A meeting of the Water Committee was held Thursday, May 16, 1957 at 4:00 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce.

Those present were: John Harper, Chairman; Laird Smith, Director-in-Charge; Bill Ela; Bill Nelson; Reed Black; Mrs. Maria Cameron; W. L. Peach; and Dale Hollingsworth, Manager.

Chairman Harper reviewed the background of the past year's committee activities, giving particular attention to the "Water Policy" which was printed and given wide distribution during the past two years. The printed policy was recognized as a clear stand, in printed form, of the policies of the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce. Harper stated that the policy would be reviewed to determine what phases of it may have changed, been completed, or need further study.

Harper reviewed the meeting, held February 22nd under the sponsorship of this committee, of the various communities from Glenwood Springs to Eastern Utah to discuss the next steps on the proposed DeBeque Unit. The well-attended meeting was for the purpose of outlining the costs and proposals set forth in the report by the Bureau of Reclamation on the DeBeque Unit, with the thought that each of the groups would return to their respective communities and discuss the matter further with their citizens. A tentative date of May or June was set for another meeting to determine the feelings of the various communities relative to whether or not they wished to have the Bureau continue studies on the project.

Harper read a letter that expressed the disapproval of the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad on the proposal of routing the tracks through a twelve mile long tunnel, which was part of the report as submitted by the Bureau.

It was decided that a meeting for review of the community feeling toward the DeBeque Project would be delayed until after the May 18th Oil Shale Dedication at Grand Valley, and also the June 6th water meeting in Eagle.

Our present water policy was reviewed, point by point, with a number of changes and alterations being made, subject to the final approval of the Board of Directors. In lieu of the present discussion and recommendation meetings yet to be completed on the DeBeque Unit Project, the section dealing with this phase of the policy was not agreed upon. Specifically, the next step in this program would be to recommend to the Bureau of Reclamation to go ahead with the "Feasibility Report for Authorization of Construction", or advise them to discontinue study on the project at this time. A discussion was held regarding the possibility of obligating the oil shale industry to a commitment on a substantial portion of the cost of the project, as any refining of the petroleum would require large amounts of water. Further discussions centered around obtaining a full evaluation from the industry itself on their anticipated needs, and also a report from the Bureau of Mines. It was determined to delay any action on the section of the water policy dealing with the DeBeque Unit until after the June 6th meeting on water interests at Eagle.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ John Harper
Chairman