

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 100 IRRIGON, OREGON 97844

PHONE: (541) 922-3814 FAX: (541) 922-9775

September 23, 2021

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on September 23, 2021 at 9:08 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, Bob Mueller, and Whitney Coffman; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Administrative Services Manager, Lisa Baum; Field Supervisor, Ben de los Santos. Director Abe McNamee was not able to attend.

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

MONTHLY BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mueller moved to approve the minutes of the July 2021 Board meeting. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

BILLS PAYABLE: Review and discussion. Mueller moved to approve the July accounts payable list in the amount of \$158,652.97 and the August accounts payable list in the amount of \$182,917.03. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

FINANCIALS: The financials for the period ending August 31, 2021, including a proforma budget showing anticipated expenditures to the end of the fiscal year, were reviewed. Several topics were discussed:

- Delaying the 2017 piping project for completion 2024. Bridgewater will request a two-year extension on the grant funds from Reclamation.
- Starting the budget process at the October meeting; having information on past projects and labor costs for those projects.
- Mueller pointed out that we can expect future project costs to increase 5% – 8%. Several Board members expressed continuing concern over the cost to the District for the Boardman projects.
- Special assessment to cover conjunctive use costs for this year.
- Changing the \$80,000 in the budget for project costs to \$50,000 thus keeping \$30,000 in the O&M budget to help cover telemetry and other O&M costs

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT: A motion was made by Frederickson to set a special assessment for 2021 at \$4 per acre with a \$5 minimum. Coffman seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

OPERATIONS: Operations are reported in the Manager's report. De los Santos discussed operational issues and reported on equipment concerns.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

AUDIT REPORT 2020: The report was previously distributed. After discussion, Mueller made a motion to accept the report. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

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.

WATER USE: Water use reports for the main canal and Irrigon system were distributed. Thus far, there is a 15% increase of water use/diversion throughout the District. She mentioned that the lack of information from the main canal, due to the telemetry not working, is part of the overall increase of diversion on the main canal system. The endspill has been higher throughout the season than we would normally run to assure we have sufficient water for everyone, especially with the hot, dry summer. Shut-off dates are listed in the Manager's report.

IRRIGON PUMP UPDATE: The Board discussed 300 Hp pump situation and the options. They would like to discuss the situation with the District engineer.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

DIRECTOR ELECTIONS: Two positions are open and District election date (second Tuesday in November by statute) is coming up. Nominating petitions are due October 5, 2021. Positions are:

Division Two: Three-year term.. Abe McNamee is current director.

Division Four: Three-year term. Vern Frederickson is current director.

MOTION: Frederickson moved to hold the District election on Nov. 9, to start looking for judges and to do a mail-in election. Mueller seconded. Motion passed.

LATERAL 31 RIGHT-OF-WAY REVIEW: The 200-foot right-of-way (ROW) does not belong to the landowner, currently Doherty. Their property lies north and south of the ROW. It was railroad land and the ROW likely belongs to Reclamation. Although not part of the original project, it is shown by them on maps from 1950. The ditch was dug out by the landowners with approval by the District, as indicated by minutes in 1946.

Bridgewater stated it is a private ditch in a federal easement. This happens throughout the District where the federal easement is used for ditches and pipelines, although these are typically laterals. She does not want to see the District set a precedent for assuming responsibility for private ditches. This one is unusual in that, although the District treats it like a lateral, it became part of the 200-foot ROW for the federal project.

Philippi stated that Dohertys would like the District to take over the maintenance of the dirt ditch (about 4000' on the ROW and additional 700 feet on private ground). De los Santos said that Jack Poe cleans and maintains the ditch along his property. That part is concrete-lined. The District cleans the rest of it, which is dirt ditch, with the prison crew each year; we clean to the concrete box next to the Reade driveway. We don't maintain it during the irrigation season. Bridgewater agreed that we have done this since she has been with the District and the Reades maintained the ditch during the season, including spraying for weed growth.

De los Santos stated that there is no fencing along the ROW and Doherty's cattle have full access to the ditch. Dohertys are taking water out in about six places along the ditch. Bridgewater stated that a 1960 map showed two outlets.

After discussion, the Board recognized the following:

- 1) The first issue is the cattle. They need to be fenced off the ROW. Since the pond lies south of the ROW, we should work with Doherty's so access to the pond is provided without harming the ditch.
- 2) Talk to the other landowners about access.
- 3) The District would still clean in the winter,, but the landowners would need to take care of the ditch during the rest of the time.
- 4) There needs to be a written agreement.

POLICY UPDATES: There were several policies distributed to the Board for updates:

METER READINGS: The District will ask landowners to send their meter readings in to the District by the 10th of each month starting May 10 each season and ending Sept. 10. This will help them understand their water use and assure their meter is working and maintained. There will be a \$25 fee to the landowner for any readings taken by the District, except for the year-end reading. Frederickson moved to adopt this policy. Mueller seconded. Motion passed.

VEHICLE POLICY: There were some housekeeping updates to the District Vehicle Policy. The main change is a one-mile limit for use of company vehicle for breaks, including lunch. Mueller moved to adopt the revised policy. Coffman seconded. Motion passed.

ENFORCEMENT POLICY: The Enforcement Policy has been revised to include non-working meters. It is simplified to make it easier for the ditchriders and patrons to understand. The Board agreed with the shut-offs, but no fines. Frederickson moved to adopt the revised policy. Mueller seconded. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into executive session at 12:15 p.m. to discuss employee matters and litigation. Executive session was closed at 12:20 p,m,

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson