

STATE ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON IRRIGATION DISTRICTS

MINUTES - Board of Directors meeting held at Yakima, Wash. on Thursday, January 11, 1951.

Present - Paul Booker, H. E. Alexander, David Brooks, Earle Buzzell, J. R. Downie, C. P. Hartvedt, Clifford Kail, Pauline Osterhout, Charles L. Powell, J. C. Scott, G. L. Sterling, Claude Zediker, and Ted Newstrum.

Since Mr. E. J. Brand, who was elected President of the Association at the annual meeting in November, has stated he is unable to serve, Mr. Paul E. Booker was elected President to serve until the next annual meeting.

The main purpose of the meeting being to discuss proposed legislation to be presented to the State Legislature at its 1951 session, drafts of the following bills were reviewed by Mr. Powell. Each was discussed individually, and were approved by the Board.

1. To amend Sec. 1, Chapter 41, Laws of 1949, and add the words "and make financial contributions to them for such purpose". This would enable the Association to make financial contributions to other reclamation organizations and agencies in the state.

2. An act relating to irrigation district elections, providing that such elections shall be held under the provisions of the irrigation district laws, and declaring elections heretofore held under such laws valid, and repealing all laws in conflict therewith.

3. An act relating to elections and voting, providing for the time and manner of holding and calling certain city, town and district elections, amending Sec. 2, Ch. 61, Laws of 1921 as last amended by Sec. 1. Ch.161, Laws of 1949.

4. An act relating to elections and voting, amending Sec. 2, Ch. 61, Laws of 1921, as last amended by Sec. 1. Ch. 161, Laws of 1949, and amending Sec. 5, Ch. 161, Laws of 1949.

5. An act providing for the segregation of irrigation district assessments after levy thereof, providing for hearing to authorize said segregation, and directing the County Treasurer to extend such segregation upon the appropriate assessment rolls.

6. An act relating to irrigation districts and authorizing Board of Control to instruct the County Treasurer regarding invement of Board of Control funds.

7. An act providing for an increase in compensation of the Board of Directors of irrigation districts - the Board of Directors shall each receive not to exceed \$15.00 per day in attending meetings, to be determined by said board.

8. An act authorizing irrigation districts to purchase life, health and accident insurance for its employees.

In addition to the above, the Board approved the preparation by the Legislative Committee on legislation regarding the payment of assessments against state lands in irrigation districts, and also legislation which would authorize irrigation districts, if they so desire, to make application to handle their own financial affairs and issue their own warrants.

Mr. Powell stated that the Legislative Committee had met in Spokane during the N.R.A. convention and had discussed changing the rate of interest on delinquent assessments. They had decided such a change was inadvisable and had therefore not prepared any draft of legislation to make such a change.

There was discussion regarding a decision of the Bureau of Internal Revenue to apply federal documentary stamp tax to state and local transactions. Mr. Powell stated that state property was not subject to government tax, and he read a proposed Memorial to be introduced in the State Legislature against this action. This Memorial was approved by the Directors.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Secretary be authorized to reimburse the members of the Legislative Committee for expenses incurred in connection with the handling of legislation proposed by the Association.

There was discussion as to whether or not employees of a district can purchase certificates of delinquency on land in the district by which they are employed. An opinion had been secured from the Prosecuting Attorney of Yakima County in which it is stated that employees, other than officials of a district, can purchase such certificates. Although it was felt that this practice might lead to criticism by the public, it was decided the Association should take no action to attempt to change it.

There was considerable discussion, in which Mr. Buzzell participated, regarding the difficulties in Yakima County on payment of vouchers. The Sunnyside Valley and Roza districts are bringing suit against the Yakima County Auditor regarding reimbursement for payment of certain vouchers, which should determine whether the Auditor is an issuing or auditing agent for irrigation districts. This brought up again the question of classification of districts, and Mr. Buzzell again recommended that those districts that can qualify get a law passed that would enable them to operate the same as first class school districts. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that a bill be drafted proposing the authorization of an irrigation district to make application to some agency, preferably the State Dept. of Municipal Corporations, and by meeting certain requirements authorizing the district to issue its own warrants following the procedure provided for first class school districts.

The matter of whether or not a water company could hold more water than its shareholders made use of was brought up by Mr. Scott. Mr. Powell advised that there is a ruling to the effect that no one can waste water to the detriment of anyone else downstream, and he suggested that in such cases the company or shareholders be enjoined from wasting water.

Regarding social security for district employees, it has been determined that an enabling act by the State Legislature is necessary. Mr. Kail reported that a letter had been received from the Governor in which he stated that such legislation had been prepared and would be presented to the Legislature.

The matter of Directors of the Association who fail to attend meeting was discussed, and it was agreed that any Director who is absent from three consecutive meetings without adequate excuse would be considered as resigned, and the Directors should appoint another in his place. Mr. David C. Brooks was appointed to succeed Joe McManamy as Director-at-Large.

Concerning a Director for Division 5 to succeed Paul Booker, Mr. Booker suggested that the matter be held in abeyance until after a forthcoming joint meeting of the Columbia Basin projects, at which time someone would be recommended.

It was suggested that the Secretary secure copies of all bills introduced in the Legislature, and he was authorized to make reimbursement for any expense incurred in connection with this. It was approved that the Legislative Committee meet in Olympia with the Committees on Reclamation and Irrigation of the House and Senate in connection with legislation proposed by the Association.

The matter of the Association issuing monthly releases covering irrigation district affairs was discussed. It was suggested either that a committee be appointed to supervise the issuance of such releases or that the Directors should take turns furnishing material.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.