

# WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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October 21, 2021

## **Monthly Board Meeting**

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on October 21, 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 Abe McNamee; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Administrative Services Manager, Lisa Baum; Reclamation Field Office Manager, Sean Kimbrel. Director Whitney Coffman was not able to attend.

**AGENDA:** Frederickson moved to approve the agenda as presented. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

### MONTHLY BUSINESS

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** McNamee moved to approve the minutes of the September 2021 Board meeting. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

**BILLS PAYABLE:** Review and discussion. McNamee moved to approve the September accounts payable list in the amount of \$88,373.46. Mueller seconded. Motion passed.

**FINANCIALS:** The financials for the period ending August 31, 2021 were reviewed.

### REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

**OPERATIONS:** Delayed until Field Supervisor, Ben de los Santos arrives.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:** Baum gave an oral report and update on collections.

**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.

**TELEMETRY UPDATE:** The contractor (Rock) has been working on communication problems. We cannot get information from Boardman. Rock is trying different sites to see if we can "bounce" our signals. We are using 900 Hz radios. There is a lot more use on this frequency now than 20 years ago. We may need to change frequencies. Other ideas are to go to cell, use the cloud, find other towers. The City of Irrigon meets next week and we expect them to approve the 50-

foot tower that we plan to put at our office site. Bridgewater stated that instead of trying to fix the old communication problems, we will need to go with new solutions and technology. This work will likely go into next irrigation season. Discussion.

**EAGLE CREST SUBDIVISION:** Double T in Boardman plans to develop a subdivision south of the canal in 4N25 Section 22. This is directly south of the Sunrise Meadows subdivision. The canal ROW is a reserved ROW and it appears the underlying owner is Gary Neal, since he sold properties north and south of the canal ROW. Bridgewater would like to contact him about the ownership, asking him to deed his interest to the District. The Board agreed. The Board stated that, when we take over a subdivision, we need to be sure that the pumps are new and not worn out.

**NEW DREAMS SUBDIVISION:** The New Dreams subdivision is going in off Division Street, south of Knapp. It currently has water rights. The owner is in the process of selling the water rights. Once they are sold, the District will have an easement interest on the property for a 4-inch irrigation line plus the federal ROW for the RL-2 line.

**OPERATIONS:** Supervisor, Ben de los Santos, arrived at 9:40 am. He reported the following:

- All the equipment is running.
- He has two employees, Don and Adam, on the 15 piping project. They are burying pipe on Quail Lane, then will move to Olsen Rd for the 4-inch pipe there.
- Lateral 15 is off for the season. Many irrigators are done for the season, with main canal shut-off on Wed, October 27.
- Three pumps in Irrigon have been pulled and at vendor for R&R.
- Two pumps are scheduled in Boardman.
- By mid-October, crew will start removing concrete and burying the mainline. Plans are to have this work done by the end of year. The pump and deliveries will be installed in March.
- Crew has been mowing and burning. Prison crew is coming in for a week to do cleanup along the off-side of canal, north and south of Division, and help with concrete work in that area.
- Crew ran a test on the new pump on Miller Road. It ran 1300 gpm with no issues. There was no drop at the Clemmons screen or forebay, although the canal was low. The system is designed for 1200 gpm.
- Abe asked about using eco-blocks for check structure. Kimbrel said no issue from what he knows as long as canal is not damaged. Abe stated that it passes all weeds. Abe will talk to Ben about the structure at Taggs.

**RECLAMATION REPORT:** Kimbrel will take a new job with Reclamation starting Nov. 14. He will be the liaison between WA DC and the PNW Regional office. He will telework from his home in Hermiston for now. There will be interim field office managers through the Hermiston office for awhile until a new appointment is made.

He reported that the CTUIR water right settlement is still in negotiations with several folks. Frederickson pointed out that WEID has not reached an agreement yet. The negotiations here are on “pause” waiting for more information.

Discussion took place with Sean about various easement and real estate issues in the area, including WEID. Sean said that Wendy, their Real Estate specialist, is very busy right now.

**ENGINEER MEETING:** The Board met in a work session on Wednesday, Oct. 20 at 2 pm with the District’s engineer for the purpose of reviewing his written recommendations about the Irrigon Pump Station 300 HP pump. The discussion took place for an hour starting at 2 pm. See report below.

## **DISTRICT BUSINESS**

**DIRECTOR ELECTIONS:** One petition was received for each of the two Board Director positions ending this year. Abe McNamee submitted a petition for Division Two and Vern Frederickson submitted a petition for Division Four. The petitions met the requirements of the State Statutes and were accepted.

**MOTION:** One petition was received each for the Director Division Two and the Director Division Four, thus certificates of election have been prepared for Abe McNamee and Vern Frederickson. Mueller moved to accept the declarations of election for the single candidate and that Abe McNamee and Vern Frederickson be declared elected to the three year terms ending January 2025. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

**IRRIGON PUMP UPDATE:** Declaring an emergency, the Board moved at their May meeting to order a new pump for the 300 HP motor at the Irrigon Pump Station. Confirmation with the vendor, Garry Moore of Rivertech Irrigation, during this meeting (via phone call) indicated that the parts ordered have arrived in Portland.

McNamee was not at the May meeting and had questions. Other Board members had questions about if other work is needed to avoid the cavitation, such as:

- Tying the bowls together underwater, will that help?
- Tying the VFD to one of the 100 HP so the smaller pump would come on automatically as set.
- Is there enough water over the pump bowls that the new pump will work efficiently?
- What is the rebate from UEC on a new pump?
- Does the logbook show information on when the cavitation starts?
- How can we operate to keep the cost of power down?

The meeting with the engineer answered some questions and raised more. He doesn’t think that putting a crossover pipe that will connect another pump can to the

300 Hp pump can will solve the cavitation issue. Purchasing a pump that will work with the current set-up is the best choice, and likely a smaller pump which will eventually mean a smaller motor, when the motor is replaced. He worked up a pump curve for the current use, based on the logbook information the District sent him. The Board reviewed this information.

Discussion took place between the Board members, de los Santos and Bridgewater. During the discussion, vendor Garry Moore was called. Key questions were answered by Garry.

Q1. Vern. What if we didn't replace the pump right away and invested in the fix to the VFD? Ans. It is still the wrong pump. It is too far from the bottom and the Net positive suction head (NPSH) is wrong. We will be doing automatically what we have done all season – adding the 100 HP pump to prevent cavitation.

Q2. Vern. What about the interconnection between the cans? Will that help? Ans. The new pump will not need the interconnection because the NPSH is lower.

Q3. Dalarie asked if he is comfortable that this is going to work. Garry said Yes, he has fixed lots of problems like this for others and will guarantee it.

Q4. Vern. So, will it work without the cross connection? Ans. Yes, If the river stays high, like it is, we can expect 8000 gpm through the 26-inch feeder pipe. Stahls pumps flow more than this without an issue.

Q5. Abe. Will it be cost efficient? Ans. The low rpm is the right fit for this application. Stahls new pumps also have a low rpm.

Q6. Dalarie. Will there be a rebate? Ans. Yes. Vern & Bev stated \$50 per Hp.

Q7. Vern. If we put in the new pump, will we need to use the 100's? Garry said No, this pump will provide 9000 gpm at 40 psi and we are running 34 psi. Abe stated we would not be able to run at peak efficiency. Gary, worse would be to knock down 1 Hz. It is designed to run at 60 Hz. If we turn it down to 59, it will be everything we want. Currently, our Hz is operating lower because of the cavitation.

Q8. Bev. If we go down this road, then will we need to replace our motor (when we do) with a 300? Ans. Yes.

More discussion around next steps at the IPS, which are to pull the motor and get it in for R & R, and get the pump to Portland for the rebuild.

**PROJECT BUDGETS & BUDGET WORKSHEETS:** Bridgewater went over the history of system improvements. Until 2019, the district crews installed pipe routinely as part of their job – enclosing laterals, upgrading the Irrigon system, In 2019, the Board requested the cost of the District crew that related to improvements be put in the project budget, and we are borrowing for that budget. By not covering the basic costs of our crew with the funds collected from our patrons, she thinks the District is going backwards. Upgrades, improvements will always be a part of the District, whether it is lining the canal, pump repairs, bridge washouts, replacing old pipeline, canal headgate repairs and so on. The challenge is budgeting enough every year so all the types of work to be done can be covered. Discussion and questions about the projects and the cost ensued.

Dalarie – we weren't staying solvent. There were no reserves. The crew was on the projects, not on the District.

Bev: Doesn't agree. In 2018, we had \$17,000 to replace the bridge and 2019 there was \$27,000 for the Relocation canal. These two items drew down the reserves.

Abe – we should have done the projects in the 90's. Yes, costs up front, but we have wasted a ton of water and pumping costs. The costs of these projects is going to continue to rise.

Dalarie – Wages and equipment not used in running the district needs to be separate.

Bev – Feels the cost of labor should be in the operating budget for the overall good of the District for both operations and projects. Special crew hired for the project would show in the project.

Abe – the last three years of labor for projects, we will never be able to do it if we save up to pay for them. We will always have something else to spend money on.

The Board remains concerned about how to pay for its operations and the cost of the projects. Discussion will continue.

## ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Signed:

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Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

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Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson