

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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July 20, 2023

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on July 20, 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, Von Studer, Bob Mueller and Abe McNamee; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Field Superintendent, Ben De Los Santos; Irrigation System Technician/Pesticide Applicator, Ben Alan Svantonsky, Office Assistant (Summer intern), Emma Mueller.

AGENDA: Chairperson Philippi asked for additions to the agenda. Frederickson moved to accept the agenda. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

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

BILLS PAYABLE: Frederickson moved to approve the June accounts payable list in the amount of \$106,412.32. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

FINANCIALS: The Board reviewed the draft financial reports for the current year through June 30, 2023. Discussion. Bridgewater reviewed several line items where overages for the year have taken place or were anticipated. They are labor, equipment repair, weed control, telemetry. She also pointed out areas where the line item will not be fully used, such as main canal work and shop improvements. More discussion.

LINE OF CREDIT: The line of credit at Bank of Eastern Oregon is due. The amount due is \$128,046.67. Discussion. The work anticipated for this line was not completed, and it is still planned for the next two years. The delay was due to the pandemic, increasing costs of materials, supply chain issues and coordination with the City of Boardman and Morrow County, whose leadership has changed recently.

MOTION: Frederickson moved to renew and extend the \$400,000 line of credit for three more years. Manager Bridgewater is authorized to sign the documents on behalf of the Board. McNamee seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

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

OPERATIONS: De Los Santos gave an update on operational issues over the past month. He reported that repair will need to be done on the trash rack grates at Three Mile Dam. Discussion. He also reported on several private issues where landowners have contacted the District about concerns with their neighbors, due to shared delivery systems. The Board reiterated its stance on providing information, but not engaging in private matters.

OPEN LATERALS/SPRAY PROGRAM: As discussed at the last meeting, the Board was provided information on the time and cost of cleaning the laterals. They then discussed the possibility of hiring a professional spray person for the main canal. Discussion. Direction was given to De Los Santos to get a bid for the work, and we can go from there. Frederickson and De Los Santos both stated that it would take awhile to get a program running, but we are heading in the right direction.

ADMINISTRATIVE: Emma Mueller has identified a GIS system we can use to get our facilities and water right maps on-line. A unit has been identified and ordered (see below). She recommends that the District work with the Port of Morrow to find a student intern that can help move the program along. She has also assisted Lisa in the office to shore up the meter readings and reporting. The Board appreciates all the work she has done.

MANAGER REPORT: Bridgewater discussed a letter from OSHA and a phone call about their volunteer program for an audit. She thinks we are in good shape, but there are always things to do better. Svatonsky brought up some issues around chemical storage that he would like to work on. Discussion. Studer offered to do a walk around with the crew at their convenience.

NRCS PROJECT UPDATE – 2024: We have delayed the Lateral 17 piping, due to increased costs. NRCS has funding for each year now, so we are looking at starting with the landowners between Peters Road and Toms Camp Road. Several of them have indicated interest in going to sprinklers from flood and NRCS has looked at the sites. Converting these lands from East to West has been the next phase. Discussion around lots of ideas, including consideration of gated pipe. The Board directed a meeting to be held with all the landowners in that area to discuss further projects and start them thinking of the cost of conversion as well as timing.

EAGLE CREST SUBDIVISION UPDATE: The ownership of the bridge remains a challenge. The issue is liability, especially with Stiffler owning 50% of the bridge. How will they be protected? Taylors attorney has sent one document that we would not accept due to this issue. Discussion.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

GIS UPDATE: Many systems were considered, both with purchase prices and monthly fees for service. The District decided to go with a GEODE system. Emma explained how it would work, the “dictionary” she has created for it and her interaction with the folks at JUB. Discussion and questions ensued.

CITY OF IRRIGON INTERACTION: Several items were discussed at the last meeting. Manager Bridgewater followed through with the direction given. The Manager’s report provides an update on the various items. Discussion..

CITY OF UMATILLA/AMAZON WATER: The City of Umatilla has started discussion with the District about taking the Amazon industrial water from their new campuses being built along Powerline Road. Discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 11:15 am.

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson