

WATER DISTRICT 37B
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL WATER DISTRICT MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2025 1:00 P.M.

RECEIVED
MAR 21 2025
DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES
SOUTHERN REGION

ITEM #1 on Agenda – CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION

Lou Andersen, Advisory Board Chairman, called the annual meeting to order at 1:05 P.M. (Copies of Meeting Agenda, 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes, 2024 Budget to Actuals, 2025 Proposed Budget and Resolutions were handed out at entrance).

ITEM #2 and #3 on Agenda – SELECTION OF 2025 MEETING CHAIRMAN and SELECTION OF 2025 MEETING SECRETARY.

William Simon nominated Lou Andersen for Meeting Chairman, no other nominations.

William Simon moved to select Lou Andersen as Meeting Chairman of the annual meeting. Dallas Smith seconded. No opposition. Motion passed.

Mitch Fleming moved to select Teresa Andersen as secretary of the annual meeting. Rod Gonsales seconded. No opposition. Motion passed.

ITEM #4 on Agenda– APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Lou asked that everyone take a few minutes to look over the 2024 annual meeting minutes and opened the floor for discussion. No discussion.

Jay Caven moved to approve the minutes as presented. Rod Gonsales seconded. No opposition. Motion passed.

ITEM #5 on Agenda – WATERMASTER REPORT OF 2024 YEAR

Lou turned the floor over to Rusty for the Water Master report.

Rusty gave some of the NRCS Snow Data, as of Feb 10th, shows Big Wood drainage at 121%, this time last year was 82%. Snow-tel sites: Camas Creek Divide is at 113% of normal, last year was 95% - Soldier Ranger Station at 99% of normal, last year was 65%. Magic Reservoir is at 64,210 AF currently, full storage is 191,500 AF and they need 240,000 AF for the season – last year at the time of our meeting storage was at 135,079 AF.

There are currently 4119 water rights, and 151 different water right owners. At this time, there are 81 meters, 1 PCCs, 2 time clocks, (3 meters ready for install) and 50 surface water measuring devices that need to be measured once a week. There are 47 water rights in the water bank and currently 3 being rented out. Rusty touched on forfeiture dates, everything was “decreed” in 2010 and in Idaho will be forfeited if not used for five consecutive years. Putting water in the water bank, pauses the forfeiture dates but does not reset it.

Rusty reiterated his job duties and responsibilities and also gave a list of things that are not his job or responsibility but he is willing to help with. He mentioned several things that he should not be doing as water master, those include:

- maintaining water user's devices – changing batteries – cleaning sand
- policing water delivery after the POD
- dealing with beaver dams
- policing stock water use
- monitoring water quality
- measuring or monitoring well depths
- policing water delivery in town or domestic use

Rusty explained the water bank program, 47 water rights currently in the bank. A program to put unused water aside, and protects the water rights from forfeiture. Water can only be rented within the same watershed and the same type of water (ground, surface, or spring).

Groundwater - there are 41 big wells, 6 small wells and 7 municipals. Rusty talked about the meters, recording readings and the continual issue with batteries. If meters fail they have to be replaced with an IDWR approved meter. Surface water – there are 48 devices and have to be measured weekly.

Rusty reminded everyone, water users need to know their start and stop dates – start dates are April 15th for most surface and May 1st for most ground. End dates are Oct. 31st for surface and Sept. 15th for ground. All assessments must be paid in full before any water can be turned on – ground water users need to contact Rusty ahead of turning on so he can make sure their meters are working – surface water users need to contact Rusty when they turn on water so he can get accurate measurements.

Rusty reminded everyone that the date for the annual meeting is the second Thursday of February.

Lou mentioned how well Rusty does his job of taking care of the water district and if the IDWR representatives were at the meeting, that would be the first thing they would say. This water district, from the water master down to the water right users, is one of the best run districts in the state. Lou also touched on the fact that Rusty needs to know if you are turning on water, in the By Laws it says if you don't tell Rusty ahead of turning on, it is a \$100 fine.

ITEM #6 on Agenda – TREASURERS REPORT FOR 2024 YEAR

Lou turned the floor over to Matt McLam for the treasurer's report. Matt explained that the elected treasurer is the board's representative on the financial side of the district, he looks over the books to make sure they make sense and looks over the back statements to make sure they balance. Also when making the budget, the treasurer is there to help explain it. Matt went over the 2024 Budget to Actuals sheet which shows a lot of the actuals are extremely close to what was budgeted, several items came in under budget and none over budget, which is what we try to do. As a result, there is a little more carry out than carry in this year, and because of the higher carry out on the 2024 budget (which is the carry in

for the 2025 budget), we are able to lower the per AF cost a little. As a board, we are trying to keep costs down as best we can.

Rusty jumped in to explain the way the district uses a 5-year average of water usage to determine the acre feet used and therefore determine the assessment per AF.

Matt also mentioned that the accounts receivable for the district for the 2024 budget year is less than \$100.

ITEM #7 and #8 on Agenda – DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED 2025 DISTRICT 37B BUDGET and ADOPTION OF PROPOSED 2025 RESOLUTIONS AND BUDGET

Lou commented on the 5-year average also, stating that this year we added a really high use year and took out a low use year making the assessment lower. He asked that everyone look at the 2025 proposed budget that shows we will charge a \$1.89/AF compared to last year of \$2, almost \$2.01/AF. He stated that last year in 2024 it went up from 2023 and this year it went down a little. Lou touched on the couple of increases in the 2025 budget, one being Rusty's salary and the other in office supplies due to the need to buy a new computer for Rusty. Lou asked if there were any questions about the budget.

William Simon moved to approve the 2025 proposed budget. Rod Gonsales seconded. No opposition. Motion passed.

Lou brought to everyone's attention there was a wording change to the By Laws #5 and #6, printed in red. The change was from "water right holder" to "water right holder or their representative", the reason being that there are some water right owners where the actual holder is a company or corporation and they may not be able to be at the meeting but they would have a representative present. The proposed 2025 resolutions cover the election of Rusty Kramer as water master, the election of Matt McLam as treasurer and the election of the advisory board – a little change in the advisory board due to Dennis Strom's health, Mitch Fleming was added where Dennis Strom was. Lou asked if there were any questions or discussion on the proposed resolutions. No discussion.

Rod Gonsales moved to approve the proposed 2025 By Laws and resolutions as presented. Jim Kramer seconded. No opposition. Motion passed.

Lou stated that the IDWR representatives did not attend the meeting due to the weather conditions.

Lou asked if there was any other business. No other business, asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mitch Fleming moved to adjourn.

Jim Kramer seconded. No opposition. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

(Attendance at the meeting included 14 attendees including water master and meeting chairman)