

AGENDA

Call to Order- Ryan Smathers called the meeting to order.

Minutes- The minutes were approved as read

Guests- No guest today

Announcements- Jeff Jones announced that 50 years ago today was the anniversary of KLER first on the air. He has been a part of the ride for the last 21 years. He mentioned they were having a year long party in celebration for the anniversary.

Executive Director's Report- Numbers for the golf tournament for 2008-\$3168 net profit compared to \$3513 net profit last year. Numbers for Lumberjack days beer bus were \$5836 net profit compared to \$5188 from 2007.

Committee Reports

Public Affairs - Dennis Harper talked to us about public policy statement being reviewed in a meeting next Tuesday. If anyone needs a copy of policy statement or wants to review and make suggestions for changes to the policy statement they can contact the executive director for that information.

Promotional – Laura talked to us about Trunk or Treat and is asking for volunteers to bring their vehicles to help out with this event. The date for the event is Halloween Oct. 31st. If you decorate the trunk you have an opportunity to win \$50 in Orofino Gold. There is a costume contest from 3-4pm at Kings. The event will take place in the parking lot of Kings.

Special Events-

Auction – Heather Leach

4th of July – Joe Pippenger

Lumberjack Days –

President's Cup Golf Tournament - Mike Clay

Welcome & Membership- Pam Jones-none

Economic Development Liaison – Chris Kuykendall-none

GEM- Danielle Hardy-none

President's Report-none

Programs – Connie Robison- no report as Connie was working out of town

Program-

Greg Parker from the Corp of Engineers talking to the members about Dworshak is the program speaker.

Greg wanted to give us an overview of the Corp and of Dworshak, then go over some of the budget restraints they are facing. Greg says they had employees leave the area to serve in relief for hurricane Katrina and some have served in Iraq. These employees came from the Orofino area, taking away from their staff at the dam. The Corp is structured into divisions and the dam is part of the Northwest division. Within this division there are 5 districts. They are part of the Walla Walla district established in 1948. There are 8 dams in their district, 700 employees, they have a lieutenant colonel and a major that oversees their district. The Corp owns the dam and reservoir, as well as Dworshak National Fish Hatchery but the Hatchery is run by Fish & Wildlife service.

During the 70's and 80's prior to the biological mitigation the Corp tried to maintain recreation from Memorial Day to Labor day throughout the summer and operated for flood control as well. One of the features of the project is they have a selective withdrawal so they can change the temperature of the river downstream. The original design for that was to provide 50-52 degree water for the fish hatchery. This was optimal temperature for good growth of the fish without the threat of disease.

After the 90's they started changing their approach and started drawing down the reservoir after the 4th of July for flood control and fish. They drop the reservoir 80 feet from July to September without being over their gas limits in the water for dumping water too quickly into the river. With these gas limits in strict enforce it helps to keep the water in the reservoir longer. Also the water had been released for juvenile fish going downstream, but the Tribe enforced that there needed to be water saved for later in the year for fish returning upstream. So the Tribe controls the last 15 feet of withdrawal from the reservoir.

FCRPS is a partnership between the Corp of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and Bonneville Power which funds the dam. Prior to mid – 90's they were funded by Federal Government. After mid 90's they were funded by Bonneville Power and Bonneville Power was reimbursed so that they didn't have to wait for budget decisions from congress if a generator went down to fund. For this reason they are acting more as a business now and are able to do more capital improvements. BPA funds the dam for Power production. 2/3 of the area's power comes from hydro-power from dams. This shows that hydro-power is very important to the region. Dworshak produces 1.6-1.8 billion megawatts/year of power.

Mr. Harper asked about the opportunity cost of spilling the excess water over the dam in comparison to keeping the water in the reservoir for power production purposes. Greg says they have tried to come up with information on that, but said they haven't been able to figure that out yet. He says it is difficult to tell how much that water is worth if it is kept in the reservoir for power purposes. Especially since that water goes through 8 other different projects (dams) along the way to ocean.

There are 4 different product lines for Dworshak. One of them is recreation which is the product that is 100% funded by Congress. \$1.1 million budget is allocated from Congress for 2008 for the recreation budget at Dworshak. In 2006 the budget was \$1.25 million, 2007-\$1.2 million, 2008-\$1.1 million. Projected numbers for 2009, and 2010 are expected to be considerably lower. Greg anticipates a 9% hit in 2009.

With these budget cuts they are trying to do other things to fit the budget. Some examples are:

- Running the visitor's center with volunteers. The previous year they had over 6000 hours of volunteer time. They have volunteers that camp outside the visitor's center during the summer months.**
- If a position comes open, they often will go without filling it.**
- One option they are not wanting to entertain is putting a sign out front saying they are closed due to budget cuts. This philosophy is meant to drive people to congress in frustration for budget restraints to be lifted.**

Greg says they are getting to the point where they are getting budget cuts and along with these cuts they are being specified for certain projects. That means if one project does not use all of their funds it cannot be transferred to fund another project that might need it.

Another program that is concerning Greg is a program called "direct best." This is a program that determines funding for project on a cost per visitor basis. So even though we have a large reservoir and maintenance costs may be high, we don't have the visitor count that other places may have. This directly affects funding for recreation in our area.

Greg says he is concerned about these cuts, not necessarily for 2009, but for 2010. If they take a \$100,000 hit by 2010, where do they cut the funding? Labor? Law enforcement? Sanitation? Maintenance? Do we start closing mini-camps? Adopting mini-camps for maintenance?

Most of the recreational projects they have been using grants to fund from Idaho Parks and Recreation. This allowed for new finger docks and attenuator at Big Eddy. They are also receiving funds for nitrification project for the fish in the reservoir. The fish are growing to much larger than previous years from this project.

Other ways of making money is timber sales for eco-system restoration. One of the side benefits is the Corp can make money on this. Most of the money will go back into the project with burning, surveys, and mapping. Elk Creek steward project was sold to Bennett Lumber and funds from this will not be available until next year. When funds do become available from this project will have to be sent back to Washington DC and then allocated to the Division. Greg stressed the point that there is no reason to conduct the timber sales if they don't see the profit from the sales because they couldn't afford to conduct them.

Greg touched on the safety rating for the dam.

SPRA evaluates data and gives ratings for different structures. This came about after hurricane Katrina. The rating is 1-5, 1 being not safe- 5 being totally safe. Dworshak was rated as a 2 which is unsafe or potentially unsafe. Some examples are leakage from galleries from drains. They cannot prove where the water was coming from and had to put it as unsafe. Another example is there were sandbags stacked next to the gutters. When checking the gutters, there was sand in the gutters. The question was the sand from the sandbags or from the structure? These are the types of questions that were raised and that they are going to work on answering to make the dam as safe as possible.

Steps they were going to take until fixed:

- They are going to update safety emergency plan.**
- assess communication**
- They had outside team from FIRC to do a safety study on the dam**
- study of flood capability of Dworshak**
- structural analysis**
- friction analysis for spillway gates**
- clean drains**
- repair failed waterstops**
- update monitoring program**
- reevaluate monitoring frequency**

Adjourn- Ryan Smathers adjourned meeting at 12:15pm