

BEAR RIVER COMPACT MEETING

State Capitol Building - Salt Lake City, Utah

June 11, 1945

Minutes of the Meeting of Bear River Tri-State Committee.

A meeting of the Bear River Tri-State Committee was held at the State Capitol Building, Salt Lake City, Utah, June 11, 1945 at 2:00 P. M. The following were present:

Mark R. Kulp, State Reclamation Engineer, Boise, Idaho
Thomas R. Newell, District Engineer, U. S. G. S., Boise, Idaho
M. T. Wilson, U. S. Geological Survey, Salt Lake City, Utah
Wm. R. Wallace, President, Utah Water Users, Salt Lake City, Utah
E. J. Baird, Watermaster, District 5, Idaho
F. M. Cooper, Manager, Last Chance Canal Co., Grace, Idaho
Gerald Irvine, % Utah Power & Light Co., Salt Lake City, Utah
E. G. Thorum, % Utah Power & Light Co., Salt Lake City, Utah
L. C. Monson, State Engineer's Office, Salt Lake City, Utah
W. J. Hunter, Montpelier, Idaho
E. J. Skeen, Attorney, Bureau of Reclamation, Federal Bldg., S.L.C.
Reid Jerman, Engineer, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, Salt Lake City
W. V. Iorns, U. S. Geological Survey, Logan, Utah
E. K. Thomas, Engineer, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, Logan, Utah
L. C. Bishop, State Engineer of Wyoming, Cheyenne, Wyoming
David P. Miller, Supt. Water Division No. 4, Rock Springs, Wyoming
A. L. Merrill, Attorney, Pocatello, Idaho
F. W. Cottrell, State Engineer's Office, Salt Lake City
E. W. Clyde, Asst. Attorney General, Salt Lake City, Utah
Ed. H. Watson, State Engineer, Salt Lake City, Utah

Ed. H. Watson, State Engineer of Utah, presided, and E. W. Clyde acted as secretary.

Mr. W. V. Iorns of the U. S. Geological Survey was first called upon to discuss and report on his work since the Denver meeting. Mr. Iorns by oral report stated that beginning in April readings on the various canal stations have been regularly made. He stated that spring rains have to some extent upset the results because of diminishing demands for water under some of the canals. He has been able to obtain daily discharge records on Bear River above the Woodruff Narrows. He explained various difficulties in getting complete records of stream flow and reported that he would have the yearly

report complete in roughdraft in about six weeks. It was mutually agreed by the state engineers of each state that Mr. Iorns was to obtain 100 copies of his report and that the manner of printing was to be left to his decision. By way of suggestion Mr. Iorns requested that each state, as rapidly as possible, obtain a detailed report of the number of acres irrigated under the Bear River System and the dates of priority for the various tracts of land.

There was then a general discussion relative to obtaining necessary data preliminary to starting the actual negotiations for the writing of a compact. Various suggestions were made as to the basis of allocation of water.

Mr. Bishop commented that a mass allocation without regard to daily variations in the stream would hurt Wyoming unless the minimum stream flow was taken for the basis of segregation. He advanced for discussion the method of segregation which he denominated a divertable flow basis. This basis was discussed but no definite conclusion was reached as to the basis of segregation, the consensus of opinion being that such discussion was premature. Mr. Bishop made a statement to the effect that priorities and beneficial use should be considered as a basis for allocation of waters of the river and that State lines probably should be ignored. Representatives of Idaho and Utah expressed the opinion that priorities and beneficial use based upon acreage should be the controlling factor in determining the various rights. Each state, through its state engineer, reaffirmed that it would furnish the acreage and priority report on lands irrigated under the Bear River System. Mr. Watson of Utah stated that Utah would have such report for Rich County by early fall. Mr. Bishop of Wyoming stated that if additional help can be hired Wyoming can have its report by January 1, 1946. Mr. Kulp of Idaho stated that their problem was one of obtaining adequate help and that the report would be obtained as fast as possible.

Mr. E. K. Thomas of the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, then outlined in detail the various projects contemplated by the Bureau in the development of

Bear River. This report showed that a total of 1,200,000 acre-feet of additional storage capacity was to be constructed and that approximately 200,000 acres of new land can be brought under cultivation. A general discussion followed this report by Mr. Thomas.

Mr. Reid Jerman, Engineer for the Bureau of Reclamation, was then called upon to suggest various procedures to expedite the writing of the compact. Mr. Jerman pointed out that the Bureau would be unable to start construction until the compact was signed. He stated that the committee now had the tentative project plan and considerable data on the flow of the river. He recommended that one man, or a committee, be immediately hired for the purpose of coordinating the data now at hand and that responsibility be placed on such man or committee to bring together the various reports and ascertain what additional information is necessary. Such individual or committee would have to be paid entirely by the three states, and it was agreed that this suggestion would be considered at the next meeting after Mr. Iorns had submitted his written report.

The meeting adjourned subject to the call of the Chairman sometime during the fall of 1945. It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at Montpelier, Idaho.

Ed. H. Watson

ED. H. WATSON, CHAIRMAN