# MINUTES OF MEETING OF JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE OWYHEE PROJECT

March 18, 2025

A meeting of the Joint Committee of the Owyhee Project was held on March 18, 2025, at the Owyhee Irrigation District office located at 422 Thunderegg Blvd., Nyssa, Oregon, at 10:00 a.m. Eric White, Chairman of the Joint Committee presiding.

The following members of the Joint Committee were present:

- Eric White
- Gregory Clark
- Brett Nielson
- Bruce Corn
- Carl Seiders
- Steve Clapier, (South Board Alternate)
- Joseph Davis, (OID Alternate)

Also present were:

- Clancy Flynn, Manager of the Hydro Projects
- Cole E. Sahleen, Legal Counsel
- Debra Odette
- Wes Allison, Nyssa Road District Manager
- Chris Gerono, and Linda Henderson, Members of the Public.

## MEETING NOTICE.

The meeting agenda showed that public notice of the meeting was given on March 12, 2025.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Chairman Eric White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## MINUTES.

The minutes of the meetings of the Joint Committee held on February 5, February 18, February 25, and February 28, 2025, were mailed to the Committee members prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Davis, and unanimously carried approving the minutes.

## 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.

## 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. Nielson, seconded by Mr. Clark, and unanimously carried approving payment of the accounts payable.

## 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 reported on the rates for winter power, which change depending on the year, and advised that the rate is very favorable this year. The regular contracted rate for power generation will take over on April 1, but they will continue to be paid at the winter rate for the remainder of the month of March.

## 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. Corn, seconded by Mr. Neilson, and unanimously carried approving payment of the accounts payable.

## RIVER FLOW AND OPERATIONS.

Mr. Flynn recommended that the Committee match outflow to the inflow gauge at Rome, and hold there. He also advised that he had discussed with Mr. Cooper at USBR, who was unable to attend the meeting, and his recommendation was the same. Mr. Flynn provided further comparison to prior years and advised that he believes the best opportunity to fill will be through April and into early May. He recommended a target of 650,000 acre feet by April 1, with a goal to fill by May 15. Mr. Corn said that the Committee will need to pay attention to weather patterns as the melt starts, and the consensus of the Committee was in agreement with Mr. Flynn's recommendation.

A motion was made by Mr. Nielson, seconded by Mr. Corn, and unanimously approved to match the gauge at Rome with the goal of filling the reservoir to 635,000 acre feet, with management discretion to manage outflow amounts to reach the fill target.

## REVISIT TENTATIVE START DATE.

A motion was made by Mr. Nielson, seconded by Mr. Corn, and unanimously approved to set April 1, 2025, as the hard start date for irrigation.

## PUBLIC COMMENT.

Mr. Gerono requested clarification about restrictions of flow through the dam due to the Committee's focus on filling the reservoir. The Committee explained that flow will likely be cut approximately in half today, but it will ultimately depend upon what inflow rates look like. There was further discussion about what a typical year's river flow would generally look like at different points during the year, with special attention being paid to the spring and efforts to fill the reservoir.

## ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cole E. Salheen, Attorney

APPROVED:
April 22, 2025