

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF JOINT COMMITTEE  
OF THE OWYHEE PROJECT

*April 8, 2024*

A special meeting of the Joint Committee of the Owyhee Project was held on April 8, 2024, at the Owyhee Irrigation District office located at 422 Thunderegg Blvd., Nyssa, Oregon, at 8:03 a.m. Eric White, Chairman of the Joint Committee presiding.

The following members of the Joint Committee were present:

- Eric White
- Frank Ausman
- Bruce Corn
- Gregory Clark
- Chris Landa
- Bret Nielson

Also present were:

- Clancy Flynn, Manager of the Hydro Projects
- Michael W. Horton, Secretary and Legal Counsel
- Steve Smith, Dam and Hydro Supervisor
- Wes Allison, Nyssa Road District
- Carl Sieders, South Board Manager
- Dan Tschida, OID Alternate (by speaker telephone)
- Peter Cooper, USBR
- Ryan Hendricks, USBR
- Chancy A. Child, Vale ODOT
- Kyle Climer, Ontario ODOT
- Lance Peterson, Member of the Public
- Michael Hartley, Member of the Public
- Chris Geroni, Member of the Public
- Debra Odette, Member of the Public

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Chairman Eric White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEETING NOTICE.

Mr. Flynn reported that public notice of the meeting was given.

## WATER SITUATION.

Mr. Flynn said that they have cut the releases into the river a bit. He said that Rome is running at 7,000 cfs and the next peak should start on Sunday. He said he wants to run at 6,500 cfs unless the peak hits, then it will be ramped up. If the peak does not come, then it will be ramped down. He said that Mudflat should be played out by Sunday or Monday. He said that Wildhorse should be full. Mr. Corn said that the priority is to get the reservoir full and stay full. Mr. Flynn said that an inflow peak of 10,000 cfs is a possibility looking at similar years to when South Mountain snow goes to zero. He said he estimates 165,000 a.f. to 191,000 a.f. of inflows from now to May 15.

## MANAGEMENT REPORT.

Mr. Flynn said that there is over 8,000 cfs being released down river. He said that Rome is just under 9,000 cfs and he believes there will be another peak to 10,000 cfs. He said that the only similar year was 1985. He predicts there will be 270,000 a.f. of inflows by the end of June. He said that in the next week or so we should hit a high of flows. He said he recommends staying at 8,000 cfs and if inflows get to 14,000 cfs, releases will have to be increased. He said that storage is at 636,638 a.f. The water is slightly over Overstreet Road.

Mr. White said that there is around 300 acres of land with water on it, but that most of those acres are not planted. The Committee members discussed the situation.

## USBR CONDITIONS REPORT.

Peter Cooper from USBR said that NRCS went out and manually measured physical sites and they feel confident in the forecast that was given on Friday. He suggested following the Flood Control guide curve. He said that we are about 5,000 cfs over the curve and suggested holding releases steady through the end of the week. He said that Rome is heading back up. He said that Mud Flat shows three inches of water equivalent and the snow is bumping back up. He said he agrees with Mr. Flynn's recommendation of staying at 8,000 cfs, but if inflows come in higher, then releases may have to go higher.

Mr. Flynn said that the river gauges below the dam were off for a few days, but they are correct now.

Mr. Nielson suggested keeping some cushion for storage. Mr. Cooper said there is 30,000 a.f. of space available in the reservoir.

Mr. Flynn recommended staying around 8,000 cfs with releases and if inflows reach 12,000 cfs to 16,000 cfs, then to put more in the river. He said that no homes are threatened at this time. Mr. Cooper said that USBR will continue working with Mr. Flynn on a daily basis.

Mr. Corn said that in the wet years, inflows are always more than expected and in dry years they are less.

The consensus of the Committee is to follow Mr. Flynn's recommendations.

NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 12, at 8:00 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

Mr. Gerono asked when releases will be below 500 cfs. Mr. Flynn said that possibly in July if it plays out like 1985

Debra Odette asked how far the water has come in through the OID system. Mr. Flynn said it will probably be at least a week before water gets through the North Canal

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Michael W. Horton, Secretary**

Approved: