

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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APRIL 17, 2013

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the meeting to order on April 17, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the District office in Irrigon. Those in attendance were: Board members, Dalarie Philippi, Vern Frederickson and Bill Cline; Manager/Secretary, Bev Bridgewater; Water users, David Starkweather and his wife, Catherine. Max Hellberg and Doug Strebin were not able to attend.

AGENDA: Chairman approved the agenda as prepared.

STARKWEATHER FORECLOSURE: The Starkweathers have received a ten-day notice from the District's attorney. They want to make arrangements to pay on their account in lieu of foreclosure, but do not have any money to pay on the account right now. They asked if the bill could be reduced. The Board explained that the District has time and money invested into their collection, including lien and attorney fees. The bill cannot be reduced. The O&M fees are equitable to all district patrons and waiving them in any way would set a precedent in the District. After discussion, the Board agreed to the following:

The Starkweathers will make a \$500 payment by May 1.

They will pay a minimum of \$50 per month until the bill is paid.

They may transfer the .10 acre of water rights that they have if they notify the District and complete the form by May 1. The 2013 billing will be removed from their account and the water right transferred off.

They will sign an "Agreement in Lieu of Foreclosure" for the payment and understand that if they are late on a payment or do not honor the agreement, the agreement will be cancelled and the property will proceed to foreclosure.

Once the agreement is signed, the District will stay the foreclosure, as long as the agreement remains valid.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the March 27, 2013 Board meeting were reviewed. Frederickson moved to approve the minutes. Second by Cline. Motion passed.

BILLS PAYABLE: After review, Frederickson moved to approve the March accounts payable lists for a total amount of \$82,538.53. Second by Cline. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: The financial reports for the period ending March 31, 2013 were reviewed. Bridgewater explained that the weed control line item amount is about \$6000 low. During the budget process, we thought that line item would remain the same as the 2012 budget. Inventory hadn't been taken and we needed to order more herbicide than anticipated. Following is a history of purchase and use.

The acrolie use (370# cylinders or bottles) the past few years:

- 2010 – 4 bottles carryover, purchased 4 bottles, used 4.5
- 2011 – 3.5 bottles carryover, purchased 7 bottles, used 5.5
- 2012 -- 5 bottles carryover, purchased 6 bottles, used 7.5
- 2013 – 3.5 bottles carryover, purchased 8 bottles

Copper use (50# bags):

- 2010 – 10 bags carryover, purchased 40 bags, used 39 bags
- 2011 – 11 bags carryover, purchased 50 bags, used 43 bags
- 2012 – 18 bags carryover, purchased 29 bags, used 35 bags
- 2013 – 12 bags carryover, purchased 50 bags

Bridgewater stated that the telemetry computer is still being built at Dell. The software is with the Aqua Systems and they are ready to come to Irrigon as soon as the computer is here. This is a priority.

The Board reviewed the labor and main canal line items. A lot of work was done this winter, so funds were spent. With the telemetry and the work on the UPS pumps, those line items will go over. But, it's too early to see how the rest of the budget will fare.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT: Water is up and running. Walt is working the weekend shift for awhile (off on Wed and Thurs). Ray has requested and been granted 30 days off. He is near maxed out on his PTO accrual, so was at a "use or lose" situation. He is working a union job during this time at the Boardman coal fire plant. Discussion. The Board would like the ten day notice for PTO time taken, as stated in the Employee Policy, but understand this came up quickly and Ray needed to take the time. He requested time off to May 20.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S' REPORT: A written report was distributed to the directors and is attached to and a part of the minutes. The report was reviewed and discussed.

RECLAMATION LETTER APPROVING WEID BOUNDARY CHANGE: The District has received a draft letter from Reclamation approving the WEID Request for boundary change. The letter was distributed with discussion and action to be taken at the next meeting. Bridgewater explained that she, Glover and MacDougal have not reviewed it yet. She will let the Board know if any changes are recommended.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into executive session at 7:10 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing and discussing legal correspondence relative to the WID filing for reconsideration. Executive session ended at 7:25 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MCKAY CERTIFICATE: Westland Irrigation District has filed a petition with Water Resources Department requesting reconsideration of the Bureau of Reclamation Certificate on McKay return flows for WEID. The Board would like to work with WID to avoid further action or a lawsuit.

MCKAY WATER THROUGH FRESHWATER TRUST: This issue was discussed at the last meeting, and there was confusion as to how it would work. There will be 400 acre-feet of water available (assuming the reservoir fills). WEID would purchase that at a set rate using a portion of the funds received from the well users. The remaining amount of funds would be used by WEID for conjunctive use pumping.

RETURN FLOWS DISCUSSION: The District will meet with Reclamation to go over the preliminary work done by GSI. Protocol development for the McKay certificate should begin soon.

UPS FISH SCREENS & FLOWS: The UPS screen design has been modified in order to meet flow criteria and NMFS concerns. Bridgewater has brought the District's engineer, Ben Volk, into the discussion as technical support to assure that the interests of the District are best represented. He has some concern about the type of screen being proposed. Because of the automated cleaning brushes, it has moving parts to be considered. Although the manufacturer states replacement every three years, we should confirm that. Also, pulling the screens for repair will require a crane. Discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

CONJUNCTIVE USE: As outlined in the Manager's report, we have received the conjunctive use cost for 2012 (\$14.85 per acre-foot) and the estimate for 2013 (\$15.31 per acre-foot) from the Bureau of Reclamation.

NW OREGON WATER ASSOCIATION: The entity is still in discussion stages to be formed. The legal documents are being reviewed, but things are moving slow. JR has asked Bridgewater to be one of five directors on the start-up Board, along with Chet Prior and Craig Reeder. The Board approved this idea.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

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