

# MINUTES OF MEETING OF JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE OWYHEE PROJECT

*July 21, 2026*

A meeting of the Joint Committee of the Owyhee Project was held on July 21, 2026, at the Owyhee Irrigation District office located at 422 Thunderegg Blvd., Nyssa, Oregon, at 7:00 p.m., Eric White, Chairman of the Joint committee presiding.

The following Joint Committee Members were present:

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

Also present were:

- Clancy Flynn, Hydro Manager
- Michael W. Horton, Secretary and General Counsel
- Hank Zurklin, Member of the Public
- Linda Henderson, Member of the Public
- Darla Sebasto, Member of the Public

## MEETING NOTICE.

The meeting agenda showed that public notice of the meeting was given on July 15, 2026.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Chairman White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Joint Committee held on June 16, 2026, were sent to the Committee members prior to this meeting. Mr. Flynn noted a correction to the minutes on the water usage paragraph. The minutes were corrected. A motion was made by Mr. Nielson to approve the minutes as corrected. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with all the Committee members present voting in favor of the motion.

## OWYHEE DAM POWER PROJECT.

### Owyhee Dam Financial Report.

Mr. Flynn handed out a financial report for the Owyhee Dam Power Project which was reviewed by the Committee members. Mr. Flynn said that the river inflows have been staying up. The

Committee members questioned this fact and speculated that perhaps some springs are feeding into the reservoir.

#### Owyhee Dam Accounts Payable.

The Committee members reviewed the accounts payable as listed on the agenda for the Owyhee Dam Power Project. A motion was made by Mr. Ausman to approve the accounts payable as listed in the agenda. Mr. Corn seconded the motion. The motion passed with all the Committee members present voting in favor of the motion.

#### TUNNEL #1 POWER PROJECT.

##### Tunnel #1 Financial Report.

Mr. Flynn handed out a financial report for the Tunnel #1 Power Project which was reviewed by the Committee members. Mr. Flynn said that the Tunnel #1 Power Plant will be going off this week.

##### Tunnel #1 Power Project Accounts Payable.

The Committee members reviewed the accounts payable for the Tunnel #1 Power Project. A motion was made by Mr. Nielson to approve the accounts payable as listed in the agenda. Mr. Landa seconded the motion. The motion passed with all Committee members present voting in favor of the motion.

#### ALLOCATION OF HYDRO INSURANCE EXPENSES.

Mr. Flynn said that the insurance expenses were charged all to the hydro projects this past year as requested by South Board. He asked if the Committee wants those charges reflected the same way for the next budget year, or if they want them allocated between the hydro projects and the Owyhee Dam. The matter was discussed in detail. Mr. Flynn said that he thinks the recreational fees being charged at the Dam Compound will help offset the insurance costs for the Owyhee Dam. Mr. Horton explained the difference between the hydro projects and the Owyhee Dam and how these are distinct entities. Mr. Flynn said that there is a USBR Recreational Grant Program available which may provide funding for increasing recreational improvements at the dam. Following discussion, Mr. Corn made a motion that for this coming budget year, that each entity pay for its own insurance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ausman. Discussion on the motion was had. After discussion, a vote on the motion was had. Mr. White, Mr. Ausman, Mr. Clark, and Mr. Corn voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Landa and Mr. Nielson voted against the motion, which passed on a vote of four to two.

#### HYDRO RESERVES AND DISTRIBUTION.

Mr. Flynn said that a revenue distribution committee needs to be appointed to make recommendations to the Joint Committee on hydro reserves and distributions. The matter was discussed and after discussion, it was decided that the individuals who served on the committee last year will continue this year. Those committee members are Bruce Corn, Bret Nielson, Carl Seiders, Clancy Flynn, and Michael Horton. It was determined this committee will try to meet in September.

#### FERC RELICENSING AND H.R. 7487.

Mr. Flynn said that H.R. 7487 is currently stuck in Congress. He said that he did run some calculations comparing annual FERC charges to potential USBR lease for power of privileges costs.

He said that it looks like the annual costs would be higher under the lease for power of privileges, but that the benefit would be that the projects would not have to be relicensed and those relicensing costs could be avoided. Mr. Nielson asked Mr. Flynn if he had spoken to Al Barker with regard to one of his client's relicensing and his opinion on the proposed H.R. 7487 Bill. Mr. Flynn said that he did and that Mr. Barker said that a recent project that he was working on to get FERC relicensing done came in at a cost of one-third of what was originally budgeted. He said that he also has another project which is trying to get a USBR lease of power of privilege and has been having a hard time. The matter was discussed.

TURN OFF DATE.

Mr. Flynn said that Committee member, Joseph Davis, contacted him and said that he would like to see the Joint Committee set a hard turn off date. The matter was discussed. Mr. Flynn estimated how long the water could last this year. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee members to make a decision on a turn off date in August. The Committee members discussed El Niño versus La Niña.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael W. Horton, Secretary and General Counsel

APPROVED: