

MINUTES
CEDAR VALLEY DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
Wednesday, February 19, 1997

This meeting was called to order by Chairman Brent Jones. He thanked those who were in attendance and recognized John Larsen and Trudy Adkins from the State office.

Chairman Jones then asked Secretary LaRee Garfield to read the Minutes of the 1996 meeting. He then called for a discussion of the Minutes. Mr. Larsen commented that the meters in Milford would be owned by the "water committee," rather than the "Water Commissioner." With that correction, Rue Gene Rollo moved for approval of the Minutes; Paul Nelson seconded; Minutes approved as corrected.

Chairman Jones then turned the time to Mr. Larsen for the Financial Report. Mr. Larsen reported that the balance of Distribution Trust Funds as of January 1, 1996, was \$10,215.28. We received assessments in the amount of \$7,726.18, Delinquent Penalties in the amount of \$421.82, Annual Interest Earned in the amount of \$553.48, for total receipts in the amount of \$8,701.48. We expended \$8,675.57, leaving a balance of Distribution Trust Funds as of December 31, 1996, in the amount of \$10,241.19.

The 1996 Budget Expenditures were reviewed. We were within budget on all items. The 1996 assessment was \$6,500.00

Mr. Larsen commented that some of the delinquent water assessments may have come in since the report was prepared. Chairman Jones said that numbers 23, 23C, and 24 had been paid since that time, so the delinquencies are at about \$270.00, which is lower than it has been for several years. Chairman Jones then called for a motion to approve the Financial Report. Paul Nelson so moved; Sam Bauer seconded; motion carried.

Chairman Jones then turned the time to Water Commissioner Mel Baldwin for the Commissioner's Report. Mel reported that for the last few years, every other year has been a good water year, and the opposite years have been poor water years. 1996 was one of those poor water years. The stream flow for 1996 was approximately 15,194 acre feet, compared to 53,606 acre feet in 1995. This was one of the driest years that we have had in a long time.

The creek peaked at approximately 200 second feet on April 27, 1996. January through August of 1996 was very dry. Starting in September, the water outlook in the mountains has been above normal.

We still have a problem with broken meters, a problem that continually grows worse. Our diversion gates and apparatus continue to work well.

Iron County is building a new building close to our diversion on Main Street; we are not sure how this will affect access to our diversion gates. The County Commission has assured Mel

that we will have access; however, it will be from the lower road.

Our current inventory as of February 19, 1997, is as follows: 1 IBM Electric Typewriter, SN 6548935; 1 HP Model 25 calculator, SN I502A02235; and 1 4-drawer file cabinet.

Mel mentioned that he will serve as the Water Commissioner for another year if we so desire, but he plans to resign next year.

Chairman Jones then called for a motion for approval of the Commissioner's Report. George Vandenberghe moved for approval of the Report; Paul Nelson seconded; motion carried.

Chairman Jones then commented that we need to prepare a budget for 1997. Alex Rollo moved that we keep the budget the same as last year. Debbie Bauer moved that we increase the secretary's salary to \$150.00; Rue Gene Rollo seconded; motion carried. Chairman Jones asked Mel if the amount budgeted last year for the Commissioner's Report was adequate, and Mel suggested that we increase that amount to \$500. Paul Nelson moved that we set the assessment at \$7,500.00. Alex Rollo withdrew his motion to keep the budget the same as the 1996 budget. Carolyn Howe seconded the motion to set the assessment at \$7,500.00; motion carried. Rue Gene Rollo moved that we adopt the new budget of \$8,989.00; Paul Nelson seconded; motion carried.

Chairman Jones called for a recommendation for Water Commissioner. George Vandenberghe moved that we retain Mel Baldwin; Alex Rollo seconded; motion carried.

Chairman Jones then said that elections for chairman and board members were now in order. The current board members are Paul Nelson, Bud Garfield, and Tom Cardon, and Brent Jones is the chairman. Debbie Bauer moved that we retain the current board members and chairman; Carolyn Howe seconded; motion carried.

Mr. Larsen reported that the two options mentioned in the 1996 Minutes concerning the water users in Milford had been presented to the water users there. Once they understood the expense that would be involved with adopting option 1, they reconsidered and went with option 2 which was regulated irrigation in the valley. A document was prepared defining what the water rights were, and this was a very lengthy process. A pilot was hired to do 35mm photography. This was digitized, and then the digitized information was meshed with the actual data collected. Maps were made and presented to the water users, and it was found that there was some land being irrigated that they didn't have rights to, but also, there was some land with rights that was not being irrigated. The two about balanced out. The users were impressed with the accuracy of the data and were satisfied with the information. So far, it appears that, generally, there is compliance with the orders, but next year will tell the story, as another flight will be done and non-compliance will be very evident. This is an alternative to meters, but it doesn't measure the water being used. If the water table continues to go down, it will show that there is more water being used than allotted. Paul Nelson commented that this process would be more of a problem in the Cedar Valley because of the size of the farms. This process addresses if a user is over pumping. The ground water in the Milford valley has been dropping two to three feet per year.

There has been 15 inches of subsidence there, also. Kerry Carpenter, the State Engineer in Cedar City, gave a background on why they think the process used in Milford is a good one. The law says that "beneficial use" of water is measured in acres, regardless of what is being irrigated. The designation of four acre feet of water per acre was designated by the courts in the 60's when the area was adjudicated. This is based on irrigation efficiency of 50%. Now that everyone has gone to sprinklers, they can actually irrigate twice as much, but the impact on the aquifers also doubles. In the Cedar Valley, we actually need 2 ½ to 3 acre feet of water per acre. Keeping people within the allotted rights will keep the aquifers where they should be. Mr. Larsen commented that good farmers do not pump more water than they need to. Paul Nelson asked if the water table in the Cedar Valley and in Enterprise is going down or just in Milford. Mr. Carpenter said that the overall trend in the Cedar Valley is not nearly as dramatic as in Milford.

Mr. Carpenter said that according to Mark Eubank, we are approximately 160-180% of normal for snowpack this year. Paul Nelson said that at Webster Flat, the snowpack is about normal, but the precipitation is up.

Sam Bauer asked about access around the new building the County is building. Mel commented that access will be from the back. Mr. Carpenter said that there is some concern about liability when the new visitors center is open. He suggested that there needs to be some consideration given to fencing around the creek to keep visitors away. Mel said that he worries about children playing in the water, now. He also commented that the power is off there now, and it needs to be turned on by March 15. Chairman Jones asked that the board members contact the County Commission with regard to fencing by the building, and that they also contact the City with regard to their plans for the parkway along the creek. Chairman Jones suggested, too, that the Sheriff be asked to write an article for the newspaper regarding safety when the creek comes up.

Rue Gene Rollo moved for adjournment; Carolyn Howe seconded; meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.