



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

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TO THE WATER USERS OF THE LOWER JORDAN RIVER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM:

There are several issues which need to be discussed at the next annual meeting. I thought it would be good to apprise you of them before the meeting to allow you time to consider them.

Over the past season, we have investigated the needs of the system to improve the ability of the commissioner to measure and regulate the flow of water within the system. On the Jordan River, it appears there are several places where the river can be gaged and measuring devices can be installed on the pumps to allow adequate control of the river. Last season we started taking the measurements needed to prepare a rating table for the locations where the river will be gaged; this will be completed this year.

The area served by the Surplus Canal is much more complex and difficult to manage. The water in this area is more difficult to regulate because the supply for most of the duck clubs relies on releases from the club(s) immediately upstream. Our investigation and discussions with the commissioner indicate the only way to improve the regulation of the water is to require the operation of all the duck ponds and the releases from one pond to another be controlled by the river commissioner throughout the entire year.

The other issue which needs to be discussed is the matter of commissioner compensation and travel expenses. Our records indicate that the salary set for the river commissioner in 1967 was \$2400; and in 1969 the salary was set at \$3180. Using standard consumer price indexes these salaries translate in 1992 dollars to \$10,128 and \$12,212 respectively. The 1992 salary set for the commissioner was \$7200. In addition to the inequities created by inflation, the duties of the river commissioner have become much more complex than they were 25 years ago. It appears there is a need for a major adjustment in the commissioner's salary. The other part of this issue deals with travel expenses. The wet, salty environment of the Lower Jordan River Distribution System is hard on vehicles and continued exposure to it causes more than normal deterioration to the commissioner's vehicle. It appears that the current travel budget allowed the commissioner (\$3000/year) is not adequate to cover normal operating expenses plus the wear on his vehicle caused by the salt.



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Please come prepared to discuss and resolve these issues. If you have any questions prior to the meeting, please contact me at 538-7380.

Sincerely,

Lee H. Sim, P.E.
Assistant State Engineer
for Distribution/Adjudication

LHS:bd

cc: John Moesser