reservoir coming out of the last few years of drought. Lieutenant Hunsucker said that folks along the lower Owyhee River need to be taking action now to lessen flooding impacts. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Nielson, seconded by Mr. Ausman, and unanimously carried authorizing management to open a second jet flow valve if river levels at Rome reach 6,000 cfs and open a third jet flow valve if river levels at Rome reach 10,000 cfs, with the ramping up of th valves in the manager's discretion.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING. The Committee members discussed having another emergency meeting. It was determined that the next meeting will be at 2:00 p.m., on Tuesday, March 14. Mr. Chamberlin said he is considering looking at having water start into the tunnel and canal systems on possibly March 20.

BOB HENGGELER. Mr. Henggeler said that he lives along the Snake River and gets flooded out whenever the Owyhee River comes up. He encouraged the Joint Committee to keep an eye on the sno-tel sites in April. He expressed his thanks for the hard work the Joint Committee members are doing on trying to lessen the impact to landowners along the river.

ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Secretary

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