

**MEETING MINUTES – November 27, 2023 at 9:00am**  
**Flood Control District 9 Commissioner Meeting**  
**Old Courthouse – Commissioner’s Room**  
 206 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Hailey, ID 83333

**CALL TO ORDER, ESTABLISH QUORUM:** Meeting called to order by Hovencamp at 9:00am. Commissioners Dean Hovencamp, Bryan Dilworth, and John Wright present.

Also present:

- Molli Linnet – FCD9 admin
- Chris Corwin – Emergency Manager
- Cory McClure – WRLT
- Jori McCune – WRLT
- Amanda Bauman – Project Big Wood
- Jim Keuhn (arrives late) – Hiawatha

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES from 10.23.23:** Wright moves, Dilworth seconds. Unanimously approved.

**FINANCIALS: - ACTION ITEM(S):**

Paid Bills to Approve Since Last Meeting:

- IME \$10.12
- Molli Linnet invoice #802 \$695
- Reimbursements:
  - o Molli Linnet \$26.49, \$7.92 = \$34.41

Bills to Be Paid:

- Brockway (Broadford) \$8,176
- Brockway (Glendale): \$8,176
- Molli Linnet invoice #803 \$550
- IME \$10.12
- Reimbursements:
  - o Dean Hovencamp \$26.49, \$20.02, \$10.63 = \$57.14

Dilworth: both Brockway numbers are only estimates, don't pay until invoices arrive. Checks are not approved and will not be sent.

**ACTION ITEM:**  
**(Old Business)**

**Heagle Park:** Cory McCaffrey

McCaffrey: in next week or 2, please look over project draft and approve. Then we need to decide who we want to deliver RFP, how to put into paper/give to public.  
 Corwin: you need to put in legal paper, give 30 days notice, send it out to 3 other companies  
 Hovencamp: what will entire project cost?  
 McCaffrey: \$200k, FCD9 committed to \$30k

**Zinc Spur** – John Wright

Wright: this project and Hiawatha are closely related. Need Jim Keuhn here. Feels like a low priority because it is single private house/subdivision. I don't see how we can protect every single one of these private projects. Need a list of priorities before we commit to anything. I say put it off til Zinc Spur folks are involved.

Dilworth: Zinc Spur is already permitted and funded.

Hovencamp: they want more funding.

Wright: the project is not very sound. FCD9 has responsibility to protect infrastructure, but we're trying to protect a levee that's already failed. Don't want to continue to fix things that keep failing. Need to change approach to meet the different conditions.

Dilworth: Zinc Spur is not more of the same. Not building a levee, armoring the bank with trees and structure. Stopping erosion that's going around levee.

Wright: wants to offer discussion, but will wait til Jim Keuhn arrives

**Environmental consultant search** – John Wright

Wright: Stephanie Eisenbarth couldn't help, so we need to find different expert help. Need someone that's interested and wants to make a difference.

Hovencamp: are you proposing a full-time employee or contractor?

Wright: someone along the lines of a graduate student, who's available to visit sites and answer questions. Firm would be too expensive and not accessible. I'll look into finding someone.

McCaffrey: what about NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service)? I also recommend creating some type of scoring mechanism for choosing projects.

Bauman: what about Idaho Water Engineering? Or Kendra Kaiser?

Wright: Kendra is great and I'll reach out to her.

Dilworth: when I came on the commission, we were doing reactive work. Meetings were never held, financials were never published. I got it back to being legal, then everyone started approaching needing money. We bring in \$50k/year, and have been spending \$200k/year – money will run out.

Wright: we need to have a clear understanding of what our responsibilities are. We spoke earlier about raising our tax rate, need to continue that conversation. We have responsibility to spend money responsibly. Need to make sure repairs are appropriate. We shouldn't repair something right back to the way it was before it failed.

Hovencamp: these failures happened because it's 50 years old. I'm confident in all projects we've done.

**Hiawatha Canal** – John Wright

Wright: (to Keuhn, who has arrived): I believe you're right that Hailey is at risk of flooding from Hiawatha. What would you do if it was flooding?

Keuhn: we would/were going to destroy the check

Wright: you'd be working in water. I have a reaction and am a bit worked up about it. (draws diagram on white board). State statute says that water users must have access to the entire canal. NOT possible right now. Drop a few dump truck loads of gravel/rock farther along the canal, water will flood/overflow to the west and go back to the natural flow of the river. After that, we can address the spot the Hiawatha Canal project is talking about. But the \$650k work proposed could be washed out overnight.

Hovencamp: Keuhn, Jim Phillips and Wright should get together and talk about it. Wright brings up some good points and things need to be resolved outside of this meeting.

Wright: ultimately our responsibility is to protect infrastructure. Statute says we can use the river itself to do so. Need to encourage lateral movement of river wherever we can to slow the river. Major change in paradigm from what the FCD9 has been doing. Simple little hard structures everywhere won't do anything. River is sacred to this entire community, and yet people are allowed to come in and build homes for only their own benefit.

Hovencamp: Wright, Keuhn and Bauman get together and find a compromise. Meeting 12.7.23 at 11:00am with those 3 and Dave Cropper at pump house on canal.

Keuhn: we have 2 years to use already awarded grant from IDWR. Need to make the Hiawatha canal not an option for saving Hailey from flooding. Been working with Quadrant out of Boise.

Wright: Linnet, can you be ready to pull up Google maps on screen at next meeting?

Linnet: yes

**Broadford** – Bryan Dilworth and Molli Linnet

Dilworth: waiting for permit for fixing emergency work they did – putting rock back in. It will likely be over \$50k, so I'll send it out to other firms when I get the project. Will email Wright the preliminary plans. In letter from Corps, they said they would fund alternative solutions. Half of Bellevue uses levee for recreation, don't know how you would modify that. We have to protect infrastructure behind there.

Wright: let's finish the emergency work we started, but let's also start the conversation about doing things differently. Sounds like a high priority.

Dilworth: hiring folks to restructure is going to be more than our yearly budget. Can only increase tax rate by 3%. We need to be fiscally responsible.

Wright: I'm proposing cheap help.

Hovencamp: redoing levees is way beyond our scope.

Wright: money isn't the question here. Cory and I are working on getting \$50m to valley from the NRCS PL566 grants for exactly this stuff.

McCaffrey: we already have design proposal from Biota for larger scale work here. You're required by statute to fix emergency work, so do that, but question is what to do after that.

Need 3 different permits – County, Department of Water Resources, Corps

Don't need Linnet to reach out to engineering firms anymore.

### **ACTION ITEM:**

#### **(New Business)**

**State statute 42-3115: FCD responsibility** – John Wright

Wright: reads from State Statute. Speaks about ability to raise funds, but more importantly, to address flooding. This is what informs my proposals today – Hiawatha Canal is BIG risk. Statute states that we can change the river and can use restoring as flood mitigation. Don't care what Fish and Game says, State gives us authority to remove debris, we shouldn't have to get their permission. State statute overrides local ordinances.

**State statute 42-3114: compensation for commissioners** – John Wright

Wright: I'm really excited to be here and I need to get paid. I'm going to work with Kristine Hilt and Larry Shoen to make that happen. Want to get away from relying on volunteers.

Hovencamp: this has been discussed before, we're not going to have compensation for commissioner's work. I will accept your resignation if you don't like that.

Wright: State Statute allows us to be paid. This is serious work and we should be getting paid.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

McCaffrey: I would say scope of FCD work has expanded, and there's a lot of work involved.

Would err on the side of scaling compensation. Could help with turnover which presents lots of challenges for WRLT working with you too.

Bauman: I agree that it's a big commitment and should be compensated.

Keuhn: I don't get a lot of money for canal work, but not that's not why I'm there. May not be your job to be feet on the ground anymore with new entities and technology in valley, could maybe lower your workload. Let's let everything get caught up and then evaluate and define what your role is.

Cowrin: Ultimately compensation is good. But it gets tricky. How are you defining your workload? Get comprehensive idea of what you 3 do and have strict policy if there will be compensation. Don't think there's anything wrong with compensating, but Bryan made good point about depleting funds and will you get to the point where majority of yearly funds are going to commissioners?

Dilworth: In the last 6 years, I've put close to a thousand hours in on the river. Would be helpful, but we need to find a way to fund it. Don't want to take it out of tax money.

Hovencamp: think you should be reimbursed for mileage. County has reimbursement schedule. This has always been a volunteer position.

Wright: do you think Bryan is doing a good job? And does he deserve to be compensated?

Hovencamp: Bryan does a great job.

Wright: I want to be here and I have a lot to offer, but I cannot do it without compensation.

Hovencamp: then I'll accept your resignation.

Wright: I'm not going anywhere yet.

**NEXT MEETING:** next meeting set for Monday, December 18 at 9:00am in Commissioner's Room at the Old Courthouse in Hailey.

**ADJOURN:** Hovencamp moves to adjourn, Dilworth seconds. Meeting is adjourned at 10:18am.

Documents to attach:

[Idaho State Statute, Title 42](#)

[Picture](#) of John Wright's diagram on white board