

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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May 19, 2022

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on May 19, 2022 at 9:00 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, Whitney Coffman and Bob Mueller; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Administrative Services Manager, Lisa Baum; Field Supervisor, Ben de los Santos.

AGENDA: Chairman Philippi asked if there were additions to the agenda. 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 April Board meeting. McNamee seconded. Discussion. Motion passed.

BILLS PAYABLE: After review and discussion, Mueller moved to approve the April accounts payable list in the amount of \$206,838.94. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

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

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

OPERATIONS: Ben de los Santos, Field Supervisor updated the Board on canal mowing, spraying, operation issues. He reported a part-time Boardman ditchrider has been hired. Discussion.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: Lisa Baum, Administrative Services Manager, reported on office work including the meter reading calls and texts. Discussion.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Manager Bridgewater reported that the District has been approved to receive \$60,000 funding through the new Bureau Infrastructure Loan Program. This amount is half of the original request. There will be a contract and we

are not yet sure of any restrictions or specific contract requirements. We can refuse the funds the contract is too limiting. The Board felt the funds should be used for installing the drainage needed this year and the actual lining and concrete work can be done the next year and/or with a second round of funding. Discussion.

WATERSMART GRANT FOR RELOCATION CANAL: The District submitted a grant application under the WaterSmart program for three automated control and reporting gates on the Relocation canal. The cost of the gates and SCADA is approximately \$82,000. WEID crew will do installation for a \$140,000 total project cost. This project will save labor costs as well as water.

TELEMETRY UPDATE: Bridgewater reported that Rock Enterprise continues to work on our telemetry issue. The upper canal is reporting to the office. We are working with the City of Boardman to gain use to their tower. The plan is to send the communication from our sites to the tower, then use the internet to the office. Discussion.

ALTERNATE FUNDING FOR PROJECTS: Discussion ensued on alternate funding sources for upgrades. The SCADA system, help with piping Lateral 17, lining the Relocation canal, assistance with Gattenbein corner canal lining were projects mentioned. Bridgewater was asked to bring a plan for Lateral 17 to the next meeting.

WEID HYDRO POTENTIAL REVIEW: Anderson Perry has done some work on behalf of the District, looking at hydro potential at Three Mile Dam and at the Umatilla Pump Station site. The Board reviewed and discussed the document. Mueller suggested that Anderson Perry not do any more work at the dam or using our old pumps. Frederickson stated that we have the information needed for discussion with the CTUIR. More discussion.

BOARDMAN NITRATE ISSUE: The Boardman nitrate problem was discussed.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

2021 CONJUNCTIVE USE RATE: The District has received the final costs for 2021 conjunctive use. It was higher than estimated by Reclamation in the spring. The cost is \$192,140 plus \$6,000 for previous years. Our original budgeted amount was \$165,000 and the proforma estimated the amount to be \$205,000.

LATERAL 15 COSTS: The pipe and material costs have not been too out of line from the original budget (done in 2018) but the cost for the pump station, manifold and related materials is extremely high. Daryl Frederickson is doing the installation and that was not planned in the original budget. Bev will bring an updated report to the next meeting.

IRRIGON PUMP STATION: De los Santos reported that it took awhile to get it started, due to weather-related low use. It seems to be running better. It has only been up to 8 cfs so far.

SUMMER INTERN: Emma Mueller starts next week as an intern assisting with water conservation and District communications. We received \$3000 in funding support for the position from Special Districts.

OTHER BUSINESS

CREW WAGES: With the competitive wage market, Bridgewater asked the Board to consider a wage increase for the field crew. Discussion. The Board does not want to lose any crew member, especially Ben, to anyone else. Mueller moved to raise all crew in an amount not to exceed 10% with de los Santos at \$25.50 per hour, and a change in job title for de los Santos to Field Superintendent. Frederickson seconded and motion passed. The Board discussed her position and duties with Lisa Baum.

MANAGER TIME OFF: Bridgewater mentioned that she will need to take some time off this summer to help take care of her aging Dad. She will be set up to work part-time remotely.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson