

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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September 15, 2014

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the meeting to order on September 15, 2014 at 9:15 a.m. at the Irrigon Fire Hall located at 705 N. Main St. in Irrigon. Those in attendance were: Board members, Dalarie Philippi, Abe McNamee, Vern Frederickson, and Warren Kemper; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Director Bob Mueller arrived at 9:30 am.

AGENDA: Chairman Philippi approved the agenda.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: McNamee moved to approve the minutes of the July 2014 Board meeting. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

BILLS PAYABLE: After review, McNamee moved to approve the July and August accounts payable list for the amounts of \$112969.92 (July) and \$143,725.62 (August). Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: The financial reports will be reviewed under District Business, later in the meeting.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

OPERATIONS REPORT: Saul Ochoa will retire the end of September. Verlyn Penry will retire January 12, 2015. Management would like to give a \$1000 bonus to Saul upon his retirement for his eight plus years of dedicated service to the District. He has been a valued employee.

RETIREMENT BONUS: The Board discussed bonuses for retiring employees. A standard was set as \$100 per year work with discretion up to \$1000.

OFFICE MANAGER: Collections have been going well. The attention to shut-offs has helped. David Starkweather is behind two years, has not kept payment arrangements, did not pay when he refinanced, and has ignored all letters. Further, he does not want to sign off his water rights. He has 0.1 acres of water rights off the Columbia River system in Irrigon. The Board directed Bridgewater to take care of it,

waiving fees to reach a settlement as needed, and get him to sign off his water rights. They are not interested in foreclosing on such a small piece of property.

MANAGER’S REPORT: The Stahls have requested a waiver of the \$645 bill from the District for removing sand blown from their property into the canal prior to water start-up. They have been cleaning the screens at the IPS daily at their cost and felt this would be a very sufficient trade of service. The Board agreed to cancel the bill.

CTUIR PROTOCOL FOR MODELING REVIEW: The Board has received the Final Protocol Agreement requested by the CTUIR in order to review the modeling work they are doing in support of the Tribal Water Right settlement. Bridgewater felt this protocol was not well written, and it asked to District to agree to future “unknown” work. She stated it was not in the best interest of the District to sign without a qualifying statement or letter. Further, the comments sent by the District earlier to the CTUIR regarding the “draft” protocol were basically ignored by the Tribes. However, CTUIR has e-mailed stating that if folks don’t sign this revised “final” document, they will not be able to review or have input into the modeling effort. Frederickson moved to sign the agreement, based on review and recommendation of the District’s attorney. Mueller seconded. Motion passed. Bev will follow up.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

FINANCIAL REPORTS: The financial reports were reviewed. Management has prepared an amended budget with these key notes:

- \$1 per acre was added to the annual O&M Fee in January 2014, so after the original 2014 Budget was adopted in December. This was to help with anticipated labor and operational increases in 2014.
- The Union contract has been finalized and these figures put into the current amended budget document.
- We have a good idea of pumping costs, which appear to be close to \$170,000 for conjunctive use. Original budget was \$150,000. (We budgeted \$100,000 in 2013 and spent \$140,000.)
- There were several administrative and operational “overs and unders” that were adjusted.
- We need to replace the mainline on the Irrigon system from the McNamee place through Hellbergs. – Cost \$85,000 for materials/contracted work. To accommodate this, improvement line item needs to be increased by \$50,000.

In order to help accommodate the \$50,000 needed for the increased mainline improvement, funding for the UPS screen engineering (\$10,000) and building reserve (\$8,000) were zeroed. The amended budget shows a negative balance of -\$9000. That with the net fund balance of the original budget of \$3000 makes up another \$12,000 – so the three adjustments added \$40,000 to the improvement line item. The additional \$10,000 needed to increase the improvement line item by a total of \$50,000 was made up “trimming” the rest of the budget.

This would be a very tight budget, Bridgewater explained. She, Ray and Lisa have researched costs and worked on it to get it to this point. She does not like having a negative fund balance and pointed out that we had a positive fund balance of the same amount ending 2013, so the two years would be even. Staff will do the best it can to cut discretionary spending and tighten up costs even more.

The Board would like to see a timeline for improvement expenditures.

RESOLUTION NO. 14-010 – AMENDED BUDGET 2014: Frederickson moved to adopt Resolution No. 14-010, an amended budget for 2014. This included \$1000 dues for the Northeast Oregon Water Association (NOWA) for 2014. McNamee seconded the motion. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 14-011 – SPECIAL ASSESSMENT 2014: Frederickson moved to set a special assessment for the pumping costs incurred in 2014 of \$2 per acre with a \$10 minimum. McNamee seconded the motion. Motion passed. The billing will be sent out the end of the month with a 60-day due date and a newsletter explaining the special assessment.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (IGA) – NORTH MORROW VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT (NMVCD): An IGA has been drafted to allow the NMVCD to use the canal roads for their purposes. Reclamation is a third party to the agreement. The NMVCD and Reclamation have already approved the agreement. Frederickson moved to approve and authorize the Manager to sign the agreement. Mueller seconded. Motion passed.

DIRECTOR ELECTION: The term of Division One Director is up this year. Frederickson moved to set November 12, 2014 as the election date and to have a mail-in election. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Dalarie Philippi, Board Chairperson