

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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Minutes - Special Board Meeting

March 13, 2013

A special meeting was called by the Board for the purpose of reviewing and discussing drainage issues and the screens at the Umatilla Pump Station.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the District office in Irrigon by Chair Dalarie Philippi. Attending were Directors Dalarie Philippi, Max Hellberg, Doug Strebin and Vern Frederickson; Manager/Secretary, Bev Bridgewater; Operations Manager, Ray Akers; Guest Rick Smull, Troy Potter, and Richard Cole.

Rick Smull discussed the drainage from the Stahl Farms in an area downstream of the 8th Street bridge crossing (formerly Logan Sump 2). This is an area that has major impacts on the canal lining due to water pressure from the south side. It is a high maintenance area. The drainage that Stahls have installed is helping the canal. Stahls are and would like to continue pumping this water into the canal. It is about 5 gpm now, but may go up during the irrigation season. They do not want to pay the annual drainage fee of \$1000. Rick left the meeting after his presentation.

UPS SCREENS: The purpose of the special meeting was to discuss whether Cleaver Farms, current owner of the L3 pumps at the UPS site, will participate in the new screen project for that station. The engineer is mostly complete with drawings and agency approval, but the final decision of whether to include the 17 cfs and screening for the private pumps in addition to the 90 cfs of the WEID pumps needs to be made.

Potter represents Cleaver. He stated that Cleaver uses 17 cfs of water and the screens are designed for 107 cfs. He would like an agreement wherein he would pay a prorated portion of the construction based on potential cfs and the ongoing rejoin and maintenance based on actual use. The current agreement (1978 with L3 Farms) calls for a 50/50 split of repairs, maintenance and construction. Although the WEID Board agrees that this particular fish screen was not contemplated at the time the 1978 agreement was made, considerations in the original agreement are clear that a 50/50 split was anticipated for new and existing maintenance and construction. Strebin reviewed the considerations in the original agreement for all present.

The Board and Potter spent some time looking at the math and coming up with several ideas. Philippi stated that the Board understands the issue from Cleaver's perspective and wants to be fair. She proposed a new agreement with percentage of water flow used to identify the capital portion paid by each party and the maintenance.

Everyone would like an estimated construction budget so we can see what the potential dollars might be. Another idea is to base the costs on days run or on annual acre-feet pumped.

It appears that a new agreement can be reached. Bridgewater was directed to provide preliminary budget numbers for the March board meeting. The Board also stated that the Cleaver contribution needs to be in cash.

DRAINAGE: There are currently several ag users draining water into the WEID canal year-round. They have been doing so for many years, and the District has not allowed new permanent drainage for some time. Bridgewater stated that each one needs to be taken separately as they do not all have the same set of circumstances. The Board asked Ray how he manages the drainage water in the non-irrigation season. He explained that some of the water has a designated area to go and some stays in the canal until evaporated or seeped out or until the new season starts. One of the prerequisites for any new drainage that we allow is the landowner's ability to shut off their pumps for a period of time, called by the Operations Manager, in order to allow canal maintenance to occur.

Specific requests:

Stahl Farms: Vern Frederickson moved that the District accept the water from the Stahl drains and to waive the \$1000 annual fee. Hellberg seconded the motion. This will not set a precedent as the drain tiles installed by Stahls are protecting the canal and the canal was getting the water prior to this (water was pushing through the lining). The fee is waived as Stahls have mitigated damage to the canal and it is a small amount of water. The Stahls can cease pumping, as needed, to allow for canal work to be done. Motion passed.

Chowning: Chowning installed new drain tile and is sending it to the Stiffler property west of him that Craig Coleman is leasing. The District would like to pick up that water during the irrigation season. The board authorized management to talk to Coleman about costs of recapturing the water.

McCarty property off Lateral 15 in Boardman: McCarty has put in drainage and has a 3-inch line he would like to run into the canal. He indicated that about 200 gpm would be running year-round. He would like to do a temporary set up for now and install a permanent drain for next season. Frederickson made a motion to accept the McCarty drain for this year, giving us time to see how it works. Strebin seconded. Motion passed. Ray will work with McCarty on location.

Bridgewater recommended that we have an agreement for each of the landowners that are pumping drainage water into the WEID canal. She will work on that.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Philippi adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

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