

## WATER USERS MEETING FEBRUARY 28TH, 1996

The meeting was called to order by James Mayer at 9:10. Those present were James Mayer, Gary Sullivan, Keith James, Shaun Pearson, from the water board. There were five Divisions of Water Rights Representatives. There were approximately 20 water users present.

Lee Sim stated the outcome of the vote for how water would be regulated. 60 ballots were sent out and 36 were received. Twenty voted for meter regulation, 15 voted for acre regulation and one was rejected because they had voted for both. The second option of payment for meters received the most votes, that being the water users pay for the first installation and the water commissioner pay for the maintenance thereafter. Lee stated that installation fees will be paid through the assessments from the state. Metering will start with those wells that have been the hardest to get accurate measurement on and wells having no meters at all. It was stated that there are 160 wells in the valley, 130 of those not being metered properly.

Joey Leko asked if his working meters would need replaced. Lee replied that as long as the water commissioner determines that a meter is working accurately it can remain intact.

It was asked who would do the installing of the new or replacement meters. James Mayer stated that it will not be done by the water users themselves but rather through an independent and overseen by the water commissioner. Lee reemphasized that the water user would pay for the first installation. Alan Mayer asked what if a farmer won't pay for the installation. John Larsen stated that the 11/2% monthly interest rate would start accruing after 30 days.

Larry Maycock stated that in a case where the user has many meters to be installed, that a percentage of those would be done each year. The water board will determine what percentage and how many total meters can be installed each year.

Henry Naruse asked if a center pivot's usage requirement could serve as a meter. Lee Sim said no, a meter would have to be used.

Larry Maycock agreed to continue to serve as the water commissioner. His annual salary including benefits will be \$25,200. Jim Mayer reviewed other budget line items. No questions were asked pertaining to the budget. Joey Leko motioned that the budgets be approved, Dick Mayer seconded it. Robert Christiansen motioned that Larry Maycock be approved as water commissioner, Lyle Wiseman seconded, both motions passed.

Robert Christiansen motioned that all 5 Water board members be reelected each year. There was no second. Dick Mayer motioned that board members rotate on a five-year basis as has been done in the past. Alan Mayer seconded and the motion carried. Robert Christiansen and Joey Leko were nominated to replace an outgoing member, James Mayer. Joey Leko won the vote by nine to seven.

Billy Dalton asked if water allotments from wells can be commingled, or is it to be limited to the allotment per well. Cary Carpenter said a change application would need to be filed, but that if a well had been used on its allotted acreage it can not be transferred even if only a portion of the acre foot allotment had been used. Several water users saw the conflict in this and were not pleased with it.

Robert Christiansen motioned that the meeting adjourn. Motion seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:20.