

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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September 15, 2022

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on September 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, Vern Frederickson, and Abe McNamee. Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Field Superintendent, Ben de los Santos; Guests from the Bureau of Reclamation, Chet Sater, Hermiston Field Office Manager, Jeanne Demorest, Asst. Planning/Project and GOTR Conservation Grants, and Elizabeth Heether, WaterSmart and Environmental. Director Bob Mueller was absent.

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

INTRODUCTIONS were made.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

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

BILLS PAYABLE: After review and discussion, McNamee moved to approve the July accounts payable list in the amount of \$136,323.41 and the August accounts payable list in the amount of \$124,182.77. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

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

RESERVE FUNDS: Upon recommendation from Baum, Frederickson made a motion to take the Building and Equipment reserves to zero. McNamee seconded the motion. The two reserves were each carrying a negative balance and the auditors stated the funds spent have been accounted for as part of previous years expenses.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

OPERATIONS:

EQUIPMENT: All equipment is running except the mower. The brakes need attention as they have been “soft” since the axle work this last spring.

CREW: Tassie is leaving with her last day next Friday. The crew is one person short now, so there will be two positions available. We really need someone to help with pump maintenance and the equipment. Discussion.

CANAL CROSSINGS: De los Santos updated the Board about crossing requests. Windwave has two requests pending and is working on the request to cross the canal east of Miller Road. The Port of Morrow has requested a crossing just downstream of the railroad tracks and the CID crossing a few years ago. Umatilla Electric will be upgrading their lines east of Kurz Lane where Umatilla County will cross the main canal with their new pipeline. The bridge at Root Lane is part of the new Taylor subdivision and will need to be upgraded. Discussion. Manager and the Board want to be sure that Windwave has access to all its work and doesn't rely on existing private bridges to access their work for the new fiber optics line south of the main canal.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

METER READINGS: Baum reported on the Meter reading policy that is new for this year. There are 373 landowner meters in the District. Of those, 134 have been read and sent to the office regularly, 70 were sent in a couple of times and 169 not at all. The compliance definitely picked up as the season went on. We anticipate it will get better next year. The crew will read all meters at the end of the season.

INTERN REPORT: The written report to SDAO for the summer Intern Program was included in the Board packet. It was reviewed. Our crews are now using their tablets and phones daily for communication about water orders and schedule, repairs, and observations. This has saved a lot of time. We are still looking for the right work order application that will further save time and provide accountability for the crew.

PRESSURIZED FEE REDUCTION/LATERAL 15: A motion was made by Vern Frederickson and seconded by Abe McNamee to reduce the pressurized fee for those on Lateral 15 to 50% for 2022 billing. This action is recommended by management because of the late start on the lateral due to construction. The system started in mid-June. Discussion. 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.

WINDWAVE CROSSING LETTER: Sater mentioned that Wendy Morrison is working on the letter to Windwave about the recent crossing they did at Kunze and Miller, then south of Kunze on Miller where the installation did not match the approved design. He will get a copy to the District when it goes out. Frederickson wondered if Windwave should replace District pipe with HDPE after the season. Bridgewater and Sater thought this should happen if the pipe is dug up in the future.

To do so now may present a liability issue if one of the facilities were damaged. Frederickson wondered if Windwave had signed the liability release letter we had requested. They have not. Bridgewater and Sater stated the District and Reclamation will take a closer look at agreements with Windwave moving forward to protect the District's interest and Reclamation facilities.

GENERAL: Bridgewater reported that she met with Staff from Senator Merkley's office to discuss assistance with funding needs and the District's work with Farmers Conservation Alliance. Discussion ensued about various potential projects.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

DIRECTOR ELECTIONS: Two positions are open and District election date (second Tuesday in November by statute) is coming up. Nominating petitions are due October 4, 2022. Positions are:

Division Three:	Three-year term..	Position is vacant.
Division Five:	Three-year term.	Dalarie Philippi is current director.

MOTION: Frederickson moved to hold the District election on Nov. 8, to start looking for judges and to do a mail-in election. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

BOR INFRASTRUCTURE LOAN AND CONTRACT: Bridgewater has been working with Gail McGarry on the infrastructure loan and contract. Several key concerns were addressed in discussion. Highlights of the contract are:

- Future awards for this project will likely be amended to this contract. The upfront fees would not be charged.
- The loan interest fee is 0.75%
- Payback is five years. Amount is \$60,000
- No public vote is required because we are not raising rates. Payment is coming from our O&M funds annually.
- There is no amendment or modification to our existing 1926 and 1954 contracts although standard housekeeping clauses do apply. As they do on our grant contracts.
- Attorney has reviewed the documents and discussed with Manager.

McNamee moved to approve the contract and to authorize Dalarie to sign the document as Chairman and Vern Frederickson to attest the document as Vice-Chairman. Frederickson seconded the motion. These steps are needed as Bridgewater, who is Secretary of the Board, will be out of town when the document is completed. Motion passed.

WATERSMART GRANT REVIEW/CANAL STUDY SCOPE OF WORK: This is the System Optimization Review as part of the WEID Main Canal Modernization Plan. It will be added to the WEID Water Management and Conservation Plan which is being updated by Bridgewater and JUB. Discussion. This is a 50-year plan. It will

look at water loss in the main canal and make recommendations for maintaining and upgrading the canal to serve changing and future needs. Discussion about check structures and spillways ensued.

The Reclamation guests left the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into executive session at 11:15 a.m. to discuss Tribal water right negotiations. Executive session was closed at 11:30 a.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson