

WATER BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING

January 13th 1999

The meeting was held at Keith James home and was called to order at 7:00 p.m.. Those in attendance were Shaun Pearson, Keith James, Robert Christensen, Lee Sim, Cary Carpenter, Jerry Mayer, Mike Yardley, John Larsen and secretary Beth James. Minutes were read and approved.

Jerry Mayer reviewed the High Water Reservoir. Keith asked if the recharge issue was dead. Lee replied that the Water Resources came down and did tests to make a cost estimate.

Water contamination on the Milford flat was discussed. Several possibilities of contamination were mentioned such as: the high water year, old wells contaminated by animals, the Beaver River and Circle Four Farms Lagoons and spills. It was noted that the Committee formed to deal with the water contamination was going to meet on January 27th at the Milford City Offices. Experts from the University of Utah and BYU will be in attendance to discuss how fast bacteria moves in water.

Lee presented graphs on the ground water level. They had dropped between one and two feet. The trend was interrupted in 1996 with the wet year. Keith stated that we would probably see the ground water rise next year. Lee agreed that it should if it followed past trends.

Lee stated that one of the purposes of this meeting is to rough out a budget. He provided a copy of the Financial Report for each of the committee members which was approved except to remove the bonding expense.

John displayed the 1998 Aerial Photos of the South Milford Valley. In comparing them with the 1996 and 1997 Aerial photos it shows the over use of water is improving. Lee stated that the valley as a whole is close to being in compliance. Keith asked what do we attribute the improvement to, better records or actual compliance. It was discussed that both contribute to the improved water use.

Temporary Change Applications were discussed. Cary informed the committee that these applications would no longer be accepted if they are filed 'after the fact'. They must be filed before the water is to be used. Lee also stated that the same would apply to water that was going to be rented. They must be filed on and approved before any is to be pumped. Cary explained that these change applications must be posted for 20 days.

Lee informed the committee that to clean, deepen or repair any well it must be done by a licensed driller.

Lee presented two items that would be ^{to be set up} presented to the Legislature. One bill being presented would allow the Trust Fund ~~of the Water Users to earn interest.~~ The other bill proposed is to change the period that the appointed water commissioner serves from the current 1 year to a proposed 4 year. They feel like this will benefit the water users by the fact that the commissioner is more seasoned and better able to perform his duties when he is allowed to serve the extended period of time.

Robert mentioned that Richard Jefferson questions the conversion of Circle Fours' water from agricultural to industrial use. Cary responded that it is a complicated issue. For every 4 acre feet that Circle Four bought, they can only pump 2.5 acre feet. ^{for Irrigation water rights.} Because that is their total consumptive use. Cary noted that Circle Fours water use may be helping our system since they are pumping less water over a 12 month period rather than more water over a 5 to 6 month period.

It was noted that the Annual Water Users Meeting will be held on February 17th at 10:00 a.m..

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m..