

P. O. Box 413
Logan, Utah.
January 17, 1946.

*Dec. 17, 1945
Pocatello, Idaho*

T. R. Newell, District Engineer
Geological Survey, Boise, Idaho.

Robert Follansbee, District Engineer
Geological Survey, Denver, Colorado.

M. T. Wilson, District Engineer
Geological Survey, Salt Lake City, Utah.

For the information of the Survey Bear River Advisory Committee, this letter will serve to record in general a meeting of the three state engineers at Pocatello on December 17, 1945, which I was requested to attend. Possibly Mr. Watson will send out minutes of the meeting, but I believe that a report from me would not be out of order. The transmittal of this to you has been delayed due to lack of stenographic help.

Meeting called by Mr. E. H. Watson at 2:00 P.M. at Bannock Hotel on December 17, 1945. In attendance were: L. C. BISHOP, MARK KULP, E. H. WATSON, E. T. BAIRD and W. V. IORNS.

As explained by Mr. Watson, the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the various problems of the compact and go over the stream flow records in the Hydrometric Report. The discussion was to be entirely informal. Briefly, the following points were discussed:

1. The attitude of the three state engineers was asked on the recent actions of Mr. A. L. Merrill in endeavoring to change the wording of the request to Congress for its consent granting the states the right to enter into a compact. Mr. Merrill apparently wanted the wording "equitable division and apportionment" changed to "on the basis of priority of rights." All three state engineers felt that the original wording was appropriate and that the latter might limit too much the securing of a workable compact between the states. Each state engineer was to advise his congressional members accordingly.

2. Various parts of the 1944 Hydrometric Data report was studied and many questions asked and answered concerning flow at various points, available supplies, comparison between adjudicated ~~rights~~ and amounts carried by canals.

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3. Discussion of additional pertinent data other than stream and canal discharge records that should be collected and on hand for compact studies.

(a) Adjudications, decrees and permits. Idaho and Wyoming have furnished data to Committee chairman and other state engineers. Utah has not completed compiling of claims on which adjudication is to be based, but work is continuing on it.

(b) Land descriptions of irrigated acreages. Mr. Bishop presented copies of descriptions of irrigated lands on Bear River in Wyoming to Chairman and other state engineers. Mr. Bishop offered to provide the other states with a supply of the form used so that all data will be the same.

Considerable discussion then followed on probable discrepancies between recorded lands irrigated and actual lands irrigated. It was recommended by Mr. Bishop and agreed to by the other state engineers, that the lands irrigated as described by the adjudications should be platted on maps and differences in acreages irrigated noted in red on the copies of the adjudicated land descriptions to be furnished. I was asked if I could do this or assign a man to it. I called their attention to the fact that my work was limited to the collection of stream flow records and that my organization had more work than it could do. They then asked me if I would supervise the work if the states hired a man, to which I consented. The state engineers then decided to each furnish a man from their respective state. These men to be sent to Logan for their instructions so that the work would be of a uniform character.

I also agreed to supply a set of the Bureau of Reclamation Land Use Maps for this purpose, providing the Bureau would grant me permission to make the prints.

My plan is to have the men block out each section into 40-acre tracts and shade all lands described in different colors for the different canals. The areas can then be planimetered for acreage under each canal, as I doubt that the maps can be marked off in the correct 40-acre tracts. This work, in addition to requiring all the information now shown on the Bureau Maps, will probably necessitate inspection of aerial photographs from which the maps are made and in addition, actual field reconnaissance of some of the doubtful areas in the field. The maps, when completed, are to be filed with the chairman of the Tri-State Committee.

4. Discussion of the differences in duties of water assigned in the respective states in adjudicating water.

5. Discussion of tributary flows and the diversions from them. In general, the consensus of opinion was that the tributaries, with the exception of Smiths Fork, would not affect the compact divisions of the flow of the main river.

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However, the state engineers reserved until a later date, following additional study, whether or not collection of tributary diversion records should be dispensed with for the coming irrigation season. I presented to the state engineers an estimated budget showing that an additional sum of about \$4,000.00 would be necessary for the current fiscal year if full coverage is necessary in the tributary diversions. No action was taken pending decision on continuing records on diversions.

Throughout the meeting the state engineers frequently questioned Mr. Baird as to his opinions regarding various points in the proposed compact. His advice was freely given and added materially to the knowledge of the conditions on the river, especially during low water years. Mr. Baird also had a report which he was presenting to a later meeting of the Idaho compact commission. Additional copies of it are to be prepared by Mr. Kulp and a copy provided for the Logan office.

As stated at previous meetings, Mr. Bishop reiterated his stand that the river should be considered only down to Stewart Dam. Inflows below should take care of normal flow rights and no demand should be made on upstream flows for delivery below Stewart Dam. The Power Company Bear Lake storage right also has his disfavor.

All three state engineers are in accord that priority of rights should be the beginning basis of the compact.

Mr. Bishop requested that a meeting be held in the near future, preferably at Evanston, to which principally the Wyoming water users may be invited. No definite date was selected for that or other later meetings at Salt Lake.

W. V. IORNS
Project Engineer.