

M I N U T E S

WASHINGTON STATE RECLAMATION ASSOCIATION

Friday, October 4, 1963

3:30 P.M., Pasco, Wash.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE: Maury Ahlquist, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, read and moved the adoption of the following ten resolutions:

RESOLUTION NO. 1: STATE WATER RIGHTS:

WHEREAS, State control and jurisdiction over the appropriation and use of the waters of the State of Washington is of the utmost importance to the water users of the State, and

WHEREAS, any Federal legislation which would authorize the creation of a Water Resource Council or River Basin Commissions with jurisdiction over the use of the Nation's Water Resources may constitute a threat to said control and jurisdiction by the State of Washington over its Water Resources,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Reclamation Association endorse the continued study by the National Reclamation Association of such legislation that may be introduced in the Congress to assure that it will give full protection to States Rights and present and future Reclamation needs.

RESOLUTION NO. 2: TAX DEDUCTION OF CONSTRUCTION COSTS:

WHEREAS, in some areas of the West, Federal Internal Revenue Agents are requiring landowners in districts which are political subdivisions of a State to distinguish between assessments paid for operation and maintenance and those paid for the construction of the facilities to collect and distribute water, holding that the latter are not deductible for Federal income tax purposes, but must be treated as non-depreciable capital expenditures; and

WHEREAS, all taxes and assessments paid by landowners to districts to secure a water supply are in the nature of operating expenses; and

WHEREAS, landowners do not acquire any right of ownership by payment of such taxes or assessments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Reclamation Association support amendment of the Internal Revenue Code, as provided in HR 128 and HR 3092, allowing the deduction, as an operating expense for income tax purposes, of all assessments or taxes paid to districts which are political subdivisions of a State for water or the construction of water-use facilities.

RESOLUTION NO. 3: BASIN ACCOUNT:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Reclamation Association reaffirms its endorsement of the use of basin-wide federal power and other revenues in the support of feasible irrigation development and for assistance in the repayment obligation of existing federal reclamation projects within the Columbia River drainage area.



RESOLUTION NO. 4: COLUMBIA INTERSTATE COMPACT:

WHEREAS, the interstate compacts are recognized as serviceable instruments for effecting joint action on common problems of a regional nature, and

WHEREAS, an interstate compact when applied to a river basin can accomplish results that may not be achieved by individual initiative or local agencies, and

WHEREAS, interstate compacts provide a means of resolving existing and potential problems such as safeguarding state water laws, legal issues over water rights, conflicts over water uses, division and apportionment of available water supplies, planning and advancing sound water resource development programs, and

WHEREAS, interstate compacts have been, and continue to be used advantageously in providing multiple state action on regional or basin-wide problems which otherwise might require unilateral action by the federal government, and

WHEREAS, interstate compacts with a commission selected by and representative of all the states within the borders of the compact territory and the federal government and all water users interested, is truly a sound base upon which future development and conservation of water resources on interstate streams can be forwarded, and

WHEREAS, representatives of the seven Columbia Basin States have negotiated and approved an interstate compact having the following major purposes:

- A. To facilitate and promote the orderly, integrated and comprehensive development, use, conservation and control of its land and water resources for various purposes.
- B. To further intergovernmental cooperation and comity with respect to these resources and the programs for their use and development by
  - (1.) Providing for the relationship between certain beneficial uses of water as a practical means of effecting an equitable apportionment thereof, and for means of facilitating and effecting of additional interstate agreements with respect thereto, and
  - (2.) Providing an interstate body to consider the various common problems with respect to the use and development of these resources and to plan for, review, and recommend plans for their development.
- C. To strengthen state water laws to provide protection against out of basin diversion of waters of the Columbia River System, and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Reclamation Association has strongly advocated this method of providing regional benefits to a river basin,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Reclamation Association continue in its support of the Columbia Interstate Compact, and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge all agencies of our state government, particularly the Executive and Legislative branches, to make direct effort to bring about the ratification of the Columbia Interstate Compact.

RESOLUTION NO. 5: ACQUISITION OF LANDS:

WHEREAS, the right to assess the lands which it serves is the fundamental function of irrigation district promotion, construction and operation, and

WHEREAS, when such rights are impaired by the removal of lands from the district assessment rolls without just compensation, the financial solvency of a district is threatened;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Reclamation Association supports the position of the National Reclamation Association which is embodied in HR 5565.

RESOLUTION NO. 6: ACQUISITION OF LANDS BY STATE AND INTERSTATE HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION:

WHEREAS, the state and interstate highways are often located across highly productive agriculture lands, and

WHEREAS, irrigation projects may be irreparably damaged by being intersected by limited access highways and economic loss to the community is often enormous and irreplaceable,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Washington State Reclamation Association that wherever possible the state and federal highways be located outside highly productive lands.

RESOLUTION NO. 7:

WHEREAS, the Washington State Reclamation Association is dedicated to the comprehensive development of the land and water resources of the State of Washington, and

WHEREAS, the Columbia Basin Project is less than fifty percent complete, and

WHEREAS, the Congress, Administration, Irrigation Districts, and land-owners have committed themselves to continued orderly development of the Columbia Basin Project by approval of the amendatory repayment contracts, and

WHEREAS, the economy of the State of Washington has and will receive tremendous benefit by continued orderly development of the project,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington State Reclamation Association does hereby endorse the concept of full orderly development of the Columbia Basin Project, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to all congressional delegates from Washington State, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Commissioner of Reclamation.

RESOLUTION NO. 8:

WHEREAS, the Kennewick Extension of the Kennewick Irrigation District



has been approved by the Secretary of Interior and all affected governmental agencies, and

WHEREAS, the approval of the extension is depended upon the appropriation of funds by congress,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington State Reclamation Association recommends immediate consideration and approval of this project by congress.

RESOLUTION NO. 9: WILDERNESS AREAS:

WHEREAS, the future of the State of Washington is dependent upon the full development of its natural resources, and

WHEREAS, these resources include the public lands which constitute more than one-third of the State's total area, including important watersheds within national forests upon which irrigation districts depend for continued increasing water supplies, and

WHEREAS, the economic and recreational use of these watersheds and forests compliment each other, and are essential to the State's future welfare,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington State Reclamation Association endorse the continued multiple use of public lands, as contrasted to the locking up of large areas of public lands for single purpose use.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these principles be considered in all programs for the use of public lands and that they apply specifically in the North Cascade area,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be presented to the North Cascade area Study Group.

RESOLUTION NO. 10: APPRECIATION:

WHEREAS, the annual meeting of the Washington State Reclamation Association held in Pasco, Washington, is coming to a close, and we are mindful of the many courtesies and services which have been extended to officials, members and guests of the Association to this convention, we would like to extend an expression of sincere appreciation:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Reclamation Association, aware that it would be almost physically impossible to specify and thank all of the individuals those efforts resulted in the success of this convention, does express sincere thanks and appreciation to the individual and collective members of the Tri-Cities Chambers of Commerce, the Franklin County PUD, to Millie Neff and her Committee in arranging the ladies luncheon, the remarkably efficient stenographic and secretarial services provided by the Pasco Chamber of Commerce, and the men and women who gave of their efforts for the success of the Convention as a whole.

The motion was carried. Mr. Walker moved that copies of the adopted resolutions be forwarded to all interested parties. Mr. Markham seconded. Motion carried.

AUDITING COMMITTEE: Chairman of the Auditing Committee, Mr. D. B. Leonard, presented the financial statement which included:



Bank Balance: January 1, 1963: \$13.98. 1963 dues collected: \$3,733.98. Expenditures: Supplies - \$135.34; N.R.A. Payment - \$3,200; Repayment to Savings Account - \$110; leaving a bank balance of \$288.64. Estimated expenditures: Apples for N.R.A. convention - \$100; stenographic service: \$75. Balance due N.R.A. \$315. Savings Account: January 1, 1963 Balance: \$610.06; Deposit - \$110; Interest - \$26.86; Balance: September 30, 1963 - \$746.92. Mr. Leonard moved the adoption of the auditing committee's report. Mr. Gould seconded. Motion carried.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: Chairman Gale Sterling moved that three directors be elected to represent the Westside, seven directors for the Eastside. Mr. Walker seconded. Motion carried. Mr. Sterling nominated Mr. Ahlquist, Sterling, Mayer, Mellor, Weber, Neff, Van Nutley directors for the East; Mr. Walker, Cook, Ray Nelson directors for the West. Mr. Markham moved nominations be closed. Mr. Gould seconded. Motion carried. The nominating committee recommended the following officers: President: Sid Flanagan; Vice President: Henry Alexander - representing the Eastside; Mr. Gould - Vice President, representing the Westside.

N. R. A. CONVENTION APPLES: Mr. Markham moved that \$100 be allocated for the purchase of apples to be used primarily for the dinner, with the remaining apples being used at the snack bar. Mr. Leonard seconded. Motion carried.

STENOGRAPHIC SERVICES: Mr. Sterling moved that \$75 be paid to the Yakima Chamber of Commerce for stenographic services. Mr. Weber seconded. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: 4:15 P.M.

#### NATIONAL RECLAMATION ASSOCIATION CAUCUS:

John Richardson presided. Mr. Eidemiller nominated Lorin Markham to serve as the director representing the W.S.R.A. at the N.R.A. meetings. Mr. Mellor seconded. Motion carried. It was moved and seconded that John Richardson serve as secretary for the caucus.

It was moved and seconded that Maury Ahlquist serve on the N.R.A. Resolutions Committee, representing the W.S.R.A. It was moved and seconded that Ross Mellor be caucus chairman.

ADJOURNMENT: 4:30 P.M.

Business session at the W. S. R. A. meeting was re-opened at 4:30 P.M. Mr. Sterling moved that the Board accept the recommendation of the nominating committee for the new officers. Mr. Cook seconded. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: 4:35 P.M.

FRED C. LUGAR  
Secretary-Treasurer