

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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

March 21, 2024

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on March 21, 2024, at 10:10 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 and Vern Frederickson; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Director Von Studer was not able to attend.

AGENDA: Chairperson Philippi asked for additions to the agenda. Mueller moved to accept the agenda. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

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

BILLS PAYABLE: Mueller moved to approve the bills payable list for January in the amount of \$103,787.35 and for February in the amount of \$178,455.58. McNamee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Financial reports for the period ending February 28, 2024, were reviewed and discussed.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

OPERATIONS: An operations report was included with the Mangers report. Canal start-up and flushing began on Monday, March 18 and is on-target for water into Boardman on Friday, March 22. Chairman Philippi stated that the date for start-up should have been March 12. Lots of discussion about personnel issues and readiness for irrigation start-up. The board is concerned that more work wasn't done in the winter, such as headgate inspections, delay in inspecting the main canal, the new Project 25 taking time away from repairs, and not enough time for needed concrete work. The board had personnel related questions such as firing, demoting reassignment of duties and promotion within. Baum and Bridgewater stated that the policies we have would provide direction to many of the questions. They stated that SDAO would provide guidance in areas that were not so clear. Bridgewater said that she would take action based on guidance from SDAO.

The Board discussed looking at several options for cleaning the canal such as sweep brush attachment to help clean weeds. They wondered about a skidster for cleaning the main canal in Boardman. More discussion including looking at gradall and military equipment.

Bridgewater stated the crew would have discussion about start-up after start-up is complete—what worked, what went wrong, what should be changed.

EQUIPMENT: Bailey is out to repair a hydraulic leak on the excavator today. The Kenworth dump truck is having some issues. Discussion on whether to fix or sell. It has a more powerful engine than the International (which has an automatic transmission) and is used to haul the equipment. It is having some problems and is kicking out of gear while driving. The board discussed whether to declare the KW surplus and decided not to until the exact problem is identified. They asked Bridgewater not to put any money into the equipment without talking to the Board first.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: Lisa reported that Liz Richardson will be starting as a part-time office clerk next week. Discussion

SCADA: Lisa has been looking at options to upgrade the District’s SCADA and gave a presentation. In her research, she has met with representatives from Aqua Systems, Rubicon and Assura. She questioned them on what they had to offer, looking at their reports, support and ongoing costs.

She recommends Aqua Systems 2000 Inc’s VTSCADA. Its online platform will provide similar data and operational structure to what we currently have. In addition, it allows emergency callout capabilities and a broader range of reports. It will use the “cloud” via cell phone service, thus eliminating the Wonderware software we are currently using and the need for a new tower at the office to receive the information. The board reviewed the cost quote with Lisa. After discussion, they decided to remove two sites, 17 and Horseshoe and to add a site at the end of Relocation Canal.

MOTION: The motion was made by Frederickson to approve the VTSCADA quote in the amount of \$57,800 to be modified with the changes listed above. McNamee passed. The funds will come from water measurement in the budget and from main canal. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

A written report was provided to the Board and is part of the meeting minutes. The board reviewed and discussed the report.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

No other business today.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session was called at 12:00 pm in accordance with ORS 192.660(2) € to conduct deliberations regarding the tribal water right settlement. The session ended at 12:40 pm.

OTHER BUSINESS

McNamee brought up the drainage project that was planned upstream from Paul Smith Road in Boardman. He was asked by Bridgewater to do the work on the drainage line, but after looking at the project, he wondered why the District is doing the work rather than the landowner. Discussion. The burden of the excess water appears to be on the landowner lying on the south side of the canal due to farming practices. The District will watch the area and discuss the issue with the landowner.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 1:00 pm.

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson