

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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February 25, 2021

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on February 25, 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, Vern Frederickson, Abe McNamee, Whitney Coffman and Bob Mueller (by phone); Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Administrative Services Manager, Lisa Baum; Field Supervisor, Ben de los Santos; Guests Sean Kimbrel and Wendy Morrison from the Bureau of Reclamation local field office.

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

APPOINTMENT, DIRECTOR DIVISION TWO

A motion was made by Frederickson to appoint Abe McNamee to the remaining one year of the term of Director, Division 2. Coffman seconded the motion. Motion passed.

McNamee took his oath of office.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: After review, Frederickson moved to approve the minutes of the January 2021 Board meeting. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

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

BILLS PAYABLE: After review, McNamee moved to approve the January accounts payable list in the amount of \$168,597.63. Coffman seconded. Motion passed.

CASH FLOW UPDATE: Cash flow at the District is tight right now. We have borrowed \$75,000 from Bank of Eastern Oregon for the project and the bills have gone out. Discussion and direction.

FLOOR BUSINESS

Sean Kimbrel, Manager of the Hermiston Reclamation Field Office, gave an update on the Umatilla Lower River Modeling.

Wendy Morrison, Real Estate Specialist of the Hermiston Reclamation Field Office provided some Right-of-Way information and let the Board know where we are in discussions about the Huwe/Dollar General property in Irrigon. Reclamation has taken the lead on this negotiation and is doing the work to assure there is no water user without water. Questions and discussion.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

OPERATIONS: Ben reported on the status of getting the canal ready for water. Using the work crew from Independence has been helpful and they are doing a great job. We should be ready for start-up as planned on March 19. Questions and discussion.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: Lisa reported that the bills have gone out. Nine people have already used the new credit card system. There have been no calls or complaints yet about the rate increase.

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.

- Windwave is looking at more crossings in Boardman and of the canal at Patterson Ferry. They have just started their planning.
- Bridgewater distributed the O&M Policy and Standards. She has no recommendations for changes or updates. If anyone does, let her know.
- There are several grants coming up this spring: First is a WaterSmart Grant that she would like to use to apply for assistance with the cost of meters for the six Boardman Laterals that we funded under WaterSmart. They are 7, 9, 11, 12, 15, and 17. The filing deadline is March 18.
- She is looking at OWEB and OWRD grant applications to assist with matching funds for Lateral 17.
- She will take with BPA to see about assisting with energy efficiency.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

BUDGET 2021 REVIEW: The Board reviewed the budget it had adopted.

PROJECT PROJECTION CASH FLOW & ANALYSIS: Bridgewater presented a preliminary analysis of the District cash flow due to the projects. She used the cash flow we had projected a few years ago and compared that to actual. She emphasized this is the first step and more needs to be done to get a full picture. Discussion.

- Vern stated we don't know exactly where we are-it doesn't matter how many grants are out there. If we don't have the money, we can't do the work.
- We need to be sure to distinguish between operational improvement and the project improvements.
- Dalarie pointed out that the cost of the Relocation Canal failure was for operations, not improvements.
- Bridgewater stated we need to address how our reserves, sale of water rights, and cultural review have impacted our overall cash position to get the big picture.
- The cost of pumping was brought up and the fact that the years we don't use the funds have been used to cover operational or other over-runs. We need to understand that.
- Dalarie said that unused conjunctive use funds need to go into reserve.
- We need to learn how water savings from the projects will help the budget.
- Vern stated that this was a good exercise and we need to refine it. All agreed.

OTHER BUSINESS

PROJECT 12: Abe wondered about the pump that will be used on Lateral 12 project and how it will be installed. Discussion. Bev will get a meeting together with Gary, Ben and Abe at the project site.

LATERAL 15: Bob wondered if we knew the pressures on Lateral 15 yet. We don't, but it is planned to be a minimum of 55 psi at all sites. When we get the pressures from the engineer, Bev will get the information to Bob.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 11:40 am.

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson