

Lake DeSmet Advisory Board Meeting  
September 16, 2015  
3PM

Board Members Present: Mike Whitaker, Commissioner Bob Rolston, Bert Jellison, Joe Kalus, Paul Mavrakis, Jim Fennema

Operating Department Personnel Present: Commissioner Jim Hicks, Cheryl Benner

Public in attendance: Gordon Sawyer, State Engineer's Office

Press was in attendance

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 by Chairman Whitaker. Chairman Whitaker asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Rolston moved and Mr. Kalus seconded that the minutes be approved as written. Motion carried.

Commissioner Hicks submitted a department report. (See attached report.) He said that the Lake DeSmet Operating Department would do some research into the ownership of the T Cross T Ranch water rights. Mr. Mavrakis inquired about the ownership of the pond on the north end of the dam. Commissioner Hicks advised that the County owned the pond and the majority of the property around it. Mr. Jellison asked if the maintenance release was happening now and Commissioner Hicks advised his that it was and the target elevation for the winter was 4610. Mr. Jellison then asked if there could be releases into October. Chairman Whitaker stated that the risk of doing that was whatever was released would be charged against the next year's fill. Mr. Kalus noted that there is usually some runoff from early snows in October and November.

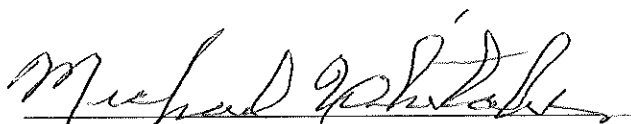
Gordon Sawyer gave a brief report on the upstream reservoirs. He advised the Board that there has above average releases the last three years because of maintenance on the reservoirs. The plan is to do an inspection every three years on the Kearney Lake. However, he does not anticipate any unusual releases from these reservoirs in 2016. Gordon will advise the Lake DeSmet Operating Department and Game and Fish when the upstream reservoirs are lowered for maintenance work.

Mr. Fennema advised the Board that the Lower Clear Creek Irrigation District met last week and moved to advance the Leiter Ditch to a Level III project with WWDC with possible construction in 2017. The total grant will be \$1.3 million, and the LCCID share will be \$442,000. He presented a copy of the design to the Board. Mr. Mavrakis asked if there was a possibility of drying up Piney Creek if both the Reynolds Tunnel and Leiter Ditch (LCCID) was filling. Chairman Whitaker stated that was unlikely as the water rights for the Reynolds Tunnel were more senior than the LCCID rights.

Commissioner Hicks thanked the board members for their service. Chairman Whitaker stated he felt it would be a good structure.

Unless there is business for the Board to discuss, the next meeting will be held next spring.

As there was no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM with a motion from Mr. Kalus and a second from Commissioner Rolston. Motion carried.

  
Michael Whitaker, Chairman