

MINUTES OF THE HENRY'S FORK TRIBUTARIES DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

February 29, 1997

McKinnon Schoolhouse, McKinnon, Wyoming

The meeting convened at 5:00 p.m. and was conducted by Jade Henderson, of the Wyoming State Engineer's Office. Mr. Henderson introduced representatives of the State Engineer's offices of Utah and Wyoming.

The minutes from the 1996 annual meeting were read by John Larsen, no corrections were needed to the minutes. Earl Hanks made a motion to accept the minutes as read and John Wilde seconded the motion. The motion was unanimous.

Alan Cunningham then reviewed the financial report for the year. Total expenditures for the year were \$6056.54. Utah's portion is \$2,100.00 and Wyoming's portion is \$3,956.54. Lee mentioned that the Utah portion had not been sent to Wyoming as of this date but he would make sure that was taken care of. Lee mentioned that the total \$2,100.00 had been collected from the water users. A motion was then made by Jack Buckley and seconded by Glen Wadsworth of the Utah users to approve the financial statement. All Utah users approved.

Ferron Johnson then presented his commissioner's report. Ferron mentioned the water supply last year was reasonable but there were some shortages. All reservoirs were drawn down considerably last year. He also mentioned the 1% shrink per mile on the tributaries applies on some days and others, it is too low, especially on hot windy days. He stated the losses are the least during the nighttime hours. Ferron also requested something be done on the Gregory Basin Canal. It needs a lockable headgate on the Middle Fork Gregory Basin Ditch diversion. This is necessary for the rest of the system to work. Ferron also mentioned there is a break on a bank of Beaver Creek channel between Mr. Buckley and Mr. Wadsworth that is losing from 2 to 4 cfs to the west. If this is not repaired, high flows this spring could allow the stream to break out of its banks and do a lot of damage to the surrounding farm land.

A motion was then made to approve the commissioner's report by Earl Hanks, seconded by Jack Buckley, all approved.

A motion was then made by Jack Buckley to reappointed Ferron Johnson as commissioner for the 1997 water year, seconded by Glen Wadsworth, all approved.

John Yarborough presented the snotel figures for this drainage. Hole in the Rock snow water equivalent was at 160 % of normal, Hewinta at 168% of normal and Hickerson Park at 153% of normal. 1997 should be a good water year.

Lee Sim then mentioned that the costs for salary, budget and travel should be the same as for 1996 at \$2100.00 for the Utah users. Glen Wadsworth made a motion to accept the Utah budget as proposed, seconded by Jack Buckley, all Utah users approved.

Gino Foianini then inquired concerning the tour of the Gregory Basin Canal. He asked concerning the measuring requirements on the Canal from the Utah State Engineer's Office letter that was sent to him. He said he thought the requirements were going to be too expensive to implement. Gino said that the gates will cost him between \$500 and \$1000 each. Lee mentioned none of the water users showed up when we conducted the tour of the Beaver Creek diversions. He also said that the slide gate on the Middle Fork of Beaver Creek is missing and the diversion needs a lockable headgate. The East Fork of Beaver Creek ditch flume was washed out during the summer and it is not level.

Ken Hanks then inquired about how the mapping project between Utah and Wyoming is coming. Wade mentioned it is still moving ahead but some corrections are being made before it is submitted to the Upper Colorado Commission for approval.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Those attending the meeting are as follows:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Representing</u> |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ralph Johnson | Utah Division of Water Rights |
| Gertrudys Adkins | Utah Division of Water Rights |
| John S. Larsen | Utah Division of Water Rights |
| Lee Sim | Utah Division of Water Rights |
| Bob Leake | Utah Division of Water Rights |
| Ferron Johnson | River Commissioner |
| John A. Yarborough | Wyoming State Engineer's Office |
| Jade Henderson | Wyoming State Engineer's Office |
| Allan Cunningham | Wyoming State Board of Control |
| Jon C. Wilde | Wilde Ranch |
| Gino Foianini | Self |
| Earl Hanks | Self |
| Clyde Hanks | Self |
| Gene Gamble | Self |
| Jack Hickey | Self |
| Glen Wadsworth | Self |
| Fay Wadsworth | Self |
| Jack Buckley | West Beaver Creek |
| Donald Behunin | Self |
| Shane Kelsch | Self |
| Wade Stephens | Self |
| Howard Brinton | Self |

Henry's Fork Commissioner
1997 Annual Report

This past water year began with a lot of promise with above average snow packs reported. As spring came this proved not to be the case. There was a lot of snow but the water content in the Eastern Uintas was low. The melt was slow and there was still snow in the higher elevations in late August. These conditions made for a fairly steady irrigation season. There was not a lot of high water but the streams held up later into the season, this resulted in fewer calls for regulation.

The problems on the lower end of Beaver Creek were fewer this year than usual. After we turned Hoop Lake water down the creek seemed to stabilize and there were few calls concerning water shortages.

Burnt Fork seemed to have more problems. The upper end of the creek did well all summer but the section of the creek from the state line down seem to fluctuate all summer. Many of the problems seemed to involve releases from Beaver Meadows to the Interstate Canal.

I walked the upper end of the Bluebell Canal to find the headgate- there is no headgate or measuring devise. The canal is diverted from Henry's Fork just above the Burnt Fork and the Burnt Fork dumps into the canal. There is a headgate that diverts back to Henry's Fork about 1/2 mile downstream.

I checked many times this season the Hickey Ditch, Lyman Grazing is watering several acres of BLM ground north of the pond. This water runs to the north and returns to Henry's Fork and not to Poison Creek. In researching the records I can only find less than 40 acres water right in this area and I would estimate that they are watering up to 200 acres of BLM land. I feel that this situation need attention.

Over-all the 1997 irrigation season went well.

Respectfully Submitted,
Farren Johnson
Commissioner