

Chapter 544

Reclamation Commission

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544.010 Creation of State Reclamation Commission; membership; assistants. The Governor, State Treasurer and Secretary of State are hereby constituted a commission which shall be known as the State Reclamation Commission. The Governor shall be chairman, and the State Engineer secretary of the commission. The commission may employ necessary clerks and assistants and fix their compensation.

544.020 Execution of instruments; seal; quorum; vacancy. All instruments executed by the commission shall be signed by the chairman and attested by the secretary with the seal of the commission thereto affixed, which seal shall be provided by the commission for its use. A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum to transact business, and the act or decision of any two of the commission shall be deemed the act of decision of the commission. No vacancy shall impair the right of the remaining members to exercise all the powers of the commission.

544.030 Investigation of affairs of irrigation and drainage districts; approval of plans for rehabilitation. (1) The commission may investigate the affairs of any irrigation or drainage district. The investigation may include all physical, financial and economic conditions of the district, including available water supply, topography value and condition of reclamation works, soils and productive value of lands, and capacity to meet financial obligations, including costs of operation and maintenance and indebtedness to the state by reason of certificates of indebtedness theretofore issued. The commission may cooperate with the Oregon experiment stations, the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation in such investigations in regard to soils, productive value of the land, and capacity to meet financial obligations on the basis of production.

(2) Based upon the results of the investigation, the commission shall make findings of fact and recommendations of any plan for rehabilitation of the district, and shall

endeavor to bring together all interests with a view to formulation of a definite plan and policy under which the affairs of the district may successfully be worked out.

(3) During the pendency of the investigation, which shall be pursued with due diligence, the board of directors of the district under investigation shall make available to the State Reclamation Commission all records and information pertaining to the district, shall assist the commission in carrying out its recommendations, and shall enter into no contract and perform no act of omission or commission which will hinder or impede the investigation.

(4) All expenses incurred by the reclamation commission under the provisions of this section shall be paid from the General Fund upon vouchers approved by a majority of the commission.

544.040 Deposit of bonds, etc., of irrigation and drainage districts being reorganized. (1) The State Reclamation Commission may accept deposits of bonds, warrants or other evidences of indebtedness of irrigation and drainage districts under the process of reorganization, pursuant to the provisions of ORS 544.030, 544.050, and ORS 545.278 to 545.290, or as may otherwise be provided by law.

(2) The commission shall deposit such bonds, warrants or other evidences of indebtedness with the State Treasurer, to be held by him in safekeeping subject to the direction of the commission.

544.050 Moneys and securities of irrigation districts; deposit by commission with State Treasurer. The State Reclamation Commission may deposit with the State Treasurer for safekeeping all moneys and securities which it has or which may come into its possession in connection with the reorganization, retirement or settlement of the bonds, warrants or other evidences of indebtedness of any irrigation district within the state. When so deposited with the State Treasurer he shall safely keep the same subject to call of the commission.

