

John Whipple

From: spollack
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2004 8:45 AM
To: jwhipple
Subject: Fw: Farmington Daily Times - Editorial Mar 28, 2000

----- Original Message -----

From: Bernadette Tsosie
To: Stanley M. Pollack
Cc: Louis Denetsosie ; GloJean Todacheene ; Eunice Tso ; arlene Arviso ; Ray Gilmore ; michael benson ; Jason John ; John W. Leeper ; Bidtah Becker
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2004 8:22 AM
Subject: Farmington Daily Times - Editorial Mar 28, 2000

Why is ISC running things?

Editor:

After three more meetings recently on the Navajo Nation Water Right Settlement, there remains no non-Indian community support. First the San Juan Water Commission said they were neither for it nor against it. Now they have recently issued a white paper pointing out problems with it that the San Juan Agricultural Water Users Association and Bloomfield Irrigation District raised right from the first comment period Jan. 15.

The 10-year average diversions in the settlement are clearly contrary to state law, but even the State Engineer's Chief Counsel and the Interstate Stream Commission's engineer that drafted the settlement won't admit this. The AG has refused to give an opinion. Why is this?

The city of Farmington attorney at the ISC meeting March 17 stated Farmington was neither against it nor for the settlement. What does that mean? He then went on to state they have problems with it.

Upon questioning by one of the ISC Commissioners representing one of the region's Indian pueblos, the Farmington city attorney seemed unclear what their position was. The cities of Aztec and Bloomfield were not even represented at this meeting. This lack of knowledge on critical water issues affecting the San Juan River Basin is pathetic.

The Bureau of Reclamation has a claim for water rights on all the federal projects in this basin, but New Mexico state law clearly says they must be the beneficial user of this water and clearly they are not.

They even claim water for federal projects they have not thought up yet. They have water tied up in Navajo Lake that they cannot show a beneficial use for except for California and the Rio Grande areas.

I was an insider in the office of the state engineer for 12 years. I know what has been going on for some time and is still going on. Phil Mutz, who still has a strong influence over the ISC, and especially John Whipple, are running things, and they are not working for this community's best interest.

This community's water is being controlled and divided up by others that do not live here. They hold special meetings during the daytime that working people cannot attend.

They use your own tax dollars to defeat you. Isn't it time for the average citizen and you're elected officials, in San Juan County to awaken to what's happening?

I would like to see the new state engineer take charge and put some water rights division personnel over the settlement, adjudication, and administration of the river. I've had enough of the ISC.

ROBERT E. OXFORD

Aztec

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