

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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December 15, 2022

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on December 15, 2022, at 9:10 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 Bob Mueller, Abe McNamee, Von Studer; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Administrative Services Manager, Lisa Baum; Operations Superintendent, Ben de los Santos. Director Vern Frederickson was not able to attend.

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.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

CTUIR SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL: At the Special Meeting, held yesterday in Boardman, the District Board of Directors agreed to the Draft Settlement Proposal between the West Extension Irrigation District and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). Resolution No. 22-009 adopted the agreement.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: McNamee moved to approve the minutes of the November Board meeting and the Special meeting held yesterday, December 14.. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

BILLS PAYABLE: After review and discussion, Mueller moved to approve the November accounts payable list in the amount of \$106,816.28. McNamee seconded. Discussion. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The October 2022 financial reports had been distributed to the Board. They were reviewed and discussed. Collections were reviewed.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

OPERATIONS: Ben reported on status of equipment, employees and canal work. The following items were reported and discussed:

Equipment Repair and Maintenance status:

- Crew has done the maintenance on the CAT backhoe and Kenworth dump truck.
- Kenworth won't dump. Vern's mechanic has looked at it. It will go to Woodpecker for repair.
- International dump truck is at Woodpecker. A bearing may be going out and the pulley tensioner is not working.. They will do a full service and ODOT inspection while it's there.
- Tractor on the mower quit yesterday. It won't pivot; blades won't turn.
- Excavator has gone to Bailey's for repair.

Crew report: Bob Schlosser, currently working at Roza Irrigation District and living on Southshore Drive, has contacted us about coming to work at WEID. He is the pump maintenance technician at Roza. Discussion. This will fill up the employee slots at the District (Note, a week later our newest crew member, Ryan, resigned to take a higher paying job in construction).

Canal Work: The Adults-in-Custody folks from Two Rivers have been working on the laterals. Shara is their supervisor. Ryan has been working on the Dylan pipe project and the main canal headgate work. He is a steady operator and a "go-getter." The District has 4-5 headgates in the upper canal that need attention and crews are starting to work on those now.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

COLLECTIONS: The status of collections was reviewed with the financial reports.

OREGON PAID LEAVE: Oregon's new Paid Leave payroll deduction will start Jan. 1. Being under 25 employees, this does not affect the District cost, but the employees will start their contributions.

CYBERSECURITY AND WEBSITE UPDATE: Lisa discussed issues with the District website. It is old, not supported and does not meet current accessibility standards for websites. There are security issues to be considered. After discussion, the Board directed her to do the best she can to get us covered.

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.

SDAO BEST PRACTICES: The 2022 Best Practices has a component for Board members to take an on-line course. Three of the five have completed it. SDAO will have a Board of Directors training in Hermiston on January 18, in the morning. Dalarie encouraged all Board members to attend.

PROJECT BUDGET REPORTS: Bridgewater stated she needs to bring the project reports up to date. She wants to integrate them into the funding draws, both from Bank of Eastern Oregon and the BOR. She is still working on the reports and is concerned about the cost of Lateral 17 piping and how we will pay for it. Discussion.

METER READING/POLICY: This was the first year of the landowner/operator call-in for meter readings. Lisa reviewed the statistics and compliance with the policy was lacking. Discussion. The Board agreed to stay the course, not issue any fines, and keep the policy in place encouraging more participation in 2023.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

BOARD DIRECTOR POLICY REVIEW: The Board reviewed and discussed the updated policy. It seemed like a lot of changes, but Bridgewater stated most of it was pulled from other District policies and the SDAO recommendations. McNamee made a motion to pass the policy as presented, but for the Manager to make some housekeeping changes to it and to clean up areas that are redundant. Mueller seconded the motion. Discussion. The motion passed.

2023 PRELIMINARY BUDGET: The Board reviewed the preliminary budget that was presented. Discussion and direction provided. The Board will meet as a Budget Committee on Thursday, January 12 at 9 a.m.

2023 MEETINGS: Bridgewater asked everyone to look at their 2023 calendars so they can set the monthly 2023 meetings at the upcoming Annual meeting on Thursday, January 19.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson