

**FREMONT RIVER DISTRIBUTION MEETING MINUTES
ANNUAL WATER USERS MEETING**

Minutes of the Fremont River Distribution System held at Loa, Utah, January 15, 1998
The meeting convened at 2:05 p.m. with Lee Sim conducting. Those attending:

Bobby Edwards	River Commissioner
Cathy Bagley	Torrey Irrigation Co.
Eric Kankainen	Water User
Phil Pace	Torrey Irrigation Co.
Lee Sim	Div. of Water Rights
John S. Larsen	Div. of Water Rights
Kirk Forbush	Div. of Water Rights
Wesley Jensen	Water User
Matthew Alexander	Alexander Ranches
A. C. Ekker	Hanksville Canal Co.
Don L. Cook	Torrey Irrigation Co.
Richard Jensen	Water User
Alvin Robison	Hanksville Canal Co.
Dee Hatch	Lower Division of Fremont River
Forrest Sims	Water User

Lee Sim brought the meeting to order. Minutes of the previous year's meeting were read by Kirk Forbush of the Richfield Water Rights Office. No corrections were necessary so the minutes were approved by Forrest Sims, seconded by Phil Pace, all approved.

Lee Sim then read the financial report, budget expenditures, and reported there were no delinquent water assessments for 1997. Lee mentioned \$429.80 was not expended in the commissioner's travel fund. Mr. Edwards explained he did not turn in his last travel expense voucher for 1997, but he would do so. Lee encouraged the commissioner to turn in all his expenses by December 20 of each year so they can be reflected on the financial report for the annual meeting. A motion was made by Richard Jensen to accept the financial report, seconded by Alvin Robinson. The motion carried.

The River Commissioner then gave his report on the activities on the river for 1997. He mentioned water supplies for the 1997 season started out with sufficient supply in the river with it peaking in April but by June the supply began to run short. However, by midsummer heavy rains occurred causing flooding on the lower end of the river, washing out the Caineville diversion several times. By the middle of September, consistent river flows began to occur once again so the water users were able to obtain a stable water supply.

A motion was then made by A.C Ekker and seconded by Forrest Sims to accept the commissioner's report with the understanding that there are inconsistencies in the flows reported at the diversions by the commissioner. All approved.

Concerns were expressed by the Hanksville and Cainsville water users concerning measurements of water shown in the report. It was felt that the flows between readings reported by the commissioner were not accurate and the water they are entitled to, is not being turned down the river.

A proposal was then made by A. C. Ekker and seconded by Forrest Sims to advertize for a new commissioner and deputy for this system. Mr. Sim mentioned there are two methods for voting for a new commissioner. One proposal is to have two groups to determine the commissioner. The upper group would encompass the owners of water rights from the headwaters of the river down to and including Capitol Reef National Park diversions. The lower group would include all water right owners below Capitol Reef National Park diversion encompassing Sandy Ranches, Caineville and Hanksville diversions. Each group would have one vote per water user.

A second proposal is to have the voting done based upon one vote for each cfs of water right regardless as to location on the river. It was decided by the group that the voting would be by cfs water rights with one vote per cfs.

Mr. Sim indicated we would prepare a notice to be advertized in the local newspaper for a new commissioner by January 26, 1998. Once candidates have been identified, another meeting will be held at 2:00 pm, February 19, 1998 to vote for the new commissioner, to set a new budget and assessment.

As a final matter of business, Mr. Edwards mentioned that the diversion gates are being tampered with and that lockable headgates need to be installed. He also mentioned the Garkane Canal diversion gates need to be repaired so accurate measurements can be taken.

The meeting then adjourned at 3:40 pm.