

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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September 19, 2019

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on September 19, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Irrigon Fire Hall located at 705 N. Main St. in Irrigon. Those in attendance were: Board members, Dalarie Philippi, Warren Kemper, Vern Frederickson, Abe McNamee and Bob Mueller; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Office Manager, Lisa Baum; Field Supervisor, Ben de los Santos.

AGENDA: Mueller moved to approve the agenda as distributed. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

FLOOR BUSINESS

IRRIGON PUMP STATION (IPS): Bev gave a history of the IPS, basically stating that the station was purchased from Dennis Logan when the wooden siphon was close to failure and an exchange with Dennis Logan (main canal water for the Columbia River water in Irrigon) was not approved by Reclamation and the State. The purchase was in 1980. The District is using those same pumps. The pumps were lifting a large volume of water into the District's open ditch system, allowing the water to flow through the system, delivering flood irrigation water. At the time, there were about 660 irrigated acres under this system. As the District piped its Irrigon system, these large pumps continued to serve the lands. They were never changed or adapted to the enclosed, pressurized system, although they were rebuilt at least four times over the years. When once, the District had 47 lbs pressure, today they are running at 32 psi.

Gary Moore arrived at the meeting and discussed the problem the large pump (300 Hp) is having. He believes it is cavitating at 4000 gpm. It is designed for 10,000 gpm, but we haven't seen anything above 9000 gpm for many years, and that was with a higher pressure than we are using today. With the pump in the cans, it just can't get enough water. The District has been turning on a smaller, 100 Hp pump to alleviate the cavitation.

Gary recommends we purchase a new pump. He has one in mind for \$42,000. It will put out 9800 gpm at 40 psi. We will get \$15,000 back from UEC and should recognize a 20% savings in power costs. Discussion. Moore left the meeting at 10 am.

The Board discussed other costs – a crane to pull the old pump and put in the new and an electrician. Abe wondered if we should consider running the IPS at a higher pressure so the booster pumps could become more efficient. Bridgwater stated we have a modeling of the Irrigon system, so our engineers can run that model. Discussion. The Board will look at this with the 2020 budget.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mueller moved to approve the minutes of the August 1 Board meeting as presented. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

BILLS PAYABLE: After review, Mueller moved to approve the July accounts payable list in the amount of \$125,192.17. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed. Kemper moved to approve the August payable list in the amount of \$250,255.40. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: The financial reports for the period ending July 31, 2019 were presented. The Board was given a proforma budget that gave the actual expenditures through August 31 and estimated the remaining of the year. Review and discussion. Several thoughts about overage areas:

- The typo error in health insurance resulted in \$25,000 over budget.
- There is \$30,000 in overtime so far this year (\$22,000 in 2017 and \$33,000 in 2018). Bev had budgeted \$25,000 for 2019. We should budget for the increased overtime in the future, as that seems to be common with the aging system.
- PERS rates had gone up in July, which wasn't taken into account.
- Legal and consultant fees are higher than budgeted due to CTUIR settlement.
- Relocation failure cost us over \$30,000 with labor.
- Work was done at Three Mile Dam due to the flooding this winter. Normally, we would do this work (every three years), but our excavator was being repaired and we could not make the work window.
- We participated with Stahls on the airblast system at the IPS.
- The conjunctive use cost is down this year, due to a milder year, so we will have \$50,000 savings to put into the rest of the budget.
- This all results in about \$60,000 overage in our budget.

Thoughts about addressing the overage:

The O&M reserve definitely meets the criteria for the Relocation Canal failure. It is at \$35,000.

The Conjunctive Use Emergency Fund is at \$32,000 and can be used to offset the budget, as needed.

This is a temporary fix. We try to hold the budget, but the system is old and we may be trying to run too tight.

We need to fund the reserves in future years, if we spend them now. Discussion.

Ben pointed out that there are several places in Irrigon where the steel line need to be replaced.

Bob wondered about the cost of the liner compared to concrete. Bev stated that the liner is much more expensive, but labor is extremely less. Discussion.

Dalarie wondered about holding off on the Boardman projects for a year to two to catch up. Bev stated we would lose our \$530,000 grant and NCRS would lose the money they have. Both are on a three-year cycle and we are into Year One now.

Loan for project. DEQ has turned us down as we don't meet their water quality criteria. We will need to look at FlexLease for borrowing for the projects.

Mueller moved to authorize Lisa to contact FlexLease and to see about borrowing for the construction projects. She is authorized to act on behalf of the District. Frederickson seconded. Discussion. The District should explore other options as well. Motion passed.

McNamee moved to authorize the use of the O&M reserve funds and the Conjunctive Use reserve funds, as needed to balance the 2019 budget. Muelled seconded. Motion passed.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

OPERATIONS: Bev and Ben did employee evaluations. Ben said it was very good for him as he learned what the employees want from him as a Supervisor. The Board asked and he said he should be a strong leader and be more assertive, provide clearer direction. It opened his eyes. Discussion.

OFFICE MANAGER: Lisa gave a report on collections. The Martinez property may be headed back to collection, although she has filed a new bankruptcy. The Lambson property may have a new party of interest. If not, it is headed to Sheriff sale.

MANAGER'S' REPORT: A written report was distributed to the directors and is attached to and a part of the minutes. Discussion.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

SDAO BEST PRACTICES: The board had received a copy of the District Public Meeting and Records Policy. It was reviewed and one change noted. Kemper moved to adopt the update to the Records Policy, as presented. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

DIRECTOR ELECTION: There are three director positions open – Division Two (2 years remaining), Division Three (three years), and Division Five (three years). Petitions are due October 8. Frederickson moved to set the election date on November 12, in accordance with ORS. McNamee passed. It will be a mail-in election. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into executive session at 11:30 a.m. in accordance with ORS 192.660 to discuss the legal issues and the tribal water right settlement. The Board came out of Executive Session at 12:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 12:51 p.m.

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson