

# WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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May 21, 2020

## **Monthly Board Meeting**

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on May 21, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the WEID Shop located at 895 N.E. Main St. in Irrigon. Those in attendance were: Board members, Dalarie Philippi, Vern Frederickson, Abe McNamee, Bob Mueller and Warren Kemper; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Field Supervisor, Ben de los Santos; Patron, Blake Philippi.

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

Introductions were made.

### FLOOR BUSINESS

Dalarie Philippi declared a conflict of interest. Frederickson took over as Chair.

Blake Philippi presented an invoice to the Board for \$10,177 from Eastside electric Motors in Spokane. Two pumps were taken there after they were flooded early morning on April 8, following the weed jam under I-84. Discussion.

- Water was turned in after being off for five days. 31.6 cfs had been held at the siphon and was turned in about 2:30 pm. 25 cfs was turned in at the dam at 4 pm.
- Irrigators said they would take water, but when Ben called them, they decided to wait until the next morning. By 7 pm, one flood irrigator above and two headgates below Philippi had agreed to take water.
- Boards were in the canal at Philippi and at 22. The ditchrider pulled one board at 22, but it wasn't enough.
- The canal topped over at Philippi and above 22 with the push from the additional 25 cfs happening overnight.
- The Philippi pumps, which sit below the canal, were flooded. Water ran down their access road to Kunze Road by the time it was discovered.

More discussion. This wasn't the first time the canal had topped over at this site, but this was a unique event with a lot of water coming quickly and no one monitoring it overnight. Blake left the meeting. More discussion among the Board.

McNamee made a motion to split the bill with the landowner 50/50 and the landowner being paid by taking ½ the District amount off of each of the next two annual bills. Mueller seconded, then amended the motion to split the bill 75/25 with

WEID paying the 75%. McNamee seconded. Discussion. This is a unique set of circumstances and will not set a precedent for any future circumstance. Kemper wants to be sure that this decision is applied equally throughout the District and would like to look at the site. Chair called for the vote. Three directors voted aye. Kemper did not vote, but will contact the office with his vote after viewing the site. (He did so later that day and voted aye with the caveat that the District and landowner take steps to avoid future problems). Motion passed,

Philippi returned as Chair of the meeting.

## MONTHLY BUSINESS

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mueller moved to approve the minutes of the March monthly Board meeting. Kemper seconded. It was noted that there was no meeting in April, due to the COVID 19 orders put in place by the Governor. Motion passed.

**BILLS PAYABLE:** After review, Mueller moved to approve the March and April accounts payable lists in the amounts of \$317,993.77 and \$124,202.39. Kemper seconded. Motion passed.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** The financial report for the period ending March 31, 2020 was reviewed and discussed.

## REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

**OPERATIONS:** Ben discussed with the Board:

- The weed plug under I-84 in early April.
- Repair work done on the backhoe
- Weed control for the main canal
- Telemetry system issues and needs for updating.
- Cavitation and operation of the Irrigon Pump Station.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** A written report was distributed to the directors and is attached to and a part of the minutes.

**METERS:** Bridgewater reported that Strebin and Cleaver both pushed back on the meters as the water had already started for the season and they would need to do some work on their systems in order to install meters. Discussion. The Board wants a letter to go to them letting them know that meters will be required in order to take water in 2021.

**OVERUSE AND UNAUTHORIZED WATER USE:** The Board briefly discussed the issues, as outlined in the Manager's report. They agreed with the Manager's recommendation for the offending properties. Such use needs to cease or get appropriate water rights via transfer.

## DISTRICT BUSINESS

**BANK ACCOUNT AT BANK OF EASTERN OREGON:** A motion was made by McNamee to open a Money Market account at Bank of Eastern Oregon, Irrigon branch. The signers will be Dalarie Philippi, Vern Frederickson, Robert Mueller, Warren Kemper, Abe McNamee and Bev Bridgewater. Lisa Baum has authority for bank information and transfers. Mueller seconded. Motion passed. Bridgewater reported that an account at Banner Bank will be closed and funds transferred to the new account at Bank of Eastern Oregon.

**CORPUS LETTER TO BOARD:** Chief Corpus sent a letter to the Board explaining his position that he has not been getting his share of the water and is not happy with the state of the lateral. He is losing 45%, according to his figures. Ben explained the issue that occurred that caused the latest interaction and letter from the District – flooding of the Doherty property during Corpus rotation followed by flooding of the Crowell property with water off the Eucon (Doherty) property. The Board felt this was a continuation of the discussion with Doherty and Corpus in the 2018 irrigation season. They went through the water schedule and allotment and determined it is in line with the rest of the District. Bridgewater stated that the District engineer calculated whether the 15-inch culverts would flow the 4.5 cfs (2016 gpm) allotment in this area in 2018. He took topography into account and with no blockage, they will. Ben has been working with Jim Baldock, who is irrigating 4 acres of the Double N property off this ditch following or preceding the Crowell/Corpus. They see that Corpus opens the headgate at a higher amount than others on the ditch. They will take a look at the desert area to see if anything can be done or recommended for improvement.

## ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 11:45 am.

Signed:

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Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

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Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson