

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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February 17, 2022

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on February 17, 2022 at 9:08 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, Abe McNamee, Bob Mueller, and Whitney Coffman; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Administrative Services Manager, Lisa Baum; Field Supervisor, Ben de los Santos. Guests, Wendy Neal with Windwave Communications, Brett Golden with Farmers Conservation Alliance, Chet Sater & Dave Empel with the Bureau of Reclamation.

AGENDA: There will be no executive session today. It will need to be rescheduled. Mueller moved to approve the agenda as presented. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

Introductions were made. Chet introduced Dave Empel who will be the Acting Manager of Reclamation's Umatilla Field Office for the next month. Joining on Zoom were Sam Swanson and Kristin Alligood from Farmers Conservation Alliance.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

FARMERS CONSERVATION ALLIANCE: Golden gave an overview of the funding process through Oregon Energy Trust (Trust). The Trust recognizes that there is hydro potential in many of the Oregon irrigation districts. The need to improve these districts is overwhelming, mainly due to the cost. The Trust has put a program together where they provide initial funding to look at the hydro potential of the districts and to assist them with initial steps towards setting goals and plans for overall district improvement. Kristin has been working with Lisa and Bev to prepare the District Brief. It is a working document that acknowledges the District's history, recognize work that has been done and assists with identifying the overall goals and objectives of the District's Board. The Board reviewed this document.

Brett acknowledged the District has done a lot of work with its Boardman Master Plan and Water Management and Conservation Plan. The District is also getting grants through the federal WaterSmart program. Finding the matching dollars is where WEID needs help. This, plus a funding plan. Brett said they would complete the initial assessment for the District. Then determine what the needs are with a plan. Typically, they go into a design or technical assistance program. The board asked several questions. Chet stated the new Reclamation Infrastructure Funding is good

through 2026. It is well funded although the application process is chaotic right now. The District made an application for the first round of funding. The FCA folks left the meeting when the discussion was concluded around 9:50 a.m.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION- ROW & CROSSING ISSUES: Following up on issues stated in the accompanying Manager's report and questions submitted to Reclamation by Bridgewater, Sater said that he has worked with the cultural folks. They determined Reclamation would not require a cultural inventory from Windwave where they are trenching underground and there is no direct impact on Reclamation ground, including fee title ground. They will process the applications that have been waiting for almost a year now.

Bridgewater asked what steps Reclamation is taking to assure requests needing a cultural review do not "fall through the cracks?" Sater stated that when applications are received, they will be looked at to determine if on fee title ground. It takes about six months to go through the cultural review process, so they will try to get that part started quickly. He doesn't think the process is broken, just that it was overlooked. He felt they have addressed this internally. He also checked with other offices and they are using a similar process.

Regarding the Umatilla Electric Coop (UEC) request for burying electrical mainline on fee title ground, it will require a cultural inventory. They are currently waiting for the heritage permit to be issued so our consultant can start the review. After it is submitted, then SHPO and CTUIR review – anticipate 30 days each. The Board asked about overhead power. Sater stated they would still need the cultural to put the poles on the ROW and Bridgewater added that UEC said they would need to build a line and this would be more costly.

Sater addressed the federal easement on a lot in Irrigon that the District has sold. The request is to move a 50-foot easement in the center of the property to a 20-foot easement along the property boundary, to match the line that the District has already installed (removing a 20-inch concrete pipe and burying a 4-inch PVC).. He said the request and findings have been at the solicitors office. When they finally looked at it, the HAZ MAT survey was older than 6 months, so it need to be updated. There is also the value of the easement from 50-feet to 20-feet that needs to be considered.

CROSSING DEPTH STANDARDS: There are no crossing standards for depth in the Reclamation Directives and Standards. For Boardman, Bridgewater suggested 4-feet below the bottom of the laterals and 10-feet below the bottom of the canal. This is reasonable and the Board agreed. Twenty feet below the canal in the Irrigon and Umatilla areas have been the standard and Bridgewater recommends this.

DOLLAR GENERAL ROW ABANDONMENT: Bridgewater asked the status of the Dollar General store federal right-of-way abandonment. Sater did not know. (Manager's note. Later this afternoon, we received a copy of the filing at Morrow

County dated Jan. 31, 2022 that the federal interest has been released. Dollar General's attorney received a copy then as well. So, this issue is complete).

Sater, Empel and Neal left the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mueller moved to approve the minutes of the January Board meeting. McNamee seconded. Discussion. Motion passed.

BILLS PAYABLE: Mueller moved to approve the January accounts payable list in the amount of \$79,745.02. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The preliminary financial reports for year-end 2022 were reviewed.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

OPERATIONS: Ben gave an update on current crew activities.

- The adults in custody (inmate) crew started Tues, Feb. 15. They will clean the Boardman laterals and help with canal concrete work. We have them for 5 weeks.
- The J's labor crew has been burning weeds in the canal and will continue and assist with main canal repairs and concrete work.
- The pump cans and manifold for the new system at Lateral 15 will arrive tomorrow.
- The Board discussed the options for power at the pump while waiting for the UEC line to be put in. Frederickson has a generator that could spin the 60 HP motor.
- We will need a crane to install the pump and motor at the IPS. Kern Brothers do not think their crane is big enough. Discussion.

JOHN DEERE TRACTOR: When the front axel broke recently, Abe took a close look at the specifications of the mower and the attachments. He reported that the weight capacity is maxed out without extending the side boom. Dalarie and Bev recalled that it was bought as a package and the Board even upgraded the mower before purchase. Abe continued that the spacer on the wheel has made it worse. Plus the fact that the crew is carrying the 3-point mower behind as standard operating. That should not happen at all. Discussion.

Bridgewater stated she and Ben have discussed protocols: They need to be written:

- The 3-point and will not be carried unless it is being used. When it is used, they will keep the side boom "IN".

- Any crew member running the mower will be well trained.
- When using the side boom in uneven areas, they will not go over 3 mph.
- An overall plan for the District is to level the canal road and the abutting shoulder. That should continue. They will set a priority plan for this work.
- Look for a good used tractor that is right for our mower.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

RESOLUTION NO. 22-005 – 2022 INCURRED CHARGES: Baum stated that when the Board increased the charges and fees for 2022, we failed to change them by Resolution, as required by the State. McNamee moved to adopt Resolution No. 22-005 which sets the O&M charges and fees for the 2022 irrigation season. It also sets delinquency dates and collection procedures. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

2022 FEE SCHEDULE: The Board reviewed the current fee schedule and the changes recommended by the Manager. Due to increased time to review partitions, inspections and the cost of new deliveries, she recommended an increase in these areas. Mueller moved to adopt the 2022 Fee Schedule as presented. Coffman seconded. Motion passed.

SOUTH SUBURBAN SANITARY DISTRICT (SSSD): At 10:45, folks from the SSSD arrived at the meeting. They were in town gathering information on the City of Hermiston/WEID reuse project. They completed the tour of the Hermiston facility this morning. Attending were Dan Scalas, Engineer, Brett Blosky, Manager, Three Board members, Kevin, Michael and Joe (on phone) plus John, an operator. They are seriously considering sending Class A water to a local irrigation district and had questions. They and the Board discussed the Hermiston/WEID project. They left the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

MANAGER’S’ REPORT: A written report was distributed to the Directors and is attached to and a part of the minutes. It was reviewed and discussed.

IRRIGON LANDOWNER MEETING:: Twenty-two folks from Irrigon showed up. Whitney and Abe reported on the meeting. The main thing is that folks want to see Irrigon fully metered. Discussion and several ideas brought up:

- Identify meters at a lower cost and get that word out for those who want to meter now.
- Find a grant and a way to help the landowners install the meters
- Perhaps a discount on power bill for metered folks with low-use until Irrigon is fully metered.
- Have a booth at the Farmers Market and Watermelon festival
- Staff will follow up with folks that had specific questions or issues

LANDOWNER BOOKLET: The landowner booklet has been redone and given to the Board for review. There were a few comments. It will be updated and sent out to all landowners in the District. Bridgewater briefly talked about the Development Manual, which is in a very preliminary stage.

TELEMETRY/COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE: Bridgewater and our contractor, Cecil Rock, had a meeting to discuss the issues we are having with communication. Several ideas were brought up. Cecil will continue to take the lead on improving our technology for today's network and broadband issues.

OTHER BUSINESS

An executive session is needed to meet with the SDAO attorney regarding a lawsuit. The Board will meet on Thursday, February 24 at 11:00 a.m. in Executive Session. The meeting will be held at the Columbia Improvement District meeting room located at 501 E. Columbia Ave. in Boardman.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson