

# WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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March 21, 2019

## **Monthly Board Meeting**

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on March 21, 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, Vern Frederickson, Abe McNamee, and Bob Mueller; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Office Manager, Lisa Baum; Manager of the Reclamation Umatilla Field Office, Sean Kimbrel. Director Warren Kemper was not able to attend the meeting.

**AGENDA:** McNamee moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mueller seconded. Motion passed.

### MONTHLY BUSINESS

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mueller moved to approve the minutes of the February Board meeting as presented. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

**BILLS PAYABLE:** After review, McNamee moved to approve the January accounts payable list in the amount of \$147,815.69. Mueller seconded. Motion passed.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** The financial reports for the period ending January 31, 2019 were presented and reviewed.

### REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

#### **OPERATIONS:**

**CANAL LINER:** It took four weeks of prep work in the Coyote Springs area (due to the extreme weather and groundwater flow in the area) and 2.5 days to put in the liner. We are very pleased with the product. Discussion. Key points:

- Cost: It costs the same as concrete, but much less labor, under normal circumstances. We installed this in the highest groundwater area of our canal – Coyote Springs. We had to put in three 6-inch drain pipes to carry the water to a 12-inch drain.
- Burning: McNamee would like a policy that there is no burning on the lined part of our ditches. Bev will write that up as part of our SOPs.

- **Cleaning:** We will build a “glove” from the fabric to fit over the excavator bucket. We’ll use this when cleaning the liner.
- **Groundwater:** The liner is stabilized, so should not float.
- **Other areas:** We have an area just downstream where the rest of the liner purchased for this year will go. We’ll look at the Donovan area for next year – that will require drainage. The area where it will really save the District money is from the Phase I inlet to the 4X4 building. These panel are being weathered and have effect from the deep freeze two years ago. We can save them by lining and get 25- 30 more years from them, she estimates.

She’ll have the vendor come to our next meeting to talk more about the liner.

**SHOP BUILDING:** We have sent information to the City for the permit. They need an engineer review. We will use Ron McKinnis. We have requested a water and sewer hookup with the City that was an exchange for an easement we gave the city years ago for their sewer line.

**WATER START-UP:** We are targeting the week of April 1, with startup on the 3<sup>rd</sup> for the main canal and into Boardman on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**OFFICE MANAGER:** Lisa gave a report on collection actions.

## **MANAGER’S’ REPORT:**

**RETURN FLOW PRESENTATION & CTUIR WATER RIGHT SETTLEMENT DISCUSSION:** Bev gave a Powerpoint presentation from the 2004 Koreny work. She reported that she and our consultants had a teleconference with Joe Ely from the CTUIR to understand their thoughts on the water right settlement relative to WEID. Questions and discussion ensued between Board members, Manager and Reclamation. Several key points were brought up:

- The District does not see Reclamation taking actions to protect the return flows. They are in an advisory position for the CTUIR water right settlement and we need them to advocate for our flows or at least assist in making the CTUIR aware of injury that will likely occur.
- Board wants to have a better understanding of where we are and meet with our Congressmen. We want to assure that our concerns are taken into account and our interest protected for the settlement.
- Sean explained that BOR and OWRD are enforcers on the settlement, not active participants. The federal negotiating team works with the CTUIR on the settlement. Certainly, the final settlement proposal wants agreement from all affected parties so it can pass Congress.
- Regarding protocols for making a call on 87872, things were put on “hold” last year while interim measures were being explored. So far, only WEID had done any work to bring issues forward. WRD and BOR are looking at return flows at UMDO, so that is good. Reclamation’s modeling did not move forward. The

District is long past the 18 months that was in the original protocol agreement in 2014. We will place on call on 87872 for 2019 to reopen the discussion.

- Bev stated that, from WEID's perspective, HID is trading our water under 87872) for the settlement and it may be protected from us. This is a concern.
- WEID Board thinks Reclamation should be an objective observer, not a silent or neutral one.

Sean from Reclamation left the meeting at 10:05 am for a meeting with WRD regarding the UMDO return flow issue and related accounting.

The Board would like to get information together to meet with our federal legislators. Our consultants are refining their work, based on the recent conversation with Mr. Ely from the CTUIR. The Board continued at will discussion on the issue and reviewed information in their Board packets showing history of WEID's work on return flows. The Board would like to meet with the Adam Sussman and Owen (modeler) from GSI to better understand our position and assist in deciding the best course of action.

**LAND INCLUSION REQUEST:** Dan McCarty wants to bring 40 acres into the boundaries, adjacent to the Carlson circle east of Main St and Kunze. Discussion. Sean stated it would require a boundary change and land classification. The Board does not want to do a boundary change.

## **DISTRICT BUSINESS**

**WATER MARKETING:** Discussion was tabled.

**REVIEW PRESSURIZATION FEES COLLECTION:** The Board reviewed the report showing pressurization fees collected by each pressurized area and costs incurred by the District. Discussion. Direction was given to refine the report, removing capitalized costs from the report.

**REVIEW OF DISTRICT BILLING PROCEDURES FOR POWER BILLS:** Bridgewater handed out the billing procedures for the pressurized systems (their power bills). There is a base fee of \$30 on the systems. For the larger projects in Boardman, it looks like the base fee should be \$70. She'll have last years and this years experience. It will be important to develop procedures that are as consistent as possible. The higher acreage, lower number of customer systems are different than the ones we have in place now and need a different rate.

**RATE & DUTY PROCEDURES:** Bridgewater handed out the District procedures for rate and duty. While it is newly written, the actual procedures have been in place for many decades.

Discussion ensued on piping and deliveries. Mueller left the meeting at 11:25 am.

### OTHER BUSINESS

**FLOODING SOUTH OF IRRIGON:** The work on HG 86 has been delayed for another year, due to the winter snow. Work will be done on HG 87 next season also. The Board directed Bridgewater to send a notice to folks south of Irrigon that they will be under the standard district delivery starting in 2020, which is 8.5 gpm and a rate of 4.5 acre-feet of water. This will be Acock, Payne and Proctor. Proctor's deliveries are already piped. There is a flooder in Umatilla who has partitioned his property. He understands he will need to cease flooding once his property sells. We have encouraged him to contact NCRS in Umatilla for assistance.

### ADJOURNMENT

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

Signed:

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Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

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Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson