

STATE ASSOCIATION OF
WASHINGTON IRRIGATION DISTRICTS

Directors and Legislative Committee Meeting

January 6, 1966

The Directors and Legislative Committee met in Paul Lemargie's office at 10:00 a.m. Present were Rosadell Hoppe, Lemargie, Hendrick, Nutley, Stepon, Doncaster, O'Brian, McDaniels, Liebel and Alexander.

Van Nutley moved that Hendrick be authorized to represent the State Association at a meeting on January 22 with the Legislative Interim Committee on Water Resources.

Mention was made that Columbia Basin projects should have a representative from one or all of their districts appear on the program in Ellensburg January 22.

Van Nutley suggested that Districts need some kind of registration of water rights. Could be done by Federal Government rather than individuals.

Paul Lemargie says State Supreme Court ruling protects headgates.

Judgement should not be passed on HB 266 at this time said Lemargie, as it will be changed considerably by legislative time. It could be very dangerous and should be fought unless it specifically protects irrigation.

Henry Alexander said consumptive use is quite different and that some law is needed but not if all protection is not given.

Van Nutley says the State Reclamation should get busy on this matter. Alexander replied that they would give more help.

Hy Wells wants the dates of the annual meetings of our State Association and the State Reclamation Association set back to back.

The question was asked if any studies were being made at the U of Washington regarding changes in irrigation laws. Watch for this.

Letter was read from Gale Sterling concerning the loss of assessments by lands being taken for highway use in Oregon. This case in Oregon was lost by the irrigation district involved. Mr. Sterling advised that our Association should get behind either of HR 2858 or HR 1712, federal bills to provide for payment of assessments when irrigable land is taken for non-agricultural purposes.

Suggestion was made that a letter be written Kathryn May explaining difference between her bill, HR 1712 and Mr. Ullman's HR 2858. Also suggested was consolidation of the two bills and then the Association to support bill.

Letter was read by Henry Alexander regarding finance for State Reclamation Association. After some discussion on districts sponsoring support for the State Reclamation the issue was left unsettled. Henry Alexander to inform Board that those present at this meeting were not in favor.

Dick Hendrick brought up the problem of communications at Legislative time. Keeping track of all bills, lobbying etc. Hendrick to check with John Richardson on cost proposal etc.

Alexander suggested that we have Mr. Richardson attend the next annual meeting.

Also very important that member districts should submit proposals for Legislation to Cal Liebel as soon as possible.

Secretary was instructed to write Congressman in name of Association in support of the Highway Legislation HR 2858 and HR 1712 that Gale Sterling sent to us. The Association supports both these bills in principle.