

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
WEBER RIVER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM MEETING  
OGDEN, UTAH

JANUARY 9, 1990

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WATER RIGHTS  
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The annual meeting of the Weber River Distribution System convened in the Ogden City Commission Chambers on the sixth floor of the Ogden City Municipal Building at 1:30 p.m., on January 9, 1990.

Present:	Lee Sim	Division of Water Rights
	John Mann	Division of Water Rights
	John Larsen	Division of Water Rights
	Blaine Thomsen	Division of Water Rights
	Joseph Dawson	Weber River Water Rights Comm.
	D. Earl Harris	Weber River Water Rights Comm.
	Preston Marchant	Weber River Water Rights Comm.
	Dennis Wright	Weber River Water Rights Comm.
	D. A. Osguthorpe	Weber River Water Rights Comm.
	Ivan Flint	Weber River Water Rights Comm.
	Don Turner	Weber River Water Rights Comm.
	Floyd Baham	Weber River Water Rights Comm.
	Richard Hixson	Utah Power & Light Co.
	E. Blaine Johnson	Weber River Water Commissioner
	Dennis Marchant	Weber River Deputy Commissioner
	Lorin Sperry	Utah Division of Wildlife Res.

The meeting was called to order by Lee Sim of the Division of Water Rights of the Utah State Engineer's Office. The minutes of January 10, 1989 were read by John Mann. A motion was made by Joseph Dawson, seconded by Dennis Wright, to approve the minutes as read. All voted in favor. Mr. Sim introduced his staff to those present.

The Financial Statement was presented by Lee Sim. He stated that we did go over in the area of Health & Accident Insurance, but this item is difficult to assess. Other than that, the budget is in order. He stated that as they have gone through the accounting year with their staff, they will no longer be able to juggle the budget in each distribution system, by contacting the chairman as needed. They must make this change in order to streamline their work-load. There were \$1900.00 delinquent accounts in 1989. He stated that they do not have the resources to followup on small accounts. A list will be sent to the Committee to collect accounts under \$100.00. The Commissioner will work on the accounts of \$100. - \$200.00, and the Division of Water Rights will get involved if the account is above \$300.00. After some discussion, Floyd Baham made a motion to accept the financial report as read. Ivan Flint seconded the motion and the vote carried unanimously.

Weber River Water Commissioner, E. Blaine Johnson expressed his appreciation for the help his five deputies had given him, and that without their assistance, he could not do half of what he does. He further explained that he did not have to cut rights as low or as early this past irrigation season. All in all we had an adequate season. 1990 does not look as promising. We are only 44% of what we were this time last year. It will take 129% from now to the beginning of the water season to bring us to normal. As of January 1, 1990 our storage is: Wanship 39,500 A.F., Echo 29,770 A.F., East Canyon 13,800 A.F., and Lost Creek 11,880 A.F. Lee Sim thanked Commissioner Johnson and stated that he appreciated working with him as he is a very capable commissioner. D. Earl Harris made a motion to accept the report, Don Turner seconded and all voted in favor.

Lee Sim explained that since 1986, the State Engineer's Office has experienced a cut back in personnel, and in addition they have maintained the same operating budget as well, hence.... a decrease. The expense of the accounting and the meetings held have increased, and we have thirtyfive distribution systems that we are responsible for. In the future there is a need to upgrade the systems, and if funding becomes a problem, there may be an assessment on a proportionate basis to the various distribution systems. Under the Utah State Statute the State Engineer's Office does have the ability to assess the distribution systems for expenses that are associated with their systems.

Chairman Dawson of the Weber River Water Rights Committee presented the 1990 Proposed Budget of \$85,229.00. He stated that the only change was a 5% increase in salary for the Commissioner and his Deputies, as well as their benefits. Chairman Dawson also recommended that Commissioner Johnson and his five deputies be retained for the ensuing year. Chairman Dawson stated that we appreciated Commissioner Johnson's efforts in making the operation function smoothly. Dennis Wright made a motion to accept the Proposed Budget and the recommendation of the Commissioner and Deputies. Floyd Baham seconded and all voted in favor.

Lee Sim stated that there is a plan to do away with assessments and have the Legislature take care of the costs of distribution. This same plan was suggested some twentyfive years ago, but did not materialize at that time. Distribution would still be according to water rights. Concern would be the power of the State Legislature to control the water. This plan would lighten their work load. The question was asked if each system could collect their own assessments. Mr. Sim stated that some systems are not sophisticated enough to make the collections, and we have individuals on the systems as well as companies. He said he would encourage the Committeemen to talk with the Legislature.

Lorin Sperry of the Utah State Wildlife Resources stated he had some concerns. He stated that sportsmen have a large investment on the Weber River. He further stated that the Weber River is an expensive system. He said that Wildlife Resources finds themselves with no input on the distribution system, yet they pay 13% of the distribution assessments on the Weber River System. He said they do not want to upset or change the system, they just want to be part of the decision making process. Preston Marchant stated that the Wildlife Resources needs to cooperate with the land owners as well. D. A. Osguthorpe and Dennis Marchant felt the same, and it was stated that the wildlife programs are not totally in the best interest of the public. Floyd Baham stated that if Mr. Sperry could give us some direction, we would be willing to work with him, thus maybe we could help each other.

Dennis Wright addressed John Mann, Weber River Area Engineer, who has replaced Jim Riley. Dennis asked John Mann, when making big decisions, to keep everyone in mind on the entire system from the large power houses to the small individual.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Donna M. Thurgood,  
Secretary