

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 100 IRRIGON, OREGON 97844
PHONE: (541) 922-3814 FAX: (541) 922-9775

June 16, 2022

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on June 16, 2022, at 9:05 a.m. at the Columbia Improvement District meeting room located at 501 E. Columbia Ave. in Boardman. Those in attendance were: Board members, Dalarie Philippi, Vern Frederickson, Abe McNamee, and Bob Mueller; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Field Superintendent, Ben de los Santos; Intern, Emma Mueller.

AGENDA: Chairman Philippi asked if there were additions to the agenda. There were none. Mueller moved to approve the agenda. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mueller moved to approve the minutes of the May Board meeting. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

BILLS PAYABLE: After review and discussion, Mueller moved to approve the May accounts payable list in the amount of \$255,963.74. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The April 2022 financial reports had been distributed to the Board and were reviewed.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

OPERATIONS: Ben de los Santos, Field Supervisor, reported the following:

- Lateral 15/Horseshoe Pump Station: The electrical work is complete. He has to put oil in the pumps and they will be ready to start. Only Coleman is ready to irrigate. Tobin and Wetzels need tie-ins and they will be ready. All deliveries have been installed with meters. Blueberries are getting water through gravity flow. Once there is enough interest in running, he will put a schedule together and start the pump.
- Equipment: The Kenworth dump truck has a problem with the cylinder and is unable to dump. Board members had suggestions. Abe will try to look at it early next week.
- Canal water: The water in the canal is quite dirty with the rains and flooding upstream. Discussion.

- Herbicide canal treatment: Ben and crew have been monitoring the canal for aquatic weed growth. There was some growth, but the cooler temperatures slowed it down. Right now, no indication of growth, but once the temperature increases, we expect growth quickly. McNamee said we should be ready. He is also concerned about the amount of silt in the canal brought in from upstream flooding. It might contribute to increased pond weed problems.
- Staffing: We remain one ditchrider vacant and would like to pick up a laborer to help with weed control and clean-up. Discussion.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: The auditors have completed their field work. No issues were identified.

INTERN REPORT: Emma Mueller reported what she is working on. First, she rode the District with Tassie and Ben for two weeks to get an understanding of it. Now, she has been working with Lisa on two projects.

- 1) Transferring operational forms, maps, schedules and so forth to digital and interactive formats. Emma has looked at many apps and programs for the work orders, run sheets, water order forms, and time cards. Microsoft Teams seem to fit what we need and we already have the program. The District will purchase four I-pads with covers and truck mounts. The cell phones will serve as “hot spots” for the crew. Forms will be completed and filed on “the cloud”. Ben had his very thick ditchrider book and Emma explained that everything in that book would be readily available to the ditchriders on their I-pad. Lisa will have the additional monthly fees at the next meeting. She is also working on a way to track the pickups and they can enter their locations at the various job sites. Questions and discussion ensued.
- 2) Water Savings Program. The District allocated \$2500 from its conservation reserve funds to a Water Savings Program in Irrigon. The description, application, and review documents for the program were distributed by Emma and discussed.

MANAGER’S REPORT: No written report today.

NITRATE CONCERNS: Nitrates levels of wells in the Boardman area are a “hot topic” right now. The Board discussed this issue. They stated the District and the irrigated ag community need to tell their story. The District has test results of its canal water over the past five years and nitrate levels are quite low. New testing will be done this year, both while on the Umatilla River water and then the Columbia River water. More discussion.

TELEMETRY: The City of Boardman has authorized the District to put an antenna on its tower for a monthly fee, \$100. The District approved entering into an agreement with the City, but asked if they would consider a lesser monthly amount.

DROUGHT: With all the rain, USGS reports that Umatilla and Morrow Counties are out of a drought condition.

WINDWAVE CROSSINGS: Windwave has sent in some new crossing requests for the main canal and laterals. The agreements will be done with crossings authorized after November 1. The Board agreed with this date as it is after the water season.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

BOR INFRASTRUCTURE LOAN: There have been two meeting about the loan and contract. Bridgewater has some concerns regarding the contract and environmental. She will keep the Board informed as discussions move forward.

BPA PICKUPS: In regards to the BPA Contract for the cleaning and maintaining the fish sites, they are considering removing the GSA vehicles and requiring the Districts to provide vehicles to the workers We have done this in the past. The Board will be kept informed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into executive session at 10:25 a.m. to discuss personnel and Union contract issues in accordance with ORS Chapter 192. Executive session was closed at 10:38 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

Bridgewater requested to work $\frac{3}{4}$ time for the next four months due to family needs. The Board agreed. They asked Ben if he and Lisa felt they could cover. He did.

MEETING DATE CHANGES: Frederickson moved to change the July and September meetings to the second Thursdays. Mueller seconded. The meeting dates will be July 14 and September 8. There is no August meeting. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson