

State Library

# ARIZONA SENTINEL

## YUMA SOUTHWEST

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### LANE ISSUES INSTRUCTIONS TO CENTRAL REVIEW BOARD

Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane has issued the following instructions to Director and Chief Engineer of the Reclamation Service A. P. Davis, all of which is pertinent to Yuma land holders at this time.

#### The Instructions

It is my desire that a re-valuation shall be made of the project works of all projects or units of projects as to which the construction charges have been heretofore announced by public notice. As previously announced to the water users' associations, it has been my intention to revise the estimated cost of each of these projects or the units of projects upon which construction charges heretofore announced were based.

It is my desire that a board of revision for each of the projects shall be appointed, to be composed of three members, one to be selected by the water users of the project, one (an engineer or project manager) to be appointed by the Reclamation Service, and the third member to be selected by those two in the following manner: In each of the main divisions of the Reclamation Service presided over by a supervising engineer, all of the persons selected on each of the projects to represent the water users and the Reclamation Service shall unite in nominating three persons from among whom I shall select a third member to serve on each of these boards, the same person serving on each board.

The person so selected shall not be a water user on any project, shall not be either

directly or indirectly interested in a project, and shall not be a person who is now or has been at any time been in the employ of the Reclamation Service.

To illustrate the process of selection: In the Southern Division there are the Salt River, Yuma, Rio Grande, Carlsbad, Honde and Strawberry Valley projects. For each of these projects, whether construction charges have heretofore been announced or not, there shall be appointed by the water users and by the Reclamation representatives as above described.

These 12 persons shall now gather at some central point and nominate three persons. The persons so selected shall be reported to us as nominated for that purpose and one will be appointed to serve on all of the boards.

There shall be paid to the representative of the water users' association and to the third member of such board, a salary of \$10 per day each when actually employed.

The payment thus made shall be charged to the operation and maintenance costs of each project in proportion to the time devoted by the board to the affairs of such project.

Appropriate rules and regulations shall be prescribed for the government of these boards.

They shall have the power to call upon any employe of the Reclamation Service for information and assistance.

They shall keep a record of their proceedings and shall prepare a revised estimate of the cost of each of the pro-

jects as to which construction charges have previously been announced. They shall prepare an estimate of the cost and a suggestion as to the proper construction charges to be assessed on projects where construction charges have not heretofore been announced, if and when such projects have reached a stage of completion to make such estimated cost possible and desirable.

Their report shall be addressed to the Secretary of the Interior and shall be referred to a central board of review composed of Elwood Meade, Gen. W. L. Marshall and I. D. O'Donnell.

Mr. Meade at present is chairman of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission of the state of Victoria, Australia, but is to return to the United States in June of this year to resume his position as a member of the faculty of the University of California.

Brig. Gen. William L. Marshall, of the U. S. Army, retired, is the consulting engineer to the Secretary of the Interior; his intimate knowledge and long study of the rivers and water supply of the United States especially will qualify him for service on such board.

I. D. O'Donnell is the supervisor of irrigation of the Reclamation Service; he is a pioneer irrigator of the State of Montana and perhaps the most successful irrigator in the West.

The central board of review will prescribe the rules and regulations under which subsidiary boards will act and shall have final jurisdiction in the review of the reports and recommendations of such subsidiary boards.

It is my desire that you shall immediately appoint the representative of the Reclamation Service on each of these boards; that you shall

communicate with the water users on each of the projects where representatives have not already been selected, urge upon them the immediate necessity of such appointments, and that the boards shall be finally organized and ready to begin work not later than the 1st of April, 1915. It is my desire that the work of these boards shall be completed and ready to report to the central board not later than June 1, 1915.

This can readily be accomplished if the water users on each of the projects shall immediately begin to prepare for the hearings of the board and shall exercise the authority heretofore conferred upon them of appointing accounting and engineering representatives to compile from the records of the Reclamation Service statements of the costs, and shall be prepared for the prompt presentation of their case.

It is expected that the officers of the Reclamation Service shall, of course, prepare in advance for the presentation of facts from the viewpoint of the service.

It is the desire that every possible facility and assistance shall be given to the representatives of the water users in order that they may have the fullest and most accurate knowledge of all the facts involved in the cost of these various projects.

Cordially yours,  
Franklin K. Lane.

The foregoing is furnished me by the legal department of the Reclamation Service; accompanying this are the "Instructions to the Local Boards," all of which contain valuable information and is most important. The instructions to local boards follow:

#### Object of Investigation

First, to ascertain the pro-  
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