

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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May 18, 2023

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on May 18, 2023 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, Von Studer; Bob Mueller via telephone; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Administrative Services Manager, Lisa Baum; Field Superintendent, Ben de los Santos; Chet Sater, Manager of the Bureau of Reclamation Umatilla Field Office. Director Abe McNamee was not able to attend.

AGENDA: Chairperson Philippi asked for additions to the agenda. There were none. Frederickson moved to accept the agenda. Studer seconded. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Director Philippi has received a call from patron, David Boor. Boor questioned a bill that he received for an after hours callout. Discussion. Boor has had concerns about his fence for quite some time. It is adjacent to the spillway and the amount of water through the spillway seems to threaten his fence at times, because of the widening of the spillway over the years.. The District is actively trying to get the spillway back into a channel as opposed to the large pond that has developed on the Wendler property, next to Boor. Before start-up this year, the pond was cleaned out and deepened plus the boards at the bridge that held water back were removed. Discussion took place about the next steps. Bridgewater stated that Boor had requested to start his irrigation at 4 am the morning of the callout and likely didn't think about the fact that he placed an urgent call to the ditchrider at 6 am. The Board directed the bill be cancelled and the District work on ways to let folks know about possible after hours fees. Also, including a Google map with the location of a property's shut-off valve would be helpful.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

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

BILLS PAYABLE: Mueller moved to approve the April accounts payable list in the amount of \$165,917.62. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

FINANCIALS: The Board the YE 2022 financials. We have received the cost of conjunctive use water for 2022. Bridgewater recommended that we put a portion of the unused amount budgeted for 2022 into the conjunctive use reserve fund. A

motion was made by Frederickson to move \$40,000 to conjunctive use reserved for future costs. Studer seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The financials ending April 30, 2023 were reviewed and discussed.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Board reviewed the Manager's report. It provided information from Operations and Management. The items on the report were discussed. The report is attached to and a part of the meeting minutes.

TRESPASS ISSUES: Discussion took place about various safety issues relative to trespass along the main canal. The Board reminded that the crew is to keep the gates on the main canal closed, One area where foot traffic is increasing is along the canal west of Powerline Road to the 4X4. With the housing development on the south side and plans for a new school, this area is seeing increasing foot traffic. The Washington bridge is the designated way to cross the canal, but it is not being used. Steps we've taken to close off gates, pipeline, etc are being bypassed, according to neighbors. Discussion. Bev will talk to the City of Umatilla to see about getting some assistance.

Updates were given on the status of the telemetry, IPS meter, and equipment. Phillipi wondered about Starlink. Many Boardman folks are using that service now.

DEVELOPMENT AFFECTING DRAINS AND LATERAL FLUSHES: Several factors are leading into today's discussion about drains and flush valves off the main canal or Irrigon mainline. Development, lower water in the canal due to conservation, increasingly dirty water (silt and weeds). Development means that once open fields where drains or flushes occur now have houses and outbuildings. Water conservation means less water in the canal, so a need to flush more frequently. Dirtier water results in the same. Today's discussion is part of our water canal study. Discussion. Could we put in basins i.e. dry wells. Is there a need for recharge? How many areas are we concerned about and what is the gallonage? How often are the lines flushed? More discussion. How have other Districts addressed this issue? Follow-up is needed.

ADMINISTRATIVE: Lisa distributed a comprehensive report (attached).

COLLECTIONS: Collection efforts have been successful. Most folks are catching up their past due payments. Shut-off notices have gone out with more expected.

METER READINGS: A number of folks have sent in their meter readings. Last year's postcards and reminders still need to go out. We will start charging a meter reading fee June 1 . Discussion.

CYBER SECURITY: A lot is happening in the world of cyber security and public agencies are wise to get involved with securing their systems. Lisa has been accepted to a mentorship program. She reviewed the topic and the material in the Board packet. Discussion. The Board agreed that this, unfortunately, is the world we live in today. Of course, we need to secure our systems.

MANAGER: The report was reviewed and discussed.

ROW TRESPASS: The District is looking to the Bureau of Reclamation to assist on protecting the federal ROW. Bridgewater will continue to try to find a cooperative solution with any public agency where District rights are impacted, but also protect the District's ability to get water to its patrons.

10:30 am. Director Bob Mueller left the meeting.

INSURANCE CLAIMS: Bridgewater reviewed the two issues that have been sent to the insurance agent for handling. Discussion. Philippi stated we should not have sent the Dylan claim to the insurance company as they will likely settle. Bridgewater stated she held it off as long as she could. She doesn't believe we are at fault and the insurance handler is taking that stance. Discussion.

OWRD MEETING: Oregon Water Resources Department held a listening session in Hermiston for its Integrated Water Strategy plan update. While there were 20 folks from the public there, a dozen of those represented the Boardman group interesting in highlighting their nitrate concerns. Discussion. WEID will send comments to the State. WEID is also open to being proactive to find local solutions that help the affected owners.

Board directed staff to order the meter for the IPS>

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 10:55 am.

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson