

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 100 IRRIGON, OREGON 97844

PHONE: (541) 922-3814 FAX: (541) 922-9775

March 16, 2021

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on March 16, 2021 at 9:00 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, Bob Mueller and Whitney Coffman; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Administrative Services Manager, Lisa Baum; Field Supervisor, Ben de los Santos.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was called by Chairman Philippi at 9:00 am for the purpose of discussing a grievance filed by the Union. Executive session was recessed at 9:12 a.m.

Vern Frederickson arrived at the meeting at 9:12 a.m.

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

MONTHLY BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mueller moved to approve the minutes of the February 2021 Board meeting. Coffman seconded. Motion passed.

After review, McNamee moved to correct the Board minutes of September 20, 2020. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

BILLS PAYABLE: After review, Mueller moved to approve the February accounts payable list in the amount of \$130,409.15. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

OPERATIONS: Ben reported that water started yesterday, March 15 on the main canal. There were some issues, but water should be into Boardman by the end of the week. Discussion.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: Lisa gave an update. Linda Martinez, whose property is being processed for foreclosure, has agreed to quitclaim her water rights to the District to have her bill settled.

9:30 a.m. Director Abe McNamee arrived. Mike Snyder, District Labor Consultant, joined the meeting by telephone.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (cont)

Executive Session was reconvened by Chairman Philippi at 9:30 am for the purpose of consulting regarding the grievance filed by the Union. Executive session was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE (cont)

MANAGER'S' REPORT: Bridgewater reported that the Dollar General/Huwe project was moving forward. She has been working on the water right transfers for 2021 and got the first batch to the mapper this past weekend. The issue of the abandoned ditches in Irrigon has been discussed with Reclamation. They are looking at a process wherein the ditches can be abandoned, each one as a whole. She and Wendy will try to get started this summer.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 21-007 - WaterSMART Grant: Bridgewater has a grant ready to be submitted to the WaterSmart program for purchase of nine meters for the Boardman laterals. Discussion. Mueller made a motion to approve the Grant application and sign the Resolution. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-008 – RESTRICT LOT SIZE FOR IRRIGATION: The Board reviewed the resolution and discussed it. They are in general agreement with the concept of limiting the size of lots to have water rights, but would like to consider ½ acre as development would shrink the irrigable area on any lot. Bridgewater stated that .30 water right acres is the smallest amount feasible to serve. Can there be exceptions for contiguous lots? Could a lot be OK as long as undeveloped, then sign off the water rights when it develops? These are all good considerations. Management will continue to work on this and bring it back at a future meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session was called at 10:30 am to discuss CTUIR negotiations. The executive session was adjourned at 10:43 am.

OTHER BUSINESS

TELEMETRY ISSUES: The Board wondered about a grant to help with upgrading the District telemetry. That led to discussion about the current telemetry problems. Gate 25 is having operational problems and crew is working on that. There are communication problems throughout the system; they are intermittent. Ben thinks it is because the antenna at the district office was damaged in the wind storms last year. Bev stated that, due to Covid, we have not had maintenance on the system from our vendor, Aqua Systems 2000, for two years. Discussion ensued with ideas to move forward. The Board agreed to make telemetry a priority.

METERS: The five landowners that were contacted to install meters prior to the season are working on compliance. Abe stated that Cleaver would like to put a meter on Lateral 86 (now piped) by the canal and have the District pay for it. Discussion. The Board won't pay for the meter. They will let Cleaver put it on their part of that line.

CANAL BY THREE MILE DAM: Abe reported that during the canal cleaning, which he did for the District this year, he noticed the canal near Three Mile Dam is in bad shape. The District needs to make a plan for this area. He doesn't think liner will work and wondered about laying new concrete over the existing. Bob thought that would make the canal heavier and more prone to slide towards the river. There is a lot of groundwater moving in the area. Bridgewater stated we had this area on the replacement list during Ray's last two years. We would need to use rebar in the concrete when we replace those panels. Abe wondered if fiber in the concrete would be an alternate to rebar. Discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 10:50 am.

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson