Minutes of the WD130 2008 Annual Meeting

February 5, 2008, Jerome Library Meeting Room

The WD130 Advisory Committee met at 1:00 pm to discuss the proposed Budget and Resolutions.

The general meeting was called to order by the Chairman shortly after 2:00 pm. In attendance were advisory committee members Rex Minchey, Dan Temple, Phyllis Beard, Jon Bowling, Larry Cope, Gary Lemmon, Dean Stevenson and Lynn Carlquist. Also present were WD130 Watermaster Cindy Yenter; IDWR staff Dan Nelson, Chris Roberts, Benny Walker, Jana Jones and Michelle Richman, and approximately 40 water users.

Chairman Rex Minchey opened the meeting by soliciting nominations for a meeting chairman. Phyllis Beard nominated Rex to continue those duties, seconded by Dean Stevenson. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Chairman Minchey then asked for nominations for a meeting secretary. The 2007 secretary, Lynn Tominaga, was not present at the meeting, and Dean Stevenson nominated Cindy Yenter to serve as secretary, seconded by Gary Bowman. Motion passed.

The Minutes of the 2007 annual meeting were not available and could not be read. Members suggested the 2007 minutes should be included at next year's meeting.

Chairman Minchey asked for Sub-District reports from North Snake GWD, Magic Valley GWD, A&B Irrigation District and the Spring Users. All Sub-districts declined to make a report.

Watermaster Cindy Yenter presented the 2007 Watermaster Report and the 2008 Proposed Budget. The Watermaster reported total average diversions of 3.382 million acre feet for years 2002-2006, with approximately 655,000 AF in consumptive diversions and 2.73 million AF in non-consumptive diversions. She indicated that the slight increase in ground water withdrawal is more likely the result of better measurement of more diversions, rather than actual increases of use.

Some spring discharges were up slightly in 2007, with Blue Lakes / Alpheus Creek showing the highest increase, which seems to correlate strongly with the NSCC recharge event. Measured flows at the Blue Lakes Trout weir during the second week of November, 2007, were approximately 20% higher than measured flow during the same week in 2006.

Besides measurement, Water District 130 was involved in a variety of activities during 2007 including mitigation plan review, data QA, CREP application review, and ESPA spring monitoring site identification. Significant time has been spent on data QA especially in subdistricts. Overall, the quality of irrigation diversion data has increased, and water right contacts are updated. However, audits of irrigation systems using Power Consumption method (PCC) for measurement found that there are still too many

systems for which PCC is invalid, and eventually flow meters will have to be required. The quality of non-irrigation flow meter data reported by subdistricts is inconsistent and needs improvement.

The Watermaster gave a brief overview of 2007 actions in the water call contested cases. In March 2007, the Supreme Court upheld the conjunctive management rules, and A&B filed a motion to renew their 1994 water call. In June, partial curtailment was ordered in the Magic Valley pursuant to the Thousand Springs calls, but the order was rescinded later when additional mitigation was offered by IGWA and IDA. Late season recharge of approximately 26,000 AF occurred in the NSCC system in October and November. Hearings were held for the Thousand Springs and Surface Water Coalition cases over the winter, but no final Orders have been issued. An order was issued by IDWR in late January 2008 denying the A&B call. Curtailment Orders are expected to be issued this spring for 2008.

During 2008, the Watermaster will continue with measurement, reporting, and all other required duties, but will need to develop a strategy for dealing with possible curtailment. The Watermaster will review mitigation plans when they are received. The Watermaster briefly discussed how curtailment might affect or be administered on different types of rights.

The Watermaster presented a proposed total budget for 2008 of $80,565. This amount included $64,099 for Administrative charges (watermaster salary and financial review) and $16,467 for measurement and reporting of non-subdistrict diversions. Because of a watermaster salary savings of $15,000 during FY2007, the total amount to be collected for Administrative services is $49,099. Insurance charges and all salaries were increased by IDWR during 2007, necessitating those increases in corresponding budget items. The charge for Watermaster services was scaled back from 100% full-time staff equivalent (FTE) to 50% FTE, and Deputy Watermaster services were included at 25% FTE. The Watermaster felt this would be adequate for ongoing administration in WD130. Copies of the proposed budget, financial sheet, and preliminary aggregate assessment breakdown are attached.

Lynn Carlquist, WD130 treasurer, felt that a financial review should be made of Watermaster records. He indicated that a full audit was not necessary. Mr. Carlquist will contact an accountant regarding this review.

Chairman Minchey asked for comments on the budget. Receiving none, he presented resolutions and reviewed the minor changes proposed for 2008. The proposed changes were to clarify the paragraph which authorizes the Treasurer to arrange for financial reviews, and to add one Advisory Committee member representing Basin 37 surface water users. This brings total Advisory Committee to 11 members. The resolutions were also adjusted to change the per-diversion measurement and reporting charge for non-subdistrict members, from $50 to $75. This was necessary due to salary increases and because there were no carry-over funds in the measurement budget.

There were no comments or other changes offered for the resolutions, and Chairman Minchey asked for a motion to approve all Resolutions, which would include election of Watermaster Cindy Yenter and Treasurer Lynn Carlquist, and approval of the proposed

budget. Gary Bowman so moved, Phyllis Beard seconded, and the motion passed on a voice vote.

Chairman Minchey then called for a 10-minute member caucus to select advisory committee members for 2008. Members conferred in user groups, and announced the following Advisory representatives:

North Snake GWD: Lynn Carlquist, Dan Suhr alternate
Magic Valley GWD: Dean Stevenson, Orlo Maughan alternate
Commercial/Industrial: Rex Minchey and Phyllis Beard, Faye Featherly alternate
A&B: Dan Temple, Dan Schaffer alternate
Spring users: Larry Cope, Gary Lemmon, Dwayne Knigge, Jon Bowling, Stan Standal.
Randy MacMillan and Linda Lemmon, alternates

There was not a representative announced for Basin 37 ground water users.

Deanna Chambers moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:45 pm. Jon Bowling seconded, motion passed on voice vote.

Cindy Yenter

Cindy Yenter
Meeting secretary