

# WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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April 18, 2024

## **Monthly Board Meeting**

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on April 18, 2024, at 9:05 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, Von Studer, Abe McNamee and Vern Frederickson; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Administrative Services Manager, Lisa Baum. Director Bob Mueller was not able to attend.

**AGENDA:** Chairperson Philippi asked for additions to the agenda. There were no additions, but the Chairman stated there may need to be a change in the order of business. Studer moved to accept the agenda with ability for Chairman to change the order of business. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

### MONTHLY BUSINESS

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Bridgewater pointed out a couple of housekeeping corrections to the minutes. Frederickson moved to approve the minutes of the March Board meeting as corrected. McNamee seconded. Discussion. Motion passed.

**BILLS PAYABLE:** Frederickson moved to approve the bills payable list for March in the amount of \$215,876.21. McNamee seconded. Questions and discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Financial reports for the period ending March 31, 2024 were reviewed and discussed.

### REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

#### **OPERATIONS:**

**START-UP:** See Manager's Report. The Board discussed the problems with the McGraw pump and the Sunrise pump and asked Bridgewater to follow through with the crew on how these circumstances could've been prevented.

**EQUIPMENT:** Both the Kenworth dump truck and excavator have broken down since the last Board meeting. Abe McNamee did an emergency repair on the dump truck to get it running. Discussion. The Board is concerned whether the equipment is being greased enough and when was the last time annual maintenance was done? The crew should be able to do basic troubleshooting and maintenance.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:** Lisa gave an update on the SCADA system and where the District is headed. She reviewed the current quote from Aqua Systems 2000, which was updated from action at the last board meeting. Lisa discussed what it would take to remove the Boardman sites from the radio system we are currently using and install the cell phone system so all sites are on the VTScada network. Discussion and questions happened as the Board reviewed the updated quote.

**MOTION:** Frederickson moved to increase the amount for the SCADA upgrade by \$4100, as outlined in the quote from Aqua Systems 2000. McNamee seconded. This would add the Boardman sites and all information would be managed by one entity. Motion passed unanimously.

**MANAGER'S' REPORT:** A written Manger's Report was provided to the Board and is part of the meeting minutes. The board reviewed and discussed the report.

**FIELD SUPERVISOR:** Bridgewater said that Bob Schlosser has been appointed as temporary Field Supervisor to get us through start-up. She has confirmed with SDAO that we can appoint this position from within, but if it's a permanent position, we should open it up to all employees. Discussion. Bridgewater doesn't think we are heading in the right direction, but where we were wasn't right either. Frederickson suggested that everyone needs to help each other – all on the same team. There is a vacuum in leadership; the culture is not functional and we need to make a change. It won't happen overnight. Studer mentioned accountability is a concern. The "culture shift" occurred gradually over the past year (with absences and new folks) and we need to shift it back. The crew is the solution to the problem. Frederickson suggested all crew should be included in how we can do better. Phillippi stated they all have something to offer and need to figure it out as a group. Bridgewater agreed that this is a good approach and will start stepping it back from where it is now and work on how to move forward. She likes what she is hearing from the Board.

## DISTRICT BUSINESS

**REQUEST FROM THE CITY OF IRRIGON FOR INFRASTRUCTURE DETAILS:** The Board reviewed a recent request from the City for locations, sizing capacity, types of pipe for existing and planned construction of WEID facilities and deeded easements in Irrigon. WEID does not have such detail on its facilities. They also asked for boundary information and facilities maps, which we have previously provided. We will assure their engineer has access to the maps that we have.

Discussion ensued about the GIS discussion we had last year. How can the District update its maps with information that others need? Ideas were tossed around. There are areas of the system that we don't see for 20 years. Each time we go back it's a new crew and the same maps, so we spend time looking for lines. How can we get ourselves into more current standards? McNamee recommended putting markers in when we dig up lines. More discussion and ideas.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into Executive session at 10:25 am in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2) to discuss the CTUIR water right settlement. The executive session ended at 10:40 am.

## OTHER BUSINESS

**EQUIPMENT DISCUSSION (cont):** The dump truck and excavator will be hauled to Pat McNamee's shop. Abe will look at them. He pointed out that not all issues on older equipment are big issues and we can live with them. Studer agreed that the crew needs to learn to mitigate problems as they can. Phillipi stated that the crew can't seem to figure out what is a big deal and what is a small deal. Studer stated things just aren't being kept up and we should find out why. Frederickson offered that the District has a reasonable expectation about basic maintenance and the crew is not being asked to do more than what is reasonable.

McNamee commented, "From what I saw, the red dump truck (Kenworth) could be OK to keep." Follow-up will occur at the next meeting.

**BRIDGES:** A brief discussion about bridges over the main canal and Bridgewater's plan to update ownership once the start-up settles down.

## ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Phillipi adjourned the meeting at 11:00 am.

Signed:

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Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

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Dalarie Phillipi, Chairperson