

On July 17, 1973, a meeting was held with representatives of the State and the five major canal companies at Delta. In attendance were:

- Cutler Henrie - Delta Canal Company & Consolidated Sevier Bridge Company
- Grant Nielsen - Central Utah Water Company
- Jack Reid - Abraham Irrigation Company
- Duane Stansworth - Deseret Irrigation Company
- Quin Shepherd - Melville Irrigation Company
- N. S. Bassett - D.M.A.D. Companies
- Thorpe Waddingham - Counsel, D.M.A.D. Companies
- Roger Walker - Commissioner, Sevier River
- Dallin Jensen - Assistant Attorney General
- Stanley Green - Area Engineer, Division of Water Rights

The following subjects were raised by the company representatives and were discussed:

I. Coordination with River Commissioners:

The companies claim that there has been poor coordination between the commissioners, who are to act jointly to regulate the river. They propose that the duties be reviewed and defined to include:

A. Each commissioner should have personal responsibility for the quality and the accuracy of the work done and reports submitted on the river system. These reports should be prepared and submitted as follows:

1. Summary reports on diversion and stream measurements by February 1. *- Start to complete*
2. The assessment rolls by February 15.
3. The annual report completed and submitted to the State Engineer by April 15 of each year. *- order report*

B. As joint commissioners on the Sevier River, the commissioners should periodically review the operation of the river as needed. The exchanges of Vermillion Dam should be reviewed monthly. The annual assessment rolls should be prepared jointly and both commissioners review all changes and exchanges on the Sevier River.

C. Regarding work done by the commissioners beyond his responsibilities as river commissioner, it is recommended that he not do private work for individuals where there is conflict of interest with his duties as commissioner. Similarly, the commissioner is not to help individuals with filings, particularly where fees are involved or where he may be influenced while reviewing the filing.

D. They recommended that the commissioner's report forms used in the annual report be modified so that it indicates the extent of the right being diverted.

General Statement to Commission

II. Policy for Change Applications on Sevier River System

A. The water companies are concerned about changes in use on the Sevier River which lead to increases in consumption of the water. They have noted that acreages have been enlarged, that crop patterns have been changed, and that efficiency has improved due to ditch linings, sprinkler irrigation, etc. It appears that changing crops from one to another which may have longer growing season or greater water demands is within the intent of the statutes. It is likewise clear that no increase in acreage is permissible without filing a proper change application. The question regarding increased efficiency is one which has not been established. Dallin Jensen is to research the legal precedence on this aspect.

B. The users ask that all change applications show the extent of the right and the prior use. This may be determined from the decree and the finding in fact, the proposed determination of the water rights and the hydrographic surveys. In addition, it may be necessary to reexamine the rights being exchanged.

C. They ask that approvals of changes and exchanges show the above facts together with the method of distribution, responsibility for control, and allocation of costs.

III. Underground Water Administration

A. The companies are concerned that there may be enlargement of acreages being supplied from pump wells in the Delta area. They noted that they have installed meters on their wells and believe that an order was given to all users to likewise meter the wells. If meters were ordered, this has not been enforced to date.

B. It was noted by Mr. Jensen that the State Engineer is currently conducting crop surveys in the Escalante Valley and Duchesne Valley, and that the Delta Basin could be considered for similar surveys in the future, possibly 1974.

IV. Water Quality

The users stated that water supplies on the lower river are reaching the minimum usable quality. They are concerned that with increased consumption and recycling of supplies upstream, the quality of the water may be further reduced and suggest that a study be initiated to determine the extent of degradation.

V. Specific Problems

Several specific problems have been raised in the past and have not been resolved to date.

A. Spring Hill Ditch - There is a question as to whether or not they have a winter irrigation rights.

B. Harvey Erickson Well - This well immediately below Sevier Bridge Reservoir has no recorded right and it is indicated that there is an increase in the use through pumping the well and additional acreages.

C. Increase of irrigated acreages noted by pumping of water from the irrigation ditch to lands above the ditch rights.

VI. Review of SCS Study

A. A draft of Appendix III "Irrigation Water Management," Sevier River Basin, Utah, is being circulated for review. Roger Walker does not agree with some of the statements. Stanley Green is going to write a letter to the SCS requesting them to hold this draft until Mr. Walker has had an opportunity to complete his review.

VII. Future Meeting

This meeting will be followed by another with the State Engineer in two to four weeks.