

White Narrows Dam on Muddy Is Approved by Unit

\$100,000 Is Sought by Moapa Board From Federal Funds

The Muddy Valley Irrigation company, at a meeting held in Overton Saturday, adopted a resolution to seek a government grant of \$100,000 with which to finance the proposed White Narrows dams to provide for irrigation and flood control in the area.

A report from A. L. Wathen, acting chief engineer, office of Indian affairs, Washington, D. C., was read, in which he stated: "It is believed that from the combined field investigations and studies that have been made there can be evolved a well coordinated plan of development for the full utilizations of Muddy river, which will increase the irrigated area of Indian and private lands, provide permanent security therefor, and ameliorate the differences and conflicts between upper and lower valley water users that have persisted during the past 20 years or more."

Conclusions from the report are as follows:

1. That White Narrows sites one and two are feasible and safe for construction of earth-fill dams 37 feet high above the reservoir floor, which combined will impound 5,530 acre-feet of water.

2. That the cost of constructing the project will approximate \$170,000, which is conservative in relation to the benefits that will be derived by both Indian and white owners.

3. That the water supply is adequate if storage space is provided for 5,530 acre-feet to furnish six acre-feet per acre measured at diversion for 3,200 acres of white-owned land below Moapa reservation and six acre-feet per acre measured at diversion for 600 acres of Indian land.

4. That the value of the White Narrows project could be enhanced by providing additional flood and silt storage upstream at Arrowhead Canyon and Double Canyon. Arrowhead Canyon is preferred since it would provide storage for 88 square miles of drainage area otherwise tributary to White Narrows reservoir.

5. That the arriving to completion of this project, so far as can be foreseen at this time, will solve the major issues and complaints regarding the use and waste of water; will furnish the white-owned lands an adequate amount of water and uninterrupted service; will simplify the distribution of water to Indian lands and protect Indian property from periodical flood damage.

This report was prepared by the Indian Service, acting under direction of E. C. Fortier, district engineer, with Thomas C. Guyn, senior engineer, as supervisor. U. E. Thomas, associate geologist, U. S. Geodetic survey, reported on the geology of the White Narrows and other nearby sites.

A. M. Smith, state engineer for Nevada, presented the report at the meeting and reported on the work his department and other state and federal agencies, including the U. S. Indian service and the Army Engineering office, have been studying for the past four years.

Smith stated that curtailment of the Indian service budget this year would prevent their participation and might shelve the project for post-war consideration, but that officials in the Indian service had indicated to him that they could and will come in for about \$70,000 if an appropriation for the work could be secured from congress.

Supplementary reports were recommended to accompany the Indian service reports to be presented to J. A. Waldron, regional economist, farm security administration, to back up his recommendation for a loan to the farmers under the Case-Wheeler act.

J. H. Wittwer, Clark county farm bureau agent, presented data showing from his studies that the increased production of food would amount to at least \$160,000 per year from 61 farms of 60 acres each instead of the present 43 farms also worked out on a 60-acre basis.

The delegates adopted the resolution calling for the construction of the project, and a resolution of confidence in the state engineer and appreciation for his work in behalf of the valley, and a resolution praising state and county officials, particularly County Agent Wittwer, for assistance.

George Hardman, state coordinator, soil conservation service, discussed the several proposals which have been submitted for supplying the valley with domestic water. It was indicated that the plan for pumping from Lake Mead would involve excessive costs and might not be satisfactory. A plan for bringing in water

year was read by Secretary-Treasurer Thomas M. Anderson. Policies and plans for the coming year were discussed, with Chairman Edward Marshall presiding. Otto Shulz, conservationist for the University of Nevada agricultural extension service, attended the session.

from the Hot Springs north of the valley through a pipe line for domestic use is favored. It was decided by the group to assemble further facts on means for remedying the present unsatisfactory domestic water situation.

The majority of stockholders in the irrigation company attended the session Saturday, when a statement of finances for the past