

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE OWYHEE PROJECT

March 29, 2024

A special meeting of the Joint Committee of the Owyhee Project was held on March 29, 2024, at the Owyhee Irrigation District office located at 422 Thunderegg Blvd., Nyssa, Oregon, at 8:00 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
- Carl Sieders, South Board Manager
- Dan Tschida, OID Alternate (by speaker telephone)
- Dillon Mitchell, Old Owyhee Ditch Company
- Monty Culbertson, Old Owyhee Ditch Company
- Peter Cooper, USBR (by video conference)
- J.L. Eldred, OID Watermaster

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 RELEASES.

Mr. Flynn said that water inflows are currently at 2800 cfs and the water storage is at 635,418 a.f. He recommends holding the course. He compared this year to other years in the past which were similar. He said that Mud Flat snow is going down. Looking at the satellite. He said temperatures are in the 40's during the day and 20's at night. A discussion was had regarding starting irrigation canals and charging them.

Mr. Eldred said that all is good up in the canyon. The OID representatives do not think there will be much demand for early irrigation water. Mr. Eldred said that South Board is taking 75 cfs right now to charge their system.

Mr. Culbertson said that Old Owyhee started water on Wednesday. Mr. Nielson said that the tumbleweeds in the canyon are worse than he has ever seen.

Mr. Flynn recommended to hold course on releases at 250 cfs through the Dam Plant.

USBR CONDITIONS PRESENTATION.

Mr. Cooper said that the low snow is going away. He said that at the end of 10 days, the system should be close to full. He said there is a pretty good chance of releasing water in mid-April above demand. He said that all of the historical data predicts that the system should fill in mid-April. He said there is potential for an event in May and the District needs to be prepared to move more water later on. He pointed out that inflows historically stay above 2000 cfs until South Mountain melts off in mid-May. Mr. Flynn agreed with the numbers.

PARAMETERS.

A discussion was had on the parameters for having another meeting. It was discussed that at 690,000 a.f. of reservoir storage or 6,000 cfs of inflows a special meeting be called. Mr. Cooper agreed with those numbers. Mr. Ausman said he would like to hit 715,000 a.f. in the reservoir this year. Mr. Flynn said that he may fly the snow course on Wednesday.

Mr. Ausman made a motion to cut back the river to Old Owyhee demand and have a meeting if storage reaches 670,000 a.f. or inflows get to 6,000 cfs. Mr. Clark seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

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: