

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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FEBRUARY 20, 2014

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the meeting to order on February 20, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the Irrigon Fire Hall located at 705 N. Main St. in Irrigon. Those in attendance were: Board members, Dalarie Philippi, Vern Frederickson, Bob Mueller, Abe McNamee and Warren Kemper; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Operations Manager, Ray Akers; Office Manager Lisa Baum; Employees Walt Steagall, Saul Ochoa, Verlyn Penry, and Jim Ball.

CREW OVERVIEW: Crew members each introduced themselves and what area of District operations they covered. They gave an overview of what they are working on now and answered questions by Board members. They left after the discussion, except for Walt Steagall and Lisa Baum who stayed for the executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into executive session at 10:30 a.m. to discuss legal and employee issues. Executive session was closed at 11:15 a.m

MONTHLY BUSINESS

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

BILLS PAYABLE: After review and discussion, McNamee moved to approve the Accounts Payable list for a total amount of \$94,599.48. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: The financial reports for the period ending January 2014 were reviewed.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

OPERATIONS REPORT: Ray reported there had been six weeks of frozen weather this winter that has impacted the crew's ability to do its maintenance work. He is doing everything he can (bringing in extra crews, working Saturdays) to get the main canal ready for start-up the week of March 17. Thus far 200 cu yds of concrete have been used for canal panel replacement and patches.

MOWER: He would like to purchase a new rotary mower – a John Deere 92” - for \$4549. Frederickson moved to take the money from equipment reserve to purchase the mower. Mueller seconded the motion and it passed.

DITCH ROAD MAINTENANCE: Akers discussed ditch road maintenance with the Board. While he has done maintenance on some of the roads, there is a lot of work remaining. A special effort will be needed. The canal liner is being eroded in some areas, the canal road is steeply pitched, and there are places where there is very little gravel to support the road base. He does what he can when he can, but without a grader, he is limited on what can be done.

COLEMAN PUMP OFF WILSON RD: Akers reported that approximately 555 gpm is being pumped. The Board is considering whether to install a line to pump this water into the canal during the irrigation season. The cost and actual water availability during the irrigation season will be investigated.

OFFICE REPORT: The Board reviewed a collections update. Discussion. Bridgewater suggested the District write a shut-off policy regarding water delivery for those who are habitually on the collections list. Kemper asked about installing locking valves, as we seem to be on the honor system regarding shut-offs. Philippi explained that we have a “fine” policy in place for those that take water without authorization.

MANAGER’S’ REPORT: A written report was provided and is attached to and a part of the minutes. The report was reviewed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

WAGE INFORMATION: Information was provided to the Board of Directors regarding employee wages and cost of benefits the past five years. This provides a perspective to the Board.

RESOLUTION NO. 14-002 - 2014 BUDGET: Tabled. Budget adopted December 2013 is in effect,

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 14-005 – STATEMENT ON FROST CONTROL WATER DELIVERY: Frederickson moved to adopt Resolution No. 14-005 which confirms the District’s position that it will not provide water for frost control. Mueller seconded. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 14-006 – POLICY FOR INSTREAM LEASE OF WATER: Postponed.

RESOLUTION NO. 14-007 – DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Mueller moved to adopt Resolution No. 14-007 which further defines the duties of the Board of Directions. McNamee seconded the motion. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 14-008 – WATER CURTAILMENT 2014 IRRIGATION SEASON: Board discussed current water delivery allotments. Matter tabled by Chairman Philippi.

LAND SURPLUS: Morrow County deeded a small piece of abandoned land next to and south of the main canal in Boardman to the District. It is T4N R25E Section 20, tax lot 102 0 0.31 acres. Karl Smith is currently farming this ground. Mueller moved to declare this land surplus and to sell the land. McNamee seconded the motion. Discussion. Water rights have been placed on the land by Karl Smith, so the District should give Smith the opportunity to remove the water rights prior to the sale. The board wants to be sure the property goes to someone who has legal access to it, as access will not be provided. Motion passed.

ALTERNATE DIVERSION FOR COLUMBIA RIVER DELIVERY: After discussion, the Board directed Vern Frederickson and Bob Mueller to meet with Tony Amstead regarding pumping water from the Columbia River through his pump station as an alternate point of delivery for the District's supplemental Columbia River water right.

MORROW COUNTY ASSESSMENT: Morrow County has asked to meet with Bridgewater and Reclamation concerning irrigation within the federal right-of-way in areas that are currently excluded from tax by Morrow County. Bridgewater will report this issue at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Beverly J. Bridgewater
Secretary to the Board of Directors