

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF JOINT COMMITTEE
OF THE OWYHEE PROJECT**

April 5, 2024

A special meeting of the Joint Committee of the Owyhee Project was held on April 5, 2024, at the Owyhee Irrigation District office located at 422 Thunderegg Blvd., Nyssa, Oregon, at 1:00 p.m. Eric White, Chairman of the Joint Committee presiding.

The following members of the Joint Committee were present:

Eric White	Bret Nielson
Chris Landa	Bruce Corn
Gregory Clark	Dan Tschida

Also present were: Clancy Flynn, Manager of the Hydro Projects; Michael W. Horton, Secretary and General Counsel; Carl Sieders, South Board Manager; Peter Cooper, USBR (by video conference); Richard Harriman, Malheur County Sheriff's Office; Stephen Robertson, ODOT; Wes Allison, Nyssa Road District; Chancey Child, Vale ODOT; Kyle Climer, Ontario ODOT; Rob Wagstaff, WBH Farms; Lance Peterson, Peterson Farms of Nyssa, Inc.; and Orson Frates, Member of the Public.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Chairman Eric White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEETING NOTICE. Mr. Flynn reported that public notice of the meeting was given.

Introductions were made.

RELEASE UPDATE. Mr. Flynn said that currently there is 7,500 cfs being released below the dam. He said that based upon the forecast projections, there should be 18,000 a.f. of capacity in the reservoir. He said he would like to increase releases to 8,000 cfs unless things change drastically and he does not recommend decreasing releases below 5,000 cfs for the next month. He said there was a lot of snow last night. He said the canals are at 371 cfs. He said that the Tunnel Plant was shut down before it started climbing.

USBR PRESENTATION. Peter Cooper and Tim Clark made a video presentation to the Committee. Mr. Cooper said that storage is at 672,000 a.f. and he predicts that Rome will peak at 15,000 cfs. He said there was a lot of precipitation last night and that a dryer trend is predicted after today. He said that the snow is building again at Mud Flat and South Mountain and once it warms up, there will be higher inflows next month. He said that over the last week, their forecast has increased significantly to 537,000 a.f. of inflows, which is 100,000 a.f. more than last week.

USBR RECOMMENDATION. Mr. Cooper said that USBR recommends releasing 4,000 cfs to 8,000 cfs of inflows through the month of April. He said he recommends continuing to release water even if inflows drop. He said that the 6 to 14 day forecast is warm and dry. Chairman White asked where releases on the Snake River are expected to be at. Mr. Cooper said that the forecast is at 26,000 cfs and currently it is at 19,000 cfs which is below the Owyhee mouth. He said they will be increasing releases by 1,000 cfs this week into the Boise River.

Mr. Flynn said that he drove around with Jay Chamberlin today and they think there is about 4,500 cfs downstream in the river. He said that Wildhorse looks like it will fill and spill. Wes Allison said that if the river gets to 8,000 cfs, it will go over Overstreet Road by Wynn's Dairy. He said that the State highway should be good. He said that ODOT has a crane available and they are keeping eyes on the crossing.

Mr. Cooper said that USBR is working on approving a surcharge in the reservoir of an additional 1,000 a.f. to 9,000 a.f. of capacity and this would be done by closing the jet flows. He said that 2011 was the last time outflows were this high. He said the Weather Service will be documenting what happens on the river with these flows.

Wes Allison said that between the dairy and the bridge on Overstreet it overflowed in 2011.

The Joint Committee discussed following Mr. Flynn's recommendations and their consensus was to do so.

Mr. Harriman explained the Alert Sense notices and he said he will get ODOT on the list. He said that ODOT will keep eyes on the bridges.

NEXT MEETING. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 8, at 8:00 a.m., and if there is a major event, the Committee will meet again this week.

ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael W. Horton, Secretary

APPROVED: _____