

Minutes of Bear River Meeting Held At  
Evanston, Wyoming June 21, 1956

A meeting was held in the Courtroom of the County Courthouse at Evanston, Wyoming, on Thursday, June 21, 1956, commencing at 1:30 p.m. to explore the allocation of upstream storage to Utah and Wyoming under the terms of the proposed Bear River Compact and to consider the report of the United States Bureau of Reclamation on the Woodruff Narrows Dam and Reservoir and the Hilliard Reservoir site.

The following persons were present:

L. C. Dishop	Cheyenne, Wyoming
George D. Clyde	Salt Lake City, Utah
Robert D. Porter	Salt Lake City, Utah
E. K. Thomas	Logan, Utah
D. E. Dischoff	Logan, Utah
C. J. Christensen	Logan, Utah
J. L. Weidmann	Honeyville, RFD, Utah
Reid Jerman	Salt Lake City, Utah
Alma Theurer	Tremonton, Utah
A. V. Smoot	Corinne, Utah
David P. Miller	Rock Springs, Wyoming
John P. Stevens	Henefer, Utah
Lyman Brown	Evanston, Wyoming
Emil C. Gradert	Fort Bridger, Wyoming
Vincent A. Vehar	Evanston, Wyoming
Richard McGraw	Evanston, Wyoming
Ben R. Lawham	Evanston, Wyoming
Mrs. Francis Spencer	Evanston, Wyoming
Valerie M. Lewis	Evanston, Wyoming
J. W. Myers	Evanston, Wyoming
M. J. Hatch	Randolph, Utah
Alex J. Lowham	Route 1 - Evanston, Wyoming
Leo McKinnon	Randolph, Utah
Ben Grall	Randolph, Utah
R. E. Ellis	Woodruff, Utah
Wayne Reus	Woodruff, Utah
L. D. Johnson	Randolph, Utah
Fred Coles	Evanston, Wyoming
F. D. Myers	
Wallace Jibson	Geological Survey - Logan, Utah
Howard Elack	Deputy Attorney General - Wyoming
Edwin R. Lang	Wyoming Natural Resource Board
H. T. Person	Laramie, Wyoming
O. A. Christensen	Water and Power Board - Brigham City, Utah

A. E. Roche  
Orville L. Lee  
L. D. Caine  
Arden Pope  
Alonzo F. Hopkin  
R. W. Spaulding

Tremonton, RFD No. 2, Utah  
Paradise, Utah  
Utah Water Users - Logan, Utah  
Sage, Wyoming  
Woodruff, Utah  
Evanston, Wyoming

At the suggestion of George D. Clyde, Utah's Commissioner on the Bear River, Mr. L. C. Bishop, State Engineer of Wyoming, assumed the chairmanship of the meeting and proceeded to introduce Mr. D. C. Bischoff, a member of the Bureau of Reclamation staff from Logan, Utah.

Mr. Bischoff proceeded to state that, in anticipation of this meeting, the bureau had made a quick preliminary study to determine apparent feasibility of upstream storage projects on the Bear River for the 35,500 acre-feet of water divided equally between Utah and Wyoming. The study was attempted to be limited to use of water for supplemental purposes but it was impossible to prevent some consideration of use on new lands. Mr. Bischoff emphasized that the study was a hurried one and that his report should not be considered more than a preliminary one.

The first consideration was that of a proposed reservoir at the Woodruff Narrows site, built to a capacity of approximately 35,000 acre-feet. This reservoir could supply Utah's entire share of 17,750 acre-feet and this water would be a supplemental supply for the acreage in Rich County. This reservoir could also supply the supplemental needs of Wyoming to the extent of about 7,000 acre-feet and the balance of the reservoir capacity would provide for holdover.

It can be here noted that during the general discussion the question was raised as to whether all of Utah's storage should be in the Woodruff Narrows Reservoir or as to whether some should be reserved for small reservoirs on tributary streams. This question must still be decided.

Mr. Bischoff proceeded with the development of his study and indicated that the remaining approximate 10,000 acre-feet of storage allocated to Wyoming could be obtained from various sources and in various ways and with varying costs. Woodruff Narrows Reservoir could be increased to 45,000 acre-feet capacity and either a sixty-five mile canal built or the water released to the River and then pumped but in both instances the use would be on new lands in Lincoln County, Wyoming. However, the increased cost on the dam plus the cost either of the canal or of the pumping makes the plan somewhat costly and challenges its feasibility.

Another plan for Wyoming's 10,000 acre-feet contemplates what is called the Hilliard Reservoir on Sulphur Creek. This would store about 11,000 acre-feet and would fulfill Wyoming's need for supplemental water. However, here it should be noted that the dam for Woodruff Narrows would be fifty-five feet high with a crest length of six hundred feet to store 35,000 acre-feet. The total cost would be \$1,600,000.00 or a cost of about \$52.00 per acre-foot. The dam at the Hilliard site would be ninety-five feet high with a crest length of 2,000 feet and would store only 11,000 acre-feet and would cost \$2,500,000.00 or about \$225.00 per acre-foot. This figure will not meet feasibility requirements under present Bureau regulations.

Discussion from the floor indicated that Wyoming Upper users have initiated plans for a number of small reservoirs on the upper reaches of the River that may use up a good portion of Wyoming's potential storage. Without making any final conclusion, the sense of the meeting seemed to be that Woodruff Narrows should be given consideration to supply 7,000 acre-feet for Wyoming and most of Utah's 17,750 acre-feet, although small reservoirs on some tributaries must still remain in the picture. Wyoming's additional 10,000 plus acre-feet appear to be in the development of small upstream reservoirs.

It was therefore moved by L. B. Johnson of Randolph, Utah, that it be suggested that the Bureau of Reclamation continue its investigations on the Bear River with particular emphasis on the reservoir site at Woodruff Narrows and that both Utah and Wyoming should also give consideration to possible uses in both states on some other small tributaries. Seconded by Payson Spauling of Evanston, Wyoming and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.