

FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL

8/21/86

Minutes

10:00 a.m.

Mitch Flanagan, Chairman

Attendance:

LaMon Baird, RC&D - SCS, Rexburg; Larry Mann, U. S. Geological Survey; Dick Wright, U.S. DOE; James Reynolds, FmHA, Arco; Bart Linderman, ASCS, Arco; Bill Babcock, Civil Defense, Arco; Barney Lewis, U. S. Geological Survey; Billy McMurtrey, Butte SCD; Paul Malone, SCS, Pocatello; Mitch Flanagan, SCS, Arco; and Frances Perkes District Clerk.

Chairman:

Read minutes from last meeting May 15, 1986.

Discussed Take Pride in America - possible projects discussed were Dry Creek Project sign renovation, someone needs to mark trails for snow machine trails for recreation.

Scout groups could be involved. Lewis Klinger of Moore is the person to contact.

Agency Reports:

ASCS has \$10,000 for conservation cost sharing. Because of economy there is no demand for it. Will match dollar for dollar and in some cases 60%.

CRP - Sign up has closed but will be another time for bids. There have been no bids accepted.

FmHA has just had money released for housing. FmHA owns 10,000 acres in Butte and Custer counties.

State wide there are 158 farms. Land values are really low. If farms are sold then the moratorium will be lifted.

CES - Chad was unable to attend but sent a letter. He is planning a Coordinated Planning Workshop. County Agent is the weed supervisor and is placing an emphasis on leafy spurge.

Bob Scott from the Craters was unable to attend. A movie is planning on being made at the Craters - Master of the Universe.

SCS - Little Lost Sawmill Mitigation Project bid will be awarded to 5 Star Construction of Burley for \$56,440.

Low level infra red photo is scheduled for 8/22, at Sawmill, Little Lost, Dry Creek. The Dry Creek photography is for the BLM.

Forest Service and SCS are close to an agreement on Snow Surveys. Forest Service will supply one man and two machines and SCS will supply one man.

Plans are being made to seed plots to 10 to 15 species to test adaptability in Copper Basin area on the Boone Creek Allotment.

BSCD, SCS and CES cooperated on the Boone Creek Allotment Trail Ride. It was really worthwhile and was a success because communications were opened up.

BSCD is currently working on updating their 5 Year Plan. A draft will be sent out to agencies for their input.

ASCS, SCS and FmHA had the opportunity to move to a larger and better office building for less money. There was not enough time to accomplish this at this time but will continue to work on it. Mitch has written State FAC Committee requesting information on advertising and other requirements. We had a meeting with A.T. Fredricks. He agreed to several items which were to have been done by Aug. 1. A letter will be sent to him requesting when building problems will be taken care of.

#### Flooding Problems:

LaMond Baird presented an overview of the recurrent flooding problems. When the crisis is over the problems are forgotten. He presented a short history of the Mackay Reservoir. The Irrigation District is there to provide irrigation water, their goal is to have the reservoir full on May 1 each year.

A meeting was held with the Big Lost River Irrigation District, Jerry Beard, Snow Survey, Mitch Flanagan, District Conservationist, and LaMond Baird, RC&D to discuss better use of Snow Survey information. SCS plans to put together a Reservoir Management Plan so the Irrigation Board has another tool to manage the reservoir.

The watershed has the potential to fill the reservoir four times every season. Surveys have been done in the past as to the possibility of developing other water holding sites.

the 1986 flooding cause erosion and approximately five bridges were destroyed. County bridges were damaged. \$750,000 damage was done to County and State bridges.

BSCD and the Department of Ag agencies would like to see if there isn't some way to make improvements.

Dick Wright, U.S. DOE reported that 1 million dollars have been spent on diking to keep water from running into the installations on the site. Icing has caused water to run over the dikes, this has been corrected but they look at preventing damage from catastrophic events.

SIS is planned for the site - this has created more interest in water control.

DOE will spend money off site if it will benefit the on site water control.

The use of rangeland conservation practices were discussed to control ~~sediment in water, holding structures.~~ DOE would not have any control over this. *in the drainage*

Billy McMurtrey presented information on three structures, Antelope, North Fork and East Fork that were investigated in the 1960's. Because of the necessity to conform to funding requirements they were not practical. (A review copy of the Preliminary Investigation Report is attached)

It was discussed that these sites could be reinvestigated. Because of the watershed sinking and rising to the surface again in several places it would be advantageous to keep the water upstream. The more water in the Dam the more seepage there is.

Mitch reported that there are seven snow courses with five above the dam. Three can be read daily with information available on the CES computer. There are good records of inflows and outflows, to develop a Reservoir Management Plan.

BSCD feels that there is a need to organize a legal sponsor for a watershed or flood control district, so that if the need arises a district is already formed to be a sponsor. (Similar to the Little Lost River Flood Project)

DOE is interested but would need some control over maintenance and management of a structure.

NEXT MEETING:

September 24 in the Fredricks Building in Arco at 10:00 a.m.

The topic will be discussion of possible flood projects. The DOE and USGS will be present.

cc: John Lavin  
Paul Malone

Big Lost River Basin Study Group -- FAC Meeting -- September 24, 1986

Present:

Brent Jensen	BLM, Idaho Falls
J. M. James	ASCS, Mackay
Gary McMichael	USCE, Walla Walla
John L. Johnson	FmHA, Arco
Max C. Van Den Berg	USBR, Burley
Mike Sweeney	Idaho Bureau of Disaster Services
Mitch Flanagan	SCS, Arco
LaMon Baird	High Country RC&D
Rita M. Lundy	Big Lost River Irrigation District
Jack Jensen	Butte Soil Conservation District
Frances Perkes	Clerk, Butte Soil Conservation District

Reviewed the minutes from the last meeting of August 21, 1986.

LaMon has gathered information on damages from the newspaper. From these accounts there were floods in the years 1965, 1967, 1969 plus 1974 and 1986.

Mitch stated that the goal for this meeting is to discuss the possibilities of doing something to prevent flooding.

In the past structures to prevent flooding and to aid irrigation have been discussed. A Preliminary investigation report on Big Lost River Watershed was made in 1961. Structures studied were Antelope, 30,400 ac ft, 95 ft high, at a cost of \$2,000,000, Thousand Springs Water Control, North Fork and East Fork with 19,000 ac ft; Upper North Fork Dam, 7000ac ft, 95 ft high at \$1,000,000, and Castle Rock Dam, 12,000 ac ft, 100 ft high at \$1,000,000.

All the estimates of damages are for property below the Mackay Dam.

High water also occurs from Antelope Creek, not necessarily in the same year.

Rita Lundy explained that the Big Lost River Irrigation District is governed by five elected board members. Information from Snow Survey and also from Walla Walla is used to decide the management of the water. The Reservoir holds 44,000 acre feet. This year it was at 41,000. They read the surveys that there was 99% of normal water. The hottest weather to be recorded began and in ten days 57,000 acre feet had released through the reservoir.

The Irrigation District has an easement on the upper end of the reservoir. When they pass this marker they are trespassing on private land. A question was asked if there might be a statement concerning an act of God in the contract.

There is a possibility that property could be purchased to increase the capacity of the reservoir. When the reservoir was first designed it would have held 178,000 acre feet. Today the Reservoir holds 44,505 feet.

Alternatives discussed were:

Using the old U.C. Canal for diversion of flood water

Sinking water at the Chilly Buttes

Enlarging the existing river channel

Increasing the size of the Mackay Reservoir

Construction of reservoirs (9 sites were discussed)

River Basin Studies are available from the Army Corp of Engineers.

The first part would be reconnaissance and would be 100% federally funded the second part would be feasibility study. 50% would be paid by the Federal Government with the other 50% by non federal.

The Bureau of Reclamation has a River Basin Study, 50% non federal and 50% federal money, only if it is a multi-purpose project.

190,000 acre feet is the average (approximate) yield of the Big Lost River Drainage above the Mackay Reservoir. 2600 cubic feet per second can be released from the Mackay Reservoir without causing flooding down stream. This year 2950 CFS was released causing severe flooding.

Action to be taken:

BSCD will proceed with formation of a Watershed Improvement District with assistance from the Soil Conservation Commission.

The Big Lost River Irrigation District, SCS, BSCD, Butte and Custer County Commissioners will request a river basin study from the Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Soil Conservation Service, Department of Energy, and U. S. Geological Service.

A copy of the request will be sent to the Idaho Department of Water Resources and to the Idaho Fish and Game Department to keep them informed of our activities.

cc: Chad Cheyney CES  
James McKibben FS  
Gary Hompland Fish and Game  
Bart Linderman ASCS  
Bob Scott Craters of the Moon

Larry Mann, U. S. Geological Survey  
Dick Wright, DOE  
Barney Lewis, U. S. Geological Survey

✓  
Special Meeting

Butte and Custer Counties  
Big Lost River Watershed Improvement  
District Investigation

✓  
December 10, 1987  
1:30 p.m.

Called to Order:

Jack Jensen, BSCD supervisor

Present:

Harold Bell, Butte Co Commissioner, Ivan Taylor, Custer Co Commissioner, J. Doyle Jensen, Doug Rosenkrance, Big Lost River Irrigation District, Martin Prather, USDA Forest Service, Scott Engle, Soil Conservation Service, LaMon Baird, RC&D Coordinator, Doug Storer, Butte County Roads, Jack Jensen, Randy Purser, Reed Asay and Ron Chisham, BSCD, Marvin Goddard, Dave Nelson, Victor A. Johnson and Billy McMurtrey.

Background Information:

LaMon Baird presented information on what a watershed improvement district is, the need for one and discussed several of the studies made in the past on flood control structures methods and damages incurred because of flooding.

Formation of a District:

The forming of a district was discussed. A motion was made by Marvin Goddard and seconded by Ivan Taylor to direct the BSCD to gather information already compiled and put it together in a report form and present back to this group in approximately 30 days.

This was approved.

It was requested that Butte and Custer County be asked to make monies available to fund this study.

Future Consideration of  
the Committee:

It was suggested that the committee then could possibly come up with 2 alternatives that would be in the best interest of the area and then present the need for a Flood Control District to help implement this alternative.