

Minutes of the East Fork Virgin River Water Users Meeting held on February 17, 1972, in Orderville, Utah.

The meeting was called to order by Donald C. Norseth, Distribution Engineer, with remarks concerning the general forecast for the state with brief comments regarding the outlook for southern Utah. He continued his remarks with comments on existing storage facilities and the amount of water held in storage as of this date.

Sharon Lamb, chairman for the East Fork Distribution System, conducted the balance of the meeting. Mr. Rex Bauer of the Glendale Irrigation Company requested permission to speak on several subjects. The main topic discussed was the potential coal development in the Alton Area. He indicated that the companies had, on a year-around basis about 13,000 acre feet and that the coal companies had requested or was interested in an annual allocation of 5,000 acre feet of water. They intend to slurry their coal mixture to a plant just north of Las Vegas. Mr. Bauer went on to explain that the 5,000 acre feet could be taken out of the winter flow rights and stored in a reservoir so that it would be available to the coal company. Mr. Lambert instructed those present that a change application would have to be prepared and filed with the Division of Water Rights and that the companies would be obligated to prove the feasibility of the dam and storage site along with the proposed water rights change. This item was tabled until additional information could be collected. Mr. Bauer then opened a discussion concerning the possibility of diverting all of the surface flow at the Glendale Irrigation Company diversion dam and then running the water through an open-inspection type, automatic dividing weir in order that all of the companies are distributed on an equal basis. Mr. Lambert indicated that this was a possibility as long as all of the companies were in accord, a proper change application filed, and adequate maintenance provided. No further conclusions were reached at this meeting.

Sharon Lamb called for nominees for the chairmanship for the coming irrigation season. Lamar Chamberlain nominated Sharon Lamb to continue as the chairman and since no further nominees were named, the rules were waived and Sharon Lamb was put in by acclamation.

The Financial Report was given by Donald C. Norseth and was briefly discussed by the water users. Eldean Anderson made a motion that the report be accepted which was seconded by Rex Bauer and the motion passed.

Arel Chamberlain, the water commissioner, gave his report on the distribution of the water for the past season with recommendations to the State Engineer on problems and situations within the system. These items covered the MacDonald weir and control gate that had been removed, the Tom Major diversion from a higher ditch that was not controlled or measured, and the lack of measuring devices on the Heaton ponds in Dairy Canyon. The State Engineer promised the water users that the situations would be looked in to and resolved within the next irrigation season. Further discussion evolved around the amount of water assessed against each user as compared to amount of water decreed. A point was made that apparently the upper ranches were receiving less water when at the same time the irrigation companies were receiving their full amount. The commissioners report was accepted without a motion.

The Budget and Assessment were discussed and a motion was made by Rex Bauer, seconded by Henry Carrol, that they both remain as they had been for the past year. The motion passed.

Nominations were opened to the water commissioner for the coming season. Rex Bauer nominated Arel Chamberlain. The nomination was seconded by Lamar Chamberlain with a commendation from the Orderville Irrigation Company. No other nominees were named, the rules were waived, and arel Chamberlain was put in by acclamation.

A question was raised by the Mt. Carmel Irrigation Company on the distribution by the commissioner involving the high and low flows of the river. There has been some misunderstanding in the past and Mr. Lambert encouraged all companies to support the commissioner and even cooperate in making some of the measurements.

If the problems continued then the State Engineer would give instructions to the commissioner on how to handle the situation.

Further discussion was directed to the Heaton diversion in Dairy Canyon and Donald C. Norseth was given instructions to contact Vardon Meeks or Grant Heaton to (1) Clarify their diversion system, (2) Have measuring devices installed, (3) obtain a key to the gate for the commissioners use. Mr. Norseth indicated that he would make arrangements to go over the system with Arel Chamberlain and take care of this particular matter.

The chairman, Mr. Sharon Lamb adjourned the meeting at 10:55AM.