

Lake DeSmet Advisory Board Meeting  
April 20, 2016  
3PM

Board Members Present: Mike Whitaker, Commissioner Bob Rolston, Joe Kalus, Paul Mavrakis, Jim Fennema, Dave Belus  
Operating Department Personnel Present: Cheryl Benner  
Public in attendance: Linda Greenough, Kerry Money, Scott Pehringer

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 by Chairman Whitaker. Chairman Whitaker asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Rolston moved and Mr. Belus seconded that the minutes be approved with corrections to two typographical errors. Motion carried.

Mrs. Benner submitted a department report. The elevation of the lake on April 1, 2016 was 4609.19. The tunnel was opened on March 10, and gates were set to leave approximately 25cfs flowing in Piney Creek. Three temporary dock permits have been granted. The Petition for the Extension of Time to Beneficially Use Water Rights was extended for another 5 years, and the annual report was submitted and accepted. Cheryl Benner was appointed as operations manager for the Lake DeSmet Operating Department. Legislation to allow counties to invest funds into the State Pooled Funds was passed. The department budget is due May 1, 2016. No major changes to the budget are anticipated. Harvey Crowe advised the Operating Department that it appears there are no major maintenance issues to address in the next few years.

Kerry Money stated that there have been several parties that have toured the M&M Ranch but no offers have been received. Mr. Mavrakis suggested Mr. Money contact the Wyoming Water Development Commission about options for the M&M Ranch share of the water in Lake DeSmet.

Board member terms were discussed. Mr. Mavrakis, Mr. Belus, Mr. Fennema and Chairman Whitaker's terms are up this spring. All four agreed to serve another term.

Commissioner Rolston moved to cast a unanimous ballot for the current slate of officers. With a second from Mr. Fennema the motion carried.

Mr. Fennema updated the board on the Leiter Ditch project. The Lower Clear Creek Irrigation District, with the advice of the WWDC, will choose one of two engineering firms for a consultant on the project. After the engineering firm is chosen it will go to construction bidding to construct in 2017. They feel that the original estimate of \$1.3 million is high. Mr. Parr does not want to participate financially in the improvements for the ditch where it crosses his property. The LCCID will set up meetings with the Johnson County Commissioners, WYDOT and Game and Fish to discuss the project. Mr. Mavrakis offered that the Game and Fish consider screening the fish in the ditch if the LCCID would like them to.

Mr. Money advised the group the WYDOT had signed an exchange agreement with Johnson County for water for the Story Highway Reconstruction project. The contractor for the project

will pull water across from Kearney Hall, and the exchange water will be released from the north outlet works. The projects goes from I90 to the Tunnel Inn.

Commissioner Greenough thanked the board members for their service.

Unless there is business for the Board to discuss, the next meeting will be held in the fall of 2016.

As there was no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM with a motion from Mr. Kalus and a second from Commissioner Rolston. Motion carried.



Michael Whitaker, Chairman