

**MINUTES OF THE
STATE WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**
Thursday, July 13, 2000 - 1:00 p.m. - Room 405 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Leonard M. Blackham, Senate Chair
Rep. Evan L. Olsen, House Chair
Sen. Mike Dmitrich
Sen. Joseph L. Hull
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. Wayne A. Harper
Rep. Dennis H. Iverson
Rep. Brad King
Mr. Tom Christensen
Mr. Don Christiansen
Ms. Kathleen Clarke
Ms. Natalie Gochnour
Mr. Irvin Haws
Mr. Dallin Jensen
Mr. Scott Paxton (representing
 Mr. Ivan Flint)
Mr. Cary Peterson
Mr. Dale Pierson
Mr. Ron Thompson

Members Excused:

Rep. Bradley T. Johnson
Mr. Paul Riley
Mr. Thorpe Waddingham

Members Absent:

Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Mr. Larry Andher
Mr. Darrell H. Mensel
Ms. Dianne Nielson

Staff Present:

Ms. Constance C. Steffen,
 Research Analyst
Ms. Jeanenne B. Larson,
 Associate General Counsel
Ms. Joy L. Miller,
 Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials distributed in the meeting are on file in the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

1. Committee Business - Chairman Olsen called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Thompson moved to approve the minutes of November 15, 1999. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Blackham and Rep. Gowans were absent during the vote.

2. Proposed Enlargement of Hyrum Dam and Reservoir - Mr. Al Trout, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, distributed information on Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge water needs and supplies. There are sufficient river flows to meet the needs of the refuge during the year except for the months of July, August, and September. He said they have been looking for a way to impound water and change some of their certificated rights into storage rights early in the year for use in drier months. Mr. Trout stated funding for the proposed project would come from federal money.

Mr. Jay Henry, Bureau of Reclamation, distributed information on the proposal to enlarge Hyrum Dam and Reservoir. He noted if the dam is raised 50 feet, it would increase the water capacity by 27,000 acre-feet at a cost of \$51 million. The upper limit would be raising the dam 90

feet higher than its present height. That would increase capacity by approximately 58,000 acre-feet and cost \$58 million. He noted a new structure would be safer than the existing one.

Mr. Dennis Strong, Division of Water Resources, stated they question the estimated yield. He said there is no minimum flow release below Hyrum. If the reservoir is enlarged, there will be a mitigation requirement for the instream flow below Hyrum.

Rep. Olsen stated the cost of the proposed Honeyville Dam is very close to the amount to raise Hyrum Dam. He asked if it would be more feasible to use the proposed Honeyville site. Mr. Trout responded that they pursued that option for a year during the mid-1990s but were told the state did not want to partner with them.

Mr. Strong explained the plan had a lot of substance to it and was to be a joint project. The people of Honeyville and Box Elder County were upset that the least expensive water development project on the Bear River would be participated in by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The policy decision was made that before the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service participated in a project with the state, the state's needs would be satisfied first.

3. Water Development Project Reports -

Bear River Development - Mr. Dave Ovard, Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District, distributed information on the district. He noted the district has entered into a memorandum of understanding with Weber Basin Water Conservancy District which expresses the intent of the two districts to work together to develop facilities to put Bear River project water to use. Bear River water will be needed by both districts by 2015. A tentative agreement has been reached on how the costs will be shared. Mr. Ovard explained that once a contract is developed, the state is required to determine how the water will be made available to them in the area of Willard Bay. The state has prepared a draft contract, and the districts hope to have a contract with the state for a project within the next year or two. He noted most of the costs are not in constructing a dam but in constructing a treatment plant and a pipeline to bring the water south. A plant site has been purchased in Weber County, and they are purchasing a right-of-way to preserve a corridor from Weber County through Davis County and into Salt Lake County. To date they have acquired 35-40 percent of the right-of-way.

Mr. Scott Paxman, Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, explained they serve 300,000 people with culinary water. They wholesale water to all the cities and water districts in Weber and Davis counties. They are adding approximately 1,500-2,000 acre-feet of culinary water each year. He noted they have 30,000 acre-feet reserved in Willard Bay for growth for the next 15 years. After that, water will be required from the Bear River. They are also looking for 30 acres of land on which to put a finished water storage reservoir. There is a need for an additional treatment and

distribution system around 2008.

Central Utah Project (CUP) - Mr. Lee Wimmer, Central Utah Water Conservancy District, gave a slide presentation of current work on the CUP. He said the 7.2 mile pipeline project in Diamond Fork has been completed; however, there is no connection on either end of it. Both the upstream and downstream portions must be finished prior to using the pipeline. Mr. Wimmer said they began a draft Environment Impact Statement on the Spanish Fork/Nephi irrigation system. After several concerns were raised, the projects were separated and an environmental assessment was done on Diamond Fork in order to proceed with that portion. He said they will return to scoping on the Utah Lake drainage basin water delivery system. Mr. Wimmer indicated that during the scoping process, public hearings will be held to give individuals a chance to make their requests for water. He said they believe they will receive an increase in requests for municipal and industrial (M&I) water. Mr. Wimmer mentioned they have been spending a considerable amount of time and money on the Wasatch County water efficiency project. The project increases the efficiency of water east of the Provo River in Wasatch County. They hope to conserve 23,000 acre-feet of water annually. He also noted the water conservation credit program has been a beneficial project. Mr. Wimmer indicated 108 applications have been received and 36 projects were implemented. He noted the program will probably run out of money within a year or two.

Sand Hollow Reservoir and Lake Powell Pipeline - Mr. Thompson stated the plans and specifications for Sand Hollow have been finalized. Bids for the project will be opened July 21 and awarded the first week of August. He said they expect the project to be finished by September 2001. The reservoir will store 50,000 acre-feet of water. The capital cost of the project per acre-foot of storage will be \$660. Raw water will cost approximately \$120 per acre-foot. Mr. Thompson explained they recently entered into the third phase of a study with the Bureau of Reclamation concerning the Lake Powell project. The study will be completed next year. He indicated an 800-foot utility corridor was inserted through the new monument which follows the preferred alignment of the Lake Powell pipeline. Hydropower production is expected to pay the operation and maintenance costs of the project. Mr. Thompson commented southern Utah is experiencing a significant drought, yet they continue to grow. He pointed out that nearly 100 percent of the water in Quail Creek has been sold.

4. River District Reports - Mr. Ovard stated Deer Creek Reservoir is at the lowest level it has been since the early 1990s. The ground water aquifer in Salt Lake County is being tapped at the highest rate ever.

Mr. Paxton reported the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District has a two-year supply of water for irrigation and drinking. He noted there are some irrigation companies along the upper Weber River that are already out of water.

Sen. Dmitrich mentioned that Scofield Reservoir did not fill. There was no runoff from the White River.

Mr. Pierson indicated Grand County is subject to agricultural water restrictions. San Juan County is in the process of completing a water master plan. An inventory was done on potential storage areas to develop the remaining surface waters from the Blue Mountains. It appears they will have to supplement that water with other sources. Mr. Pierson said they are studying a plan to provide water and sewer service to a portion of the Spanish Valley. They are also looking at providing water to an area between the Green River bridge and Moab City limits on the north end of town. Carbon County has a number of ongoing projects dealing with salinity control.

Mr. Tom Christensen stated water in his area is at about 50 percent but will drop to 25 percent later in July. The Otter Creek dam was rehabilitated and holds over 50,000 acre-feet.

Mr. Haws said there are six projects in the Uintah Basin. These include canal and pumping projects. He stated the Green River pumping project is undergoing engineering studies.

Rep. Iverson indicated Gunlock Reservoir almost filled but is going down fast. He said money was approved for a project in Escalante.

Rep. Olsen reported on the Porcupine and Hyrum Dams. After rehabilitation, Porcupine Dam filled and water is being drawn for irrigation.

MOTION: Sen. Hull moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:20 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.