

# WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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April 20, 2023

## **Monthly Board Meeting**

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on April 20, 2023 at 9:20 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, Bob Mueller and Abe McNamee; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Field Superintendent, Ben de los Santos; Chet Sater, Manager of the Bureau of Reclamation Umatilla Field Office. Director Von Studer was not able to attend. .

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

### MONTHLY BUSINESS

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mueller moved to approve the minutes of the March Board meeting. Frederickson seconded. Discussion. Motion passed.

**BILLS PAYABLE:** Frederickson moved to approve the March accounts payable list in the amount of \$258,830.26. Mueller seconded. Motion passed.

**FINANCIALS:** The Board reviewed a document showing the 2023 budget and major expenses through March.. Discussion. Labor cost is a concern already this year since more time was spent on pre-season clean-up than in the past. There was a lot of silt in the canal, more than typical. The labor crew cleaning the open laterals did a nice job of removing the overburden. It seems like labor costs have been higher than budgeted for the past few years. Management will take a closer look at these costs for future planning. Recent issues with the 7<sup>th</sup> St pump station, the meter at the Irrigon Pump Plant and repair of the Kenworth were discussed as well.

### REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

**COMMUNICATING WITH THE DIRECTORS:** Chairperson Philippi polled the Board to see how they would prefer communication from the office. They all agreed that the group text that Lisa Baum is using is the best. She would like to have been

notified about the canal outage in Boardman on March 29. Several panels slipped and started to wash out at Gattenbein corner, so the Boardman canal was shut down for a few days during the repair. Typically, for any outage the Directors are contacted and they all agreed they would like that contact to keep them informed as this has potential impact to their patrons and to the budget.

**OFFICE STORAGE:** The Board agreed to continue getting ideas for the storage shed, but not purchase until we can get the cost in the budget. A building 10 X 30 seems to be the right size. Several ideas were discussed. Rock Enterprises would pour the concrete when they pour the pad for the new communication tower.

### DISTRICT BUSINESS

**NEW DREAMS SUBDIVISION:** The contractor for New Dreams subdivision off Division and Thomas in Irrigon ripped out the District main irrigation line for the area. Discussion. The Owner plans to relocate the line. He submitted the plans to the City of Irrigon, but not the District. Bridgewater is following up on this. We hear that they have plans to lower the federal RL2 line to build a new access street off Division. Again, the plans were submitted to the City, but not the District or Reclamation. The Board stated New Dreams should be put on notice that any impact to irrigation needs to be approved in writing from the District and/or Reclamation.

### OTHER BUSINESS

**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION:** Sater reported on several things. They are discontinuing remote work for their employees. A new Area Manager for the Columbia-Cascades Office in Yakima has been hired, and it is Chris Duke. He is a Civil Engineer and has been working out of the Technical Service Center in Denver.

### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 10:35 am.

Signed:

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Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

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Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson