

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 100 IRRIGON, OREGON 97844
PHONE: (541) 922-3814 FAX: (541) 922-9775

March 17, 2022

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on March 17, 2022 at 9:00 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, and Bob Mueller; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Administrative Services Manager, Lisa Baum. Director Whitney Coffman was unable to attend.

AGENDA: Chairman Philippi asked if there were additions to the agenda. Bridgewater requested to add "Grants" to the agenda. McNamee moved to approve the agenda with the addition. Mueller seconded. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Bridgewater stated that Chet Sater was hired as the Manager of the Umatilla Field Office for the Bureau of Reclamation. The Board was very pleased and asked that their congratulations be extended to him.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mueller moved to approve the minutes of the February Board regular Board meeting and Special meeting. Frederickson seconded. Discussion. Motion passed.

BILLS PAYABLE: After review and discussion, Mueller moved to approve the January accounts payable list in the amount of \$72,004.41. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The January 2022 financial reports were had been distributed to the Board and were reviewed. The Board wondered how we were doing with all the crew changes and hiring a labor crew and contractors to help out. Bridgewater said we don't have all the figures yet as we are in the middle of it. She will have an update at the next meeting.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

OPERATIONS: Ben de los Santos, Field Supervisor, was not able to attend as the crew is pouring concrete today, getting ready for canal start up. It has been difficult to get concrete with all the construction going on. In fact, that is delaying our startup. T

Right now, canal startup looks like Thursday, March 24 for the upper and into Boardman the next day. The crew will put the checks in on Saturday. More of Ben's report is in the Manager's report that is a part of these minutes. Discussion.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: The bills have gone out and Lisa is working on collecting the RRA Forms. District borrowed \$50,000 from Bank of Eastern Oregon on the line of credit for the construction project (lateral 15).

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.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

HYDRO PROJECT UPDATE: No further update other than that in the Manager's Report. Discussion.

CTUIR SETTLEMENT: The Board asked about the reporter in town to interview folks about the settlement. They wondered if any meetings were being set up. There were not. Discussion. The Board understands the importance of being a part of the settlement,

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES: There are a couple of grant opportunities coming up, due at the end of April.

- 1) WaterSmart Small Scale Water Efficiency Grant. This is up to \$100,000 grant for a project not over \$250,000 in cost. We could apply for meters in Irrigon or a gate system to better control the Relocation Canal. The Board felt that due to liability issues, operational problems and water savings, the Relocation is the best choice.
- 2) Water Resources Department may have a fit for us that would work for Lateral 17, to match the federal dollars.

The Board will have Resolutions for these grants at the April meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

OPERATIONS DISCUSSION: .The Board wondered about the crane for installing the new pump and rebuilt motor at the Irrigon Pump Station (IPS). Garry Moore, the vendor, can supply the crane and operator, but we will need to move it as they do not have a CDL driver. Abe wondered about the Port of Morrow and the District has a call in to them. The IPS is projected to start between April 6 and 13. It will most likely be the second week in April.

McNamee wondered if the Miller Road Pump was tested at full capacity last season. Bridgewater thought it was, but Abe said Ben told him it wasn't. He remains concerned that it won't provide enough water. The maximum rate needed is 1300 gpm. When Marstons start taking water, it will be easier to test it at full capacity, said Bridgewater.

DROUGHT: The drought this year is expected to be worse than last year. Many areas in the State are severely restricting their irrigation water. Bridgewater wondered if WEID wants to restrict water. Comments:

- It is difficult to do without folks being metered
- Manpower is an issue. Three employees right now, including our part-time gal.
- Abe thought folks would be willing to pay more for pumping and get the water they need.
- He is concerned, mainly about the IPS, and not running out of water.
- Bridgewater said we used about 2000 AF more on the main canal last year, but part of that may have been due to the lack of telemetry as crew didn't have info to better manage the water.
- Abe wondered if the crew could identify the problem areas in Irrigon by looking at the meters on the pumps and find overuse? After a few months, we should be able to see where overuse is occurring and focus on that area.
- Bev wondered if we could hire a student and train them to identify overuse.
- The idea of a summer intern came up and was discussed. The District will follow up.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson