

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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October 19, 2023

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on October 19, 2023, 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, Vern Frederickson, and Bob Mueller; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Administrative Services Manager, Lisa Baum; Operations Superintendent, Ben De Los Santos. Directors Von Studer and Abe McNamee were not able to attend.

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

MONTHLY BUSINESS

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

BILLS PAYABLE: Frederickson moved to approve the September accounts payable list in the amount of \$137,671.76. Mueller seconded. Discussion. Motion passed.

FINANCIALS: The Board reviewed the financial reports for the current year through September 30, 2023. Discussion.

De Los Santos went over the vehicle list, pointing out needed repairs and concerns about each vehicle. Pickup No. 5 was previously declared surplus. Pickup No. 9 is having some transmission or engine problems. Pickup No. 8 was stolen two years ago and has had starter and electrical problems since. The Board gave direction to him regarding follow-up. De Los Santos continued that No. 8 and No. 9 are the ones we want to replace this year and next, moving No.4 (3/4 ton flatbed) to the shop for use in emergencies and repairs, not a daily ditchrider truck. It would be kept inside the shop. The Board thought this was a good plan.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Board reviewed the Manager's report. It is attached to and a part of the meeting minutes.

OPERATIONS:

NEW/USED VEHICLE: The 2023 Colorado that was ordered in January is delayed with no “build date” and concerns about future availability. Because we are one ditchrider short, the crew has enough vehicles for now, but we continue to use the flatbed daily. De Los Santos has checked pickup prices in the area and a matrix of twelve new/used pickups that could be considered was presented. The Board looked them over. They do not want a used truck. They are also concerned about a 4-cylinder engine. Discussion and questions. It is important that whatever purchase is made that the truck has a trailer package, is a 4WD and has a work truck package. One of the trucks from Dave Smith Motors in Kellogg does match what we are looking for. The Board would like to check other local options (Sherrell Chevrolet was on the list they have considered. They directed De Los Santos to contact Swain in Hermiston and to find if they have a truck that will fit our needs. Frederickson moved to authorize the purchase of a new pickup, based on discussion today, up to \$45,000 from any source. Mueller seconded. We have \$12,000 in the budget so we will exceed this line item in the budget, up to \$15,000 plus the cost of financing and warranty. The payment will be three payments, and we will finance through the dealership. We want to stay with a white truck as it reflects a utility vehicle. Motion passed. De Los Santos was directed to move ahead with the purchase.

TRUCK NO. 9: The truck has issues with transmission. Discussion. Frederickson will ask his repair guy to take a look at No. 9 to help identify the problem.

WATER TANK & TRAILER: A used set-up that includes a 1000 gallon water tank, trailer, pump, hoses, and nozzles has become available from a private owner. The trailer was parked outside the meeting space, and the Board members looked it over prior to the meeting. Questions were answered. Frederickson made a motion to purchase the unit for \$5000. Mueller seconded. Discussion about pump capacity, where it would be parked, how it would be used? The funds will be taken from those allocated to “Main Canal Repairs” in the 2023 budget. Motion passed.

OSHA CONSULTATION: October 24 is the consultation.. The chemical storage at the railcar was discussed. The board directed lights and ventilation for all places where chemicals are stored. The District should always be in compliance.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

COLLECTIONS: Baum reported that statements were sent out a few weeks ago. Also, 56 “Intent to Lien” notices and 41 “Intent to Foreclose” notices. Many folks have responded with payments. As of 10/18, there are 23 of the Lien landowners with no response and 26 of the potential foreclosures. There are four of the landowners in foreclosure with Morrow County and one in Umatilla. Discussion.

OFFICE STAFF: We have not brought in part-time office staff yet, but Lisa is working on it.

MANAGER REPORT:

UPDATE ON SCADA: Baum reported that Aqua Systems 2000 is transferring to a cloud-based option. Readings would go to the cloud and be accessed remotely. We won't need a designated computer (eliminating Wonderware) nor a communication tower. They have installed this in several areas, so we will see how it is functioning and do some research. Questions and discussion. This seems a great option for us.

NEW RAMP WEIRS: Bridgewater and De Los Santos reported that the District plans to install two ramp weirs this winter – below the Relocation Canal and at Patterson Ferry. SCADA here would provide actual cfs in the canal rather than the water level we are getting now with just the probes. This would complete the planned measurements on the canal once we get all the upgrades in Boardman.

RELOCATION CANAL PROJECT: We are making a decision on the type of gates for the project. The work is planned for this winter. The gates will have SCADA and will be integrated into the District's existing system.

CULTURAL ISSUES: Unfortunately, the archeologist we have been using through Anderson Perry has left them, and they have no replacement. She did not do our work for the Gattenbein corner before she left. Further, Reclamation's NEPA specialist has moved on, and we will be working with someone from the Boise office. Bridgewater has contacted folks for recommendations and will reach out to Reclamation later today to attempt to get a handle on the situation. We may not be able to do Gattenbein project this winter. But, we have plenty of work and some other drainage areas we can address as part of our annual maintenance. Discussion. We will do the best we can to get the environmental work underway.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

DIVISION ONE DIRECTOR: No one filed for the open position. A director will need to be appointed at the annual meeting in January, with the position to open up for the next election in November. Mueller said he is interested in staying on.

BUDGET MEETING: The Board set a budget meeting for the 2024 District Budget to follow the November Board meeting. So, November 16 starting approximately 11 am and running to 1 pm. Lunch will be brought in.

DECEMBER MEETING: A motion was made by Frederickson to move the December board meeting from December 21 to December 14. Seconded by Mueller.

Discussion. We will likely continue with a budget meeting at that time. Motion passed.

BRIDGE CROSSING AND DEVELOPMENT: Mueller brought up his concern that some of the bridges over the main canal may not be stout enough to handle the types of equipment that are crossing today. Load weights have evolved and most, if any, of the bridges do not have weight limit signs. Discussion. Board members are concerned. They directed management to look over our policies and to see what we can do to assure the bridges are safe.

OTHER BUSINESS

SERVICE AREA 25: De Los Santos reported that the landowners along service area 25 are making plans to get their irrigation systems installed for the 2024 season. They have met with NRCS and are working on designs. The crew is also getting ready for the installation. We meet with JUB next week to get the plans started for the pump station. Discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 11:06 am.

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson