

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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October 15, 2020

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on October 15, 2020 at 9:05 a.m. at the Port of Morrow offices in Boardman. Those in attendance were: Board members, Dalarie Philippi, Vern Frederickson, Abe McNamee, Warren Kemper and Bob Mueller; Director-elect, Whitney Coffman; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Administrative Services Manager, Lisa Baum; Field Supervisor, Ben de los Santos; Bureau of Reclamation Acting Field Office Manager, Ryan Christiansen.

Introductions were made.

AGENDA: The agenda was reviewed. Bridgewater requested to add Bridge crossing discussion under Manager's report. Mueller moved to accept the agenda as presented with the addition. Kemper seconded. Motion passed.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

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

BILLS PAYABLE: The Board reviewed the accounts payable list. Questions were answered. Specific attention was paid to the equipment and vehicle maintenance line items. Ben explained some procedures that are now in place to track needed maintenance more closely. McNamee moved to approve the July and August accounts payable lists in the amounts of \$87,668.66. Kemper seconded. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The financial report for the period ending September 30, 2020 was reviewed. A new format for the proforma budget and budget overview moving forward was presented. It is in draft form, and Bridgewater will send it out to the Board members in a week or so when she is done with it. Discussion.

UPDATE FROM RECLAMATION: Ryan Christianson spoke about a recent conference call that BPA held with the District and Reclamation. It was to discuss how BPA line transmission charges had been calculated in the past and how they will be starting with the 2021 irrigation season. In the past, BPA used a 12.5% rolling average. They realized they were undercharging by \$8,000 to \$13,000 annually. They won't go back for correction. Moving forward, the transmission costs will be based on actual, using the same percentage of the total cost as that used for the power costs.

To help offset our increase, they had their grant coordinator on the phone and they will like to work with the District on projects that will conserve water. These funds cannot match the WaterSmart funds. Bridgewater will work with them on some ideas, such as metering.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

OPERATIONS REPORT:

LINER WORK/DRAINAGE: Ben is working with the liner folks to schedule the liner repair at Coyote Springs. There has been some movement with the rocks behind the liner. Engineer Ron McKinnis visited the property and gave Ben some ideas on how to stabilize the rocks. There was also an area of bad weld. It was one of the first welds made by the WEID crew. He discussed ideas for the work.

Discussion ensued on the groundwater collection on bombing range and where the new pipeline was installed under the canal. The District is interested in filing both temporary and permanent water rights on the water. The Port of Morrow has helped with the work and likely will help with the filing. We will need to put some funds for this work in the 2021 budget.

PRISON CREW WORK: We anticipate that the prison crew will not be available this winter due to COVID. We may bring workers in through Barrett. Discussion about Barrett and other work source places.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into executive session at 10:15 a.m. to the CTUIR water right settlement. Executive session was closed at 11:30 a.m.

MOTION: McNamee moved to hold the CTUIR water right settlement negotiations until the District has time to thoroughly review all options including the possibility of a hydroelectric project. Mueller seconded. Discussion - At least one paragraph needs further wordsmithing. Motion passed.

REPORTS CONTINUE

WORK AT THE UMATILLA PUMP STATION: Cleaver wants to do some cleanup along the spit area in front of the pump station. Our contract calls for at 75/25 cost share. He is willing to rent an excavator if we will run it. The board agreed this is a good option for us.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: Lisa gave an update on collections and reviewed her written report, which is attached and a part of the minutes.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-005 – FORECLOSURE ORDER: Due to circumstances, the Board directed Lisa to file a lien on the property and not issue a foreclosure notice.

MANAGER’S’ REPORT: A written report was distributed to the directors and is attached to and a part of the minutes. Review & discussion.

BRIDGE REQUEST: Bridgewater reported that a call has come to her asking about a bridge over the main canal near Umatilla. She pointed out that discussion with previous boards had identified the idea that one more bridge should cross the canal between Powerline and Umatilla. It will be a major bridge crossing as it will likely connect back to Powerline and access several developments and a new school. Discussion. The District has bridge standards that may need to be reviewed and updated. She will meet with the City of Umatilla and open discussion on this topic. This will be on the agenda at the next Board meeting.

OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURE: The office will be closed on November 29th and 30th. It will also be closed December 22 through 25th and open short hours Dec. 28 through 31st.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

DIVISION ONE DIRECTOR: One petition was received for the Director Division One position. A certificate of election has been prepared for Robert Mueller. Frederickson moved to accept the declaration of election for the single candidate and that Robert Mueller be declared elected to the three-year term. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

DIVISION THREE DIRECTOR: One petition was received for the Director Division Three position. A certificate of election has been prepared for Whitney Coffman. Frederickson moved to accept the declaration of election for the single candidate and that Whitney Coffman be declared elected to the three-year term. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

DIVISION TWO DIRECTOR: No candidate filed for the Division Two Director. In accordance with state law, Abe McNamee remains in the position until he resigns or another candidate is elected. This will be open for the 2021 election to start a new three-year term.

AUDIT REPORT: After review and discussion to address suggestions made by the Auditors, Mueller made a motion to accept the 2019 Audit. Kemper seconded. Motion passed.

EMPLOYEE DISCUSSION: Several board members stated concerns about some of the employees use of time and general attitude. The Board wants to be sure that problems are documented and appropriate discipline is followed.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson