

Lake DeSmet Advisory Board Meeting
May 30, 2104
4PM

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

Operating Department Personnel Present: Commissioner Jim Hicks, Rande Money, Cheryl Benner

Public in attendance: Gerald Fink, Dick Hall, Shannon Anderson

Press also present

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 by Commissioner Hicks. After thanking the board members for their willingness to serve, he asked each member of the board and operating department introduce themselves and give a brief biography.

The first order of business was election of officers. Mr. Fennema moved and Mr. Kalus seconded the nomination of Mr. Whitaker as chairman. Motion carried.

Commissioner Rolston moved and Mr. Jellison seconded the nomination of Mr. Fennema as Vice-Chair. Motion carried.

Mr. Kalus moved and Mr. Belus seconded the nomination of Commissioner Rolston as the Secretary/Treasurer. Motion carried.

Commissioner Hicks turned the meeting over to Chairman Whitaker.

Commissioner Rolston moved to set the terms for officers at 2 years, with the provision they can serve an additional 2 years if they are willing. Mr. Kalus seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Money passed out copies of the 2013 annual report. He then updated the Board on activities that had occurred since the report was written. Updates included:

1. The elevation of the lake was at 4612.8 on May 16th, and the tunnel was closed down as the elevation had reached the desired level.
2. The Operating Department will now be shooting in the elevation of the lake. This was being done by the State Engineers office.
3. Mr. Money complimented the irrigators on managing their storage water, which meant the level of the lake was higher than normal last fall before the lake began to fill.
4. Nathan Lindsey requested that Piney Creek flow be 20-25 cfs in November to facilitate a downstream project on the creek. Once the lake began to fill in November, it was allowed to continue all winter due to safety hazards that could occur if turned off after the lake has iced over.
5. If Piney Creek begins to flow in excess of 3000 cfs they may have to open the tunnel again to protect the diversion dam.

Chairman Whitaker opened the discussion regarding organizational documents, including the mission statement, strategic plan, long-range financial plan, by-laws and website contact information for the Board members. He suggested that members review documents they may have at home for ideas, and jot down any other thoughts they might have about what should be

included in these documents. He requested that Mr. Money forward the mission statement from the Lake DeSmet Counties Coalition to all the Board members.

During open discussion, Mr. Mavrakis asked the status of the request for temporary change of use that was required to be completed by the lease with the Wyoming Game and Fish. The permanent water use change is required to be complete in one year. Mr. Money stated the process was on track and he was working closely with the State Engineers Office.

Mr. Mavrakis then inquired if there was a shoreline management plan in place. Commissioner Hicks stated that the shoreline management plan would have to be approved by the Johnson County Commissioners by resolution. Commissioner Rolston and Mr. Mavrakis will distill the draft plan they were working on to a one-page document. They will give the draft to Mr. Money to disseminate to the rest of the Board members. After approval by the Board, it will be presented to the Johnson County Commissioners.

Funding for Board expenses was discussed. Commissioner Hicks will request that \$10,000 be put into the Lake DeSmet Operating budget for that purpose. These funds will allow the board to be paid mileage and allow for hiring a person to help with administrative duties for the Board.


Mr. Fennema advised the Board that the Lower Clear Creek Irrigation District (LCCID) has completed all paperwork for the additional point of diversion for the Leiter ditch and it has been referred to go to a public hearing that will be held in Sheridan, likely sometime in September. The LCCID has retained AVI of Cheyenne to complete a Phase II study funded in part by the Wyoming Water Development Commission that will study merits of delivering water presently in the Leiter ditch through a pipeline. He also stated that the members of the LCCID felt the transition of the management of the lake had gone very smoothly.

During public comment, Mr. Dick Hall asked if Campbell County still owned any storage in the lake. He was advised they did not.

Mr. Belus commended Mr. Money on the management of the lake.

Chairman Whitaker requested that Mr. Money poll the members to set the date of the next meeting sometime the last two weeks of July.

As there was no further business to come before the board, Chairman Whitaker moved the meeting be adjourned at 5:20. After a second by Mr. Belus the motion carried.


Michael Whitaker, Chairman