

Deer Creek Reservoir/Jordanelle Reservoir Operating Agreement Public Meeting  
 Minutes  
 May 15, 2008  
 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Bruce Barrett, Area Manager, of the Bureau of Reclamation. Mr. Barrett began the meeting by stating the meeting was being held in conjunction with the June Sucker Flow Workgroup meeting. Mr. Barrett expressed appreciated for everyone's attendance and everyone in the room was invited to introduce themselves.

Those in attendance at the meeting according to the signed roster are as follows:

Debbie Vanoy	CUWCD	Daryl Devey	CUWCD
Bruce Barrett	USBR	Curt Pledger	USBR
Jeff Budge	PRWUA	Keith Denos	PRWUA
Chris Bramhall	PRWUA	Stan Roberts	River Commissioner
Ben Anderson	UDWRi	Reed Oberndorfer	CUWCD
Maureen Wilson	URMCC	Chris Crockett	UDWiR
Gene Shawcroft	CUWCD	Reed Murray	DOI
Reed Harris	JSRIP	Ralph Swanson	DOI
Tom Bruton	CUWCD	Brent Rhees	USBR
Russ Findlay	USBR	Kerry Schwartz	USBR
Jim Pace	Orem City	Dan Potts	Outdoor Interests
Paul Dremann	Trout Unlimited	Shawn Draney	MWDSL&S
Harley Gillman	PRWUC	Wayne Pullan	DOI
Chris Hogge	WBWCD	Malaina Gaddis	USBR
Greg Beckstrom	Provo City	Lisa Verzella	USBR
Jeff Bryant	JVWCD	Anny Merrill	UDWRe
Young Yu	USBR	Kelton Andersen	UAMPS
Burt Hawkes	WAPA	Layne Burningham	UMPA
Mike Davis	CUWCD/Wasatch County		
Jim Wells	Weber & Ogden Distribution System		

Mr. Barrett presented a slide show giving an update of the safety of dams construction at Deer Creek Dam. Work will begin soon on raising the dam six feet. The raising of the dam is to allow for deformation during an earthquake event and not for storing additional water. He stated they are still on the same schedule with plans to finish everything that impacts storage by fall.

Daryl Devey presented a slide show on Jordanelle Reservoir operations and Provo River flows. As of May 14<sup>th</sup>, Jordanelle had 239,959 acre-feet of water, leaving 74,000 acre-feet to fill. The release at Jordanelle was 802 cfs, primarily due to the current, high June sucker releases. The weather appears to be a month behind this year and there has been no runoff at all yet. As for deliveries last year, 60,300 acre-feet was delivered to Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District; 5,000 acre-feet to Metropolitan Water District

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of Salt Lake and Sandy; 2,500 acre-feet to Orem; 1,100 acre-feet to Lehi; 900 acre-feet to Cedar Hills; and 4 acre-feet to the Town of Vineyard. Mr. Devey stated that Utah Lake has already crossed the system storage conversion line. Mr. Devey also gave a quick update on construction at the Jordanelle Hydropower plant, which is anticipated to be under commercial production by July 1, 2008.

Mr. Devey then gave an update on the DOI water for June sucker. A lot of water has been used this year trying to maintain the 300 cfs flows requested by the June sucker Flow Workgroup. As of May 11, 10,586 acre-feet of water has been used. A discussion ensued regarding the way the water is requested for the June sucker; specifically if there is a better way to do it than using a curve that may not cost DOI so much water. Mr. Devey explained that the real reason the water has been used up is because there have been no high flows since the runoff began, and with the instructions to provide a 300 cfs flow, the DOI water had to be used. Beginning tomorrow the flows will be eventually reduced to 75 cfs which will reduce the amount of water being used.

Jeff Budge gave a presentation on Deer Creek Reservoir operations. As of today the reservoir elevation is at 5377 feet, down 40 feet, with about 1,200 cfs being released to the river. There was a total of 54,000 acre-feet of foreign diversions in Deer Creek Reservoir last year. There was almost 65,000 acre-feet of water delivered through the canal last year. Power generation through the turbines last year was 24 million kWh. Mr. Budge then gave an update on the safety-of-dams modification.

Ralph Swanson stated that DOI started with 27,200 acre-feet of water available for the June sucker. The water is a combination of water acquired either by a short-term rental or permanently. Water users who participate in the CUP water conservation program are the sources for this. Water users are compensated at market rates for their water. He also stated that it is extremely difficult to predict how much water will be needed each year for the June sucker.

Reed Harris stated that he believes they made a mistake this year because they thought there would be some base flow early on and so they would not be charged for the full 300 cfs. He stated that he didn't think holding at 300 cfs, knowing they would be charged for the full amount, would be a wise thing to do since the water can be used more effectively later on. He stated that there should have been closer coordination to avoid using so much water. He believes that as they saw base flows not picking up, then they should have cut back on their water as well.

Stan Roberts explained that DOI was not charged for the full 300 cfs. He analyzed the river and determined what flow Central Utah could have stored and what kind of flows would have been required for operation of the river and charged DOI accordingly. He stated that even though plans are made, communication is essential.

Mr. Harris apologized if he sounded like it was anyone's fault. He stated they knew it was cold and the runoff wasn't coming and so they should have come back and made some changes. He expressed appreciation to Mr. Roberts for all the work that he

does on the river. He also stated that they are not comfortable being water users yet. All of the sudden they have a block of water to be shepherded down the river, and it is difficult trying to figure out the best way to do it. This year is going to be a learning experience.

Mr. Swenson mentioned that one thing that constrains the flow workgroup is that they try to work as a team that meets periodically. A quick decision is difficult because we want everyone involved so that it will still be a team decision. He suggested that the flowgroup talk in depth about how to respond to a decision that has to be made rapidly.

In response to a question by Greg Beckstrom regarding minimum flows in the lower Provo River throughout the summer months, Mr. Devey stated the goal was to have a minimum flow of 45 cfs through the September 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Beckstrom requested that if those minimum flows were not going to be met, that Provo City be notified as soon as possible because low flows create carp-related issues and things of that nature that require a response from the city. Mr. Roberts volunteered to take that responsibility.

Russ Findlay mentioned that the Commission is working on a document regarding the lower Provo River flow recommendations. BioWest was retained by the Commission to prepare this document. Hopefully this document will provide recommended flows for the June sucker, water quality, recreation, etc. This document should be sent out soon for public comments.

Chris Crockett gave a quick update of the June sucker monitoring program. A new tag reader has been installed which has a different frequency than some of the other readers. Because of this new tag reader installation, only about five percent of the total fish population has been tagged at this time. He mentioned that they have not seen the peak of fish yet.

A meeting for the next June Sucker Flow Group was scheduled.

Mr. Barrett expressed appreciation for those making presentations. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

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