

HISTORY OF FDIC AS PREPARED BY DICK BROWN

Early agriculture in Franklin County was dry land farming & sheep herding with a few irrigated tracts lying adjacent to the rivers, using pumps or water wheels, in few cases hauling of water.

Early interest in irrigation projects, with meetings held as early as 1899.

The Palouse Project under the Bureau of Reclamation proposed in 1906 with water to be brought from Palouse river via canals using Sulfur & Washtucna (Kahlotus) lakes as reservoir. O.R. & H. Railway decided to rebuild their lines across Kahlotus Lane which basically scotched plans. At about same time Congress OK'd plans for Yakima Valley Project which replaced any possible project from Palouse River.

In 1909 Pasco Reclamation Co. incorporated by Robert Stanhorn & P.A. Deavers. Plans called for 15,000 acres to be irrigated from the Snake River. Snake River plant was "planned constructed and approved by one of the highest authorities in hydraulic engineering in the United States."

Continuous problems of service due to unlined canals & deterioration of buried wood stave pipe. Pasco Reclamation Co. went into receivership in 1917.

Settlers began studies to determine formation of an irrigation district under the laws of the State of Washington. Original recorded meeting of Board of FCID was 9/11/17 with L.L. Holt, A. E. Sylvester, W.S. Kirk named as Directors with Holt being elected as Pres. of Board. & F.H. McCoy being selected as Secretary.

Sawyer Bros. an engineering firm from Spokane was retained as engineers to determine feasibility & to do necessary engineering work. An estimate of cost for acquisition & improvement to facilities was indicated to be \$360,000 at meeting on 11/14/17.

An election to authorize issuance of bonds was held on 12/24/17 with the results of 41 yes, 0 No.

The Board authorized issuance of bonds on 3/8/18 for purchase of Pasco Reclamation Co. for price not to exceed \$15,450.00 plus accrued taxes.

On 3/21/18 the Receivers Sale was held in Spokane & the FCID bid of \$13,875.67 plus \$6,124.33 taxes and interest on at total bid of \$20,000 was accepted. This was payable in bonds at 90% of face value.

Arrangements were concluded to obtain needed power from Pacific Power & Light and agreement was reached to supply City of Pasco

water for irrigation purposes- Trees in parking strips.

The Board met on 5/20/19 regarding employment of E.G. Hopson Consulting Engineers from Portland. Improvement of existing system. Engineering cost to be \$1500, contract authorized 7/18/19.

D.W. Cole was hired as resident engineer at \$400 per Mo. Assessments, were authorized for \$48,675 operations & maintenance and \$12,168 for bond debt.

Hopson report received, report indicated about 11,000 acres to be served, canals to be concrete lined to forestall loss of water due to percolation, with savings resulting.

In Oct. 1919 G.B. Fosseen & Co. of Yakima awarded contract for pumping & electrical equipment for Columbia River plant. Excavation of canal @ 28 1/2 c per cubic yd. awarded to W.A. Fisher & purchase of wood stave pipe from America Wood Pipe Co. of Tacoma, was noted.

The Snake River Plant was still being used during the 1920 season.

An apparent disagreement on the Board occurred in 1920-21. Election held on 12/20/20 elected D. Hamilton over incumbent L.L. Holt with vote of 64 to 59, J.W. Fanning received 1 vote.

Hamilton's bond failed to arrive for Jan. meeting & L.L. Holt retained Board seat. The December 1921 minutes indicated the State Supreme Court reversed the case of Holt vs. Hamilton & gave Hamilton the election, who assumed board position for balance of term.

On Jan 13, 1921 Board entered into contract for a 500 HP pump & wood pipe for Snake River unit.

In election of 1921 the electorate increased size of Board to 5 members by vote of 170 to 72 against.

Apparent financial problems began to beset the District with all-day meeting being held on January 3, 5, 6, & 9th 1922, with settlers, reps of County & City and with H.L. Powers of American Wood Pipe Co. holders of large amount of bonds, regarding financial condition of the District, and nonpayment of maintenance assessments.

On January 9, 1922 the Secretary was instructed to arrange a meeting with D.A. Scott, Director of Conservation for the State of Washington at the earliest possible date for discussion of the District's financial status.

On March 17th an agreement was entered into with the State for the Dept. of Conservation to purchase District bonds to complete the project.

Water delivery was to begin the spring of 1922 & Mr. E.R. Eby was appointed water master at \$125.00 per month plus a car to be furnished for his use. On June 29th, Mr. Eby was replaced effective July 1, 1922 as water master, however, was retained as construction Supt. for construction of weirs for each quarter section take-off. Mr. C.A. Bell was appointed and was approved by Dept of Reclamation.

He must have worked out OK as he retained this position until he resigned as of Dec. 31, 1936.

Financial problems plagued District during 1923 & 1924 due to nonpayment of assessments. District unable to furnish water in many cases.

June 7, 1924, minutes - "The Pres. called attention to the fact no funds were available to pay the payroll and other workers were threatening to quit work and that no men were available to replace them if they quit. "No water could be furnished and crops will die and much loss occurred. Emergency resolution transferred \$2,000 from maintenance fund to emergency labor fund.

Feb. 1925 meetings regarding Receivership of District at of instigation Bond Holders, including State which Wash. Dept of Reclamation held \$142,000 in Bonds.

Subsequent minutes indicate O.H. Olson had been appointed as Receiver.

Very few meetings held from March 1925 until 1929. Election held 12/19/27 elected entire new slate of Directors. Only business conducted was sale of properties of District and execution of required documents.

On Sept 3, 1929 Resolution adopted which stated "whereas the District is hopelessly insolvent it is necessary that the bond holders and other creditors materially reduce their claims against the District." This was the start of reorganization of the District with necessary refinancing.

Agreements entered into for refunding, bonds as basis of 20% of face value: re: \$10,000 new, for \$50,000 old bonds.

July 30, 1930- Various individuals or firms interested in rehabilitation of District contributed money for purchase of outstanding bonds and warrants. Bank of Commerce certified it held in Trust \$14,000 worth of bonds to be replaced with new issue.

April 1931 - Resolution for issuance of refunding bonds from 1. 55% of landowner's authority, 2. 51% of _____ and 3. consent bondholders of Director _____ of _____ State of Wa. Conservation Development of Refunding bonds in amount of approx. \$104,000.

Special election held 9/26/31 - Resolution passed 52 to 1.

Capital improvements to District facilities were paid by bonds in lieu of money in 1933.

District was on cash basis in 1933 to preclude getting into same problems as before rehabilitation of District finances.

Feb. 6, 1934 - Representatives of Pasco Golf Club requested servicing land for golf course. Deed executed to City of Pasco for park purposes for price of \$10.00 - Revisionary clause to District in case it ceases to be used for Public Play, located S. of East "A" St. and Westerly of Inland Empire Highway-(SR#3).

District took Chattle Mortgages on hay, cattle, crops in lieu payment of installment of assessment. U.S. Government secured such loans.

1934 -\$.40 hr. being paid for labor. Water master \$144.00 month, Secretary \$20.00. Gas purchased per 100 gal. service District pickup truck for \$.75. for \$14.35,

Various improvements, repairs to system with assistance under Federal programing for employment.

Feb. 1936 - Resolution calling for W.P.A. assistance for farmers in District in dire financial straits due to, 1. Blight in 1935 which affected crops. 2. Poor crop prices in 1935. 3. Untimely freeze in fall of 1935.

Much of Boards time during year of 1936 thru 1938 was working with landowners in extending terms of repayment to assessments. -No money.

May 1939 - Matter of including all lands of FCID not within bonded area of District into Columbia Basin Irrigation District was discussed.

Meeting to be held on Sept. 14, 1939 re. above, was called for at Sept. 1939 Board meeting, motion to exclude all lands in bonded portion but to include all other lands, passed. Chas. Bell and Larry Hovstead appointed to represent FCID.

July 1, 1941 - 640 acres donated to Franklin County to be used for Airport purposes in connection with some agency in the U.S. Government. Subsequently sold to U.S. Navy for \$1.00 per acre.

Dec. 15, 1941 FCID leased property to U.S. Government for \$1.00 per acre per year - Acreage involved - Tract 1 - 67 acres,

Tract 2 - 145 acres and tract 3 - 575 acres, agreed in Mar. 1942 to sell for \$10.00 per acre.

Lots of land contracts activity.

Bonds outstanding as of 10/31/44 - \$11,198.24

Over the past two or three years as program chairman I have had the opportunity to bring you varied programs, such as

1. Video tape of Story of Leavenworth
2. The Mid-Columbia Symphony Conductor.
3. The Story of local wines by Bob Woehler
4. Director of Tri City Enterprise Assoc.
5. Representatives of youth symphony
6. Information on Crime Watch program
7. Pasco Naval Air Station - Ralph Smith

Today I bring you - Me.

Resident of Pasco since 1939, graduated Pasco High - Served at Pasco Navy Base, Grad. of W.S.U., in Insurance field since 1947

In Dec 1968 was approached to assist FCID on temporary basis until permanent Secretary found. Have been at this fun job since then.

Richard Brown