



Water Rights Committee Report
June 20, 2020
Karl Davis, Committee Chairman
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Charter: To protect the water rights decreed to Big Elk Meadows.

Committee Members: Karl Davis as Chairman, Members as Bob Forsberg, Victoria J. Darling-Orth, Roy McCutcheon, Bill Tolle, Paul Flanagan, Alan Hatfield and Patrick F. Gill.

No meeting held in May.

BEMA's contract with River Glen will end at the end of December 2021. Work will need to begin on a new contract by July 1, 2021. BEMA also has the option of renewing a new 10 year contract.

There are many benefits in renewing with River Glen. Water is easily transported from the Ish Reservoir into the Little Thompson and BEMA would only have to bypass the Osborne Caywood head gate to get water to its historical irrigation area which provides a beneficial use even when Osborne Caywood is sweeping the river.

Member Patrick Gill is joining the Committee. As an Electrical Engineer he has worked in the area of Data Acquisition and Control for Water and Waste Water Systems. Now retired, Patrick will have time to devote to our Water Rights.

The Water Rights Committee continues to refine the new Operational Procedure and Accounting Instruction Manual. The manual details BEMA's water rights, how to record data in the Water Accounting Spreadsheet, and how to execute our Augmentation Plan. Current work on this document includes:

- A formatting scheme provided by Alan Hatfield.
- A new section explaining the content of our main decree.
- The addition of nearly 60 screenshots and photos to aid in the comprehension of our decree, spreadsheet, and augmentation plan.
- A pass through the document with many updates and recommendations from Roy McCutchen.

The Water Rights Committee will begin work on executing the direct flow rights in our decree. The Committee believes BEMA should be able to make an exchange using direct flow water that does not originate from our lakes.

AGENDA ITEM – Signing of the contract with Applegate Water Engineers. To begin work with our engineers on BEMA's Diligence Filings, the contract with Applegate Water Engineering firm needs to be signed.