

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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April 21, 2022

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on April 21, 2022 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, Abe McNamee, Whitney Coffman and Bob Mueller; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Administrative Services Manager, Lisa Baum; Field Supervisor, Ben de los Santos; Manager, Bureau of Reclamation Field Office, Chet Sater.

Chairman Philippi officially congratulated Chet Sater on his selection as Manager of the BOR Hermiston Field Office. The Board followed and Chet thanked them for their support, looking forward to working together.

AGENDA: Chairman Philippi asked if there were additions to the agenda. Bridgewater said Bob Mueller would report on the Hydro investigation that Anderson Perry has done and the meter policy will need to be reviewed and updated. Mueller moved to approve the agenda with the addition. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

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

BILLS PAYABLE: After review and discussion, Mueller moved to approve the March accounts payable list in the amount of \$240,940.97. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The February 2022 financial reports were had been distributed to the Board and were reviewed. Bridgewater gave an update on how the labor part of the budget will change for this year; two less permanent employees and adding a labor work crew for three months. We have ordered a VFD for the 16D pump and this will mean all pump stations have a VFD which will save labor. Board discussed other recommended needs (i.e. a port-potty in Boardman, an air-compressor to mount in Ben's truck).

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

OPERATIONS: Ben de los Santos, Field Supervisor, reviewed the written Operation's report contained in the Manager's Report. It has been very wet so he has held off starting the pumps, although they are ready to start. The IPS is installed and they have rotated the motor. That station will be Friday or Monday, weather dependent. The Boardman pumps will follow. He reported that Rock Enterprises has the upper canal telemetry sites working. Still no communication between the Boardman sites and the office.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: The meter letters and postcards about the how to call in the landowner meter readings are prepared and will be mailed today and tomorrow.

WEID IRRIGON WATER SAVINGS PROGRAM: Following up from the Irrigon meeting in February, Bridgewater asked Lisa to put together a water savings program for Irrigon. Lisa talked about setting aside funds to grant 50% of costs for new sprinklers, controllers, valves, and so forth up to \$200 max for each landowner, that will help the Irrigon landowners cut down their water use. This will give tools to the summer intern we plan to hire to help with water conservation and communication. Discussion. Frederickson moved to use \$2500 from the Conservation Reserve to fund this program for 2022. Mueller seconded. Bridgewater thought that was a good amount and, if successful, the Board can allocate more later. 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.

ENFORCEMENT POLICY: The policy was reviewed with no changes recommended.

METER POLICY: The meter policy has been updated to add the landowner's responsibility to read their meter and send meter reading in monthly and to address non-working meters. Discussion. Bridgewater stated that the ditchriders will only read meters during the season if 1) overuse is suspected from current observation or past experience 2) if the meter reading has not been called in and past experience indicates overuse. Lisa pointed out that if folks don't call their reading in, she will send reminders. Frederickson moved to approve the updates to the meter policy. Mueller seconded. Motion passed.

DROUGHT DECLARATION: The drought situation has not changed much in the last month and Morrow County has already declared a drought for 2022. Sater said McKay Reservoir did not fill. Now with late snow, it might. He thinks the Umatilla River flows may hold on until May. Bridgewater said that with a drought declaration, the crew can have quicker action on overuse and meter issues. After reviewing most recent drought maps and forecasts and discussion, Frederickson moved to declare a drought emergency for the West Extension Irrigation District. Mueller seconded. Motion passed.

WEID HYDRO POTENTIAL REVIEW: Anderson Perry has done some work on behalf of the District, looking at hydro potential at Three Mile Dam and at the Umatilla Pump Station site. The Board reviewed and discussed the document. Mueller suggested that Anderson Perry not do any more work at the dam or using our old pumps. Frederickson stated that we have the information needed for discussion with the CTUIR. More discussion.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

DISTRICT INFRASTRUCTURE Discussion ensued about piping projects and canal maintenance and repair. Key points:

- Pipe costs for 17 piping are triple, at least, of original budget.
- We talked about using HDPE in place of PIP for installation along Paul Smith Road and Wilson where there is lots of traffic. Right now, the cost of C904 is not much different than PIP. Ben said installation would take more time, but definitely stronger pipe.
- There is a new manufacturer in Prineville that a lot of Districts are using.
- McNamee said we need to consider repair costs of whatever we use.
- Philippi wondered if costs would come down. Abe thought not.
- Bridgewater asked Sater if he knew if Reclamation would make allocations for the huge increase in materials for their current three-year grants, such as ours. He will check into it.
- Philippi said there are billions \$ available and we should look at lining the whole canal. Bev thought 9 miles in Boardman - \$12 - \$15 million.
- McNamee said we need to make a plan for cleaning on the liner first.
- Sater said it would be good to have something shovel ready for the federal infrastructure money that will be coming out.
- McNamee said we need to do drain tile in a large part of Boardman.
- Sater said that the bad areas have been identified in the canal inspection documentation, so that is good to have.
- Mueller wondered about fencing the canal right-of-way. Bridgewater and Sater said the ROW was originally fenced by Reclamation and the landowners were to keep up the care and maintenance on the fences.
- Vern wondered about using liner with shotcrete. The District has considered this in the past and several Districts in Eastern Washington do this.
- Mueller wondered if government had drought funding for serious areas like Arizona and Colorado. Sater said also Southern California and Klamath.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-006 – WaterSMART WATER CONSERVATION FIELD SERVICES PROGRAM GRANT: Bridgewater recommended applying for up to \$25,000 on a 50/50 match for a main canal modernization study. Frederickson moved to approve Resolution No. 22-006. Mueller seconded. Discussion. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-007 – WaterSMART SMALL SCALE WATER EFFICIENCY PROGRAM GRANT: Bridgewater recommended applying for a grant up to \$100,000 on a 50/50 match for adding automated gates and tSCADA to the Relocation Canal. Frederickson moved to approve Resolution No. 22-007. McNamee seconded. Discussion. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-008 – WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT WATER CONSERVATION GRANT AND LOAN PROGRAM: Bridgewater recommended applying for a grant to help match the federal funds we have for the piping and pressurizing Lateral 17. Discussion. Frederickson moved to approve Resolution No. 22-008. Mueller seconded. Motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Sater pointed out that on the Infrastructure grants, we need to get the cultural done. This can take months or years. Hermiston and Westland are working with FCA to look at their Districts, do the watershed planning and apply for piping grants using PL 566 funds through NRCS. These are 75.25 match and PL 566 covers all environmental (performed by FCA as part of the funding).

He stated that federal employees will be back in the office starting Friday. Wendy will be two days per week in the office.

Mueller pointed out that growers are starting to do double-cropping, so the demand for water August through October may increase. Bridgewater said that several growers have used this practice the past few years as WEID's water can hold up through October.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson