

Minutes of the Lower San Pitch River Distribution System
January 31, 2017

Called to order at 11:06 by Allen Dyreng

Minutes were read by, David Beck.

Motion to accept the minutes

Made by Lee Mcelprang

Seconded by Mike Larsen

Vote: all present in favor.

Those present; Allen Dyreng, Mike Silva, Roland Beck, Sherwin Sorensen, Jared Manning, David Beck, Jay Olsen, Norman Jensen, Kirk Forbush, Mike Larsen, Terry Monroe, Garth Sorenson, Ben Boore, Russell Yardley, Lee Mcelprang

David Beck gave the 2016 Water Commissioner report

We are now in the fifth year of below needed stream flow. At last year's meeting our snow pack measured 125% of normal, and we were optimistic of a good water year. We had just experienced a very large, 3 day long, snow storm. Following our meeting, the storm track moved North and we had below average storms for the rest of the water year. Our water delivery was very similar to 2015, but the absence of Rain in May, June and July made for a very poor crop year.

2015 was the lowest flow out of the Sanpitch to Fayette or the Sevier river that I have measured, at 1,306 ac. ft. 2016 measured 1,390 ac. ft. A normal expectation of flow would be 16,000 to 20,000 ac. ft. There has been much discussion about the fact that water is measured at the old field canal diversion. There is a minimum of a 5 second ft. loss between there and where the water enters the Fayette canal. This spring a meeting was held with Mike Silva, Sherwin Sorensen, Allen Dyreng, Ben Boore and David Beck to look at a different measuring site. As of today there have been no changes.

One area of concern being investigated is the Sanpitch river flow between Chester and Ephraim. During the months of Dec. Jan. and Feb. there are no water rights before the Drainage district. 15 to 40 sec. ft. are consistently being measured going past the Bagnal diversion, while no water flow is being measured at the Ephraim levy. There are some ditches and levies through this area, but there is no river channel for the flow to follow. An estimated 3,000 to 4,000 ac. ft. of water that should be available to the drainage district and then flow into the Gunnison reservoir is unaccountable. The Gunnison reservoir has been measured at 0 feet of water on January 1, 2015, 2016 and again this year.

Motion to accept the Report

Made by, Norman Jensen

Seconded by, Russell Yardley

Vote: all present in favor

Jared Manning made comments concerning the purchasing rules governing water commissioners and that they often were not being met with regards to current purchases. Legislation was in the

process to make water commissioners exempt from some of the purchasing rules so enable them to make purchases needed for their river.

Mike Silva gave the engineers report:

San Pitch River: Distribution Engineers Report 2016

Forecast and Water Outlook: as of January 26th, 2017

Due to a number of storms around Christmas and through January this year, the snowpack is in very good condition for high volume runoff. As of this writing we are at 161% of median in the Basin. So next I look at the Spring and summer Stream flow forecasts and they are all predicted to be over 130% and increasing since that data was good at Jan 1st. Key point is GET READY! As snowpack continues to build its highly likely a problematic high volume runoff will be with us as the spring melt happens. This condition is true statewide where most all basins are running about 150% or more ahead of median.

This is a good problem to have, but runoff and melt rate will be important to watch. I am expecting conditions similar to or more than the high 2011 runoff year from recent memory, mostly depending on the melt rate, but the recent springtime tendency has been early melt and rain on snow events in the spring.

Last year (2016) our early season rainy period melted off the low and mid elevation snows in January, and we had high pressure in February. It will be no problem to have more water than last year even if we don't increase our snowpack, from this point forward. Things to watch for will be the melt rate of the high elevation snowpack come spring, this may cause high water over the current river system's capacity to handle it. I highly suggest that all parties with diversions on the river, along with flood control and county road crews critically inspect and assess their ability to handle high runoff conditions that are expected in early spring. This means walking and inspecting canals, removing debris, especially logs and trees, doing repairs, in the early spring, prepare and anticipate high water conditions that WILL be with us. Think about our most recent high year in 2011, since it's looking similar, anticipate this and get ready, there will probably be more. Think canal maintenance. Also note that stream alteration permits may be required for any modifications.

Water Commissioners are Now State Employees

House Bill 258 has clarified that water commissioners are state employees of the Division of Water Rights. Operational changes & new requirements for purchasing were necessary. Some items will influence the budgeting process. Jared will discuss this more.

Canals, Beavers and Maintenance

In late November 2016, I dealt with a new and thriving beaver population affecting in one of the lower Jordan Canals around 3300 South. Some beavers were trapped in this area; however there are probably more around. I would suggest that all canal operators make a visual inspection of their entire canal for signs of beavers. It doesn't take them long to make a dam and have canals overflowing. This along with routine maintenance and dredging will make sure the water gets to where it needs to go. Responsibilities for this falls to the canal owners and the county or municipal flood control operations. Please anticipate, don't wait for a phone call about

someone's yard flooding, to go out and inspect. We have funded beaver trapping for our systems with Distribution system funding under contract services.

Jared Manning gave the financial report:

8,695.41 beginning balance
17,089.79 total receipts
18,143.32 total expenditures
7,641.87 ending balance

Liability insurance was budgeted for and not yet billed. 50% of a flowed meter was purchased by the river commissioner along with 50% by the Gunnison irrigation company. The amount of \$1,160 exceeded the \$800 budgeted. There was no contract labor expended.

There were 2 delinquent accounts, an address was provided for Ardean Christensen (Same address used formerly by Richard Christensen). Pedro Candia land purchase was not part of the Sanpitch river and there was no Sanpitch river right accompanying the sale. His assessment needed to be applied to the Hansen acct.

Last year's assessment was \$17,000.00

A motion to accept the financial report

Was made by David Beck
Sec by Norman Jensen
Vote: all present in favor

Allen Dyreng conducted the budget for 2017 as follows:

Beck, David	
Salary	9,050
Social Security	700
Insurance	200
Travel	2,000
Sorenson, Garth	
Salary	2,400
Social Security	185
Insurance	140
Travel	1,200
Supplies & Equipment	800
Contract Service	200
Misc. Expense	11
State Engineer Assessment	1210
Annual Report	100
Totals	18,146.00

Jared Manning stated that any contract services from the Lower Sanpitch river funds would need to follow state procedure.

A motion that the budget of the *Lower* Sanpitch system for 2017 would remain the same as 2016.

Made by, Jay Olsen
Seconded by, Sherwin Sorensen
Vote: all present in favor

A motion to set the assessment of the *Lower* System for 2017 at 17,000

Made by Norman Jensen
Seconded by Russell Yardley
Vote: all present in favor

A motion that the Board remains the same as in 2016

Made by Lee Mcelprang
Seconded by Sherwin Sorensen
Vote: all present in favor

The committee for 2017 is:

Chairman	Dave Cox
Vice chairman	Allen Dyreng
First chairman	Clair Otten
Second chairman	Doug Wilden
Third chairman	Mike Larsen
Fourth chairman	Richard Nielsen
Fifth chairman	Sherwin Sorensen
Sixth chairman	Jay Olsen

Sherwin Sorensen noted that a measuring structure, added to the Fayette canal to measure water flowing from the canal into the Sevier River, was backing water up to the Farmers Freeway. He indicated this structure may need to be re-constructed and that water measurements taken at that structure combined with measurements from the Robins canal near Dyreng's farm would need to be used to tally the amount of water they were charged and to record the water flowing into the Sevier river from the Sanpitch.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.