

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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October 20, 2022

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on October 20, 2022, at 9:25 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, Bob Mueller and Abe McNamee. Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Field Superintendent, Ben de los Santos; Administrative Services Manager, Lisa Baum.

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

MONTHLY BUSINESS

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

BILLS PAYABLE: After review and discussion, Frederickson moved to approve the September accounts payable list in the amount of \$91,732.44. Mueller seconded. Motion passed.

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

PROFORMA BUDGET REPORT: A proforma budget reflected anticipated income and expenditures through the end of the fiscal year was presented and reviewed. Labor and canal ROW work was discussed. Neither mowing or spraying was completed along the main canal this year, so weeds are a real problem. The Board mentioned the Relocation canal. Once we get it cleaned up, the landowner should be notified that any "blow-in" of sand or corn stalks is their responsibility. As for any such landowner in the District, they clean or we clean and bill back. Should they pay before taking water? This hasn't been a problem in the past. Further discussion about the cost of pump repairs this season. Directors gave advice to Ben and offered to give a short course to him. Discussion about hiring a former employee to train Ben. For the canal road work that needs to be completed, Philippi mentioned that Ben needs to inspect the work as it is being done. That is good advice for any contracted work in the District.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

OPERATIONS:

SHUTDOWN & WINTER WORK: All systems will run a bit longer this year than in the past due to the late start-up. Irrigon systems off 10/26. Main canal pump stations off 10/28. Main canal off 10/31. If we get rain or freeze, we will go off earlier.

EQUIPMENT: The tractor is still down with a brake issue. RDO needs a tool to do the repair and have ordered it. (Note: the tractor was later taken to the RDO shop for the repair).

TREE REMOVAL: There are several areas along the system where large trees are a concern to irrigation system safety. Ben would like to start having these trees removed by a professional. We have a quote for four areas, three of which are most critical for this year. Just over \$10,000 for this work. The cost was included in the proforma budget. Information was passed out the Board. Areas are 1) off Dylan Road in Irrigon where we lost a number of large trees during the big windstorm in Spring 2020. These trees need to be removed and the 4-inch pipe replaced. 2) off the main canal at Headgate 29 in Umatilla. The pipe for the delivery will be replaced and trees are in the way of the work. Pulling them out with our equipment may damage the canal, so we will hire the tree fallers who will cut them down to the stumps and District crews will apply stump killer. 3) An area on the south side of the canal in Boardman from Peters Road to telemetry 25. A large number of trees have been growing next to the canal, are damaging the liner and are a safety concern for the canal. There will be some canal work after these trees are removed.

VEHICLES: The vehicle mileage and repair report was reviewed. Lisa has found a vendor in Portland that will work with us, as a special district, to see what she can find and when. This is for a new or used truck. The 2001 Chev has some damage and Ben recommends we look for a used box or flatbed rather than turn it into the insurance. It would likely be totalled and we can still use it. Discussion. Board agreed.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

2021 AUDIT REPORT: The report had been given to the Board previously for their review. McNamee moved to accept the audit report. Mueller seconded. Motion passed.

MANAGERS REPORT: A written report was distributed to the Directors and is attached to and a part of the minutes. It was reviewed and discussed.

ANDERSON PERRY'S HYDRO FEASIBILITY REPORT: Anderson Perry completed their overview of potential hydro project for WEID. The report had previously been distributed to the Board and to the tribal negotiator. The report looked at existing sites and infrastructure to be modified. With a moderate estimate of available water, which is generous under current conditions, it would take 11 – 22 years payback on our tow sites. Mueller stated that it should be less than 5 to be feasible. Bridgewater reported that she spoke with a representative from Energy Trust at the recent OWRC technical seminar, who know our sites. He stated that they would not fund on aging infrastructure.

OWRC TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP: Lisa and Bev attended the workshop in Bend recently. Lisa reported on some very interesting topics. One of growing interest across the nation is the use of satellite technology to see where water is used around the world via evapo-transmission analysis. Handouts were distributed. Discussion.

MAIN CANAL WATER SUMMARY: An updated report of main canal usage for the past 15 years was distributed.

METERS: Ben and Bev have selected McCrometer meters for installation on the new pipelines in Boardman, as part of the grant for such work. The meters will allow the quantity of water going down each pipeline to be monitored at the canal by the ditchrider and added to telemetry in the future. She has a quote for the nine meters at \$29,013.60. This is 65% of the grant budgeted amount based on quotes 18 months ago. Bridgewater stated that Columbia Improvement District may have three used meters matching these that we could purchase. She will get a quote from CID.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

DIRECTOR ELECTIONS: One petition was received for each of the two Board Director positions ending this year. Von Studer submitted a petition for Division Three and Dalarie Philippi submitted a petition for Division Five. The petitions met the requirements of the State Statutes and were accepted.

MOTION: One petition was received each for the Director Division Three and the Director Division Five, thus certificates of election have been prepared for Von Studer and Dalarie Philippi. Frederickson moved to accept the declarations of election for the single candidate and that Von Studer and Dalarie Philippi be declared elected to the three year terms ending January 2026. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

APPOINTMENT DIVISION THREE: The Division Three Director position is currently vacant. McNamee moved to appoint Von Studer to the position to finish out the term. Mueller seconded. Motion passed.

BANKING: The Board requested Baum to have new signature documents prepared by the District's financial institutions for the next meeting. Frederickson moved to authorize signers on the accounts to be Directors, Dalarie Philippi, Vern Frederickson, Robert Mueller, Abe McNamee and Von Studer and Manager/Secretary, Beverly Bridgewater. Lisa Baum is authorized to get information on the accounts and make bank transfers in person, by e-mail or by phone. McNamee seconded the motion. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson