

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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September 26, 2013

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the meeting to order on September 26, 2013 at 6:35 p.m. at the District office in Irrigon. Those in attendance were: Board members, Dalarie Philippi, Max Hellberg and Vern Frederickson; Manager/Secretary, Bev Bridgewater; Operations Manager, Ray Akers, and Guest, Herb Stahl. Director Doug Strebin was not able to attend.

AGENDA: Chairman Philippi approved the agenda as prepared. Introductions were made.

DIVISION ONE DIRECTOR: Bill Cline has submitted his written resignation. It was accepted by the Board. The opening was listed in the recent WEID newsletter.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

COLUMBIA RIVER PUMP STATION IN IRRIGON (IPS): Herb Stahl discussed the shared pumping facility in Irrigon with the Board. He presented a proposal to renovate the pumping platform and replace the screens. The cost will be approximately \$1 million. The District's share is 25%. Stahl will take the lead on the project, as the primary owner of the site. Bridgewater was asked to check into funding options for the District's share.

COLUMBIA RIVER PUMP STATION IN UMATILLA (UPS): Bridgewater discussed the thought of moving the UPS as opposed to simply replacing the screens in its current location. Akers commented that the ongoing O&M issues will not go away. The Board asked for preliminary costs and pros and cons for the next meeting.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the July 2013 Board meeting were reviewed and discussed. Frederickson moved to approve the minutes. Hellberg seconded the motion. The motion passed.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: After review and discussion, Frederickson moved to approve the accounts payable list for the months of July and August, total amount of \$276,932.59. Second by Hellberg. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: The financial statements for the month ending August 31, 2013 were reviewed. Bridgewater distributed a proforma budget which estimated income and expenses for the remainder of the year. It was reviewed.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

OPERATIONS MANAGER REPORT: Akers is planning the winter projects. Shutdown will be October 23 for the Irrigon system and October 30 for main canal. Philippi asked about the winter work and pointed out that crop patterns have changed in Boardman so that water is needed earlier there than in the past. She would like to see water to Boardman about the same as the upper canal and around March 15, especially if the winter is dry. Akers stated that in 2013, he had the panels torn up on the Boardman canal, so couldn't start it that early. He won't get into that situation this year. It's really just a matter of how much work the Board wants him to do and how the winter weather fares. He replaced 183 panels last year, but doesn't plan to do that many this upcoming winter. Much of his work will be on Gattenbein's corner in Boardman, which goes slow due to the groundwater problems.

OFFICE MANAGER'S COLLECTION REPORT: A written report was provided to the Board, which they reviewed.

RESOLUTION NO. 13-009, FORECLOSURE ORDER: Frederickson moved to adopt Resolution No. 13-009 that would order two properties to foreclosure due to non-payment. Hellberg seconded. Motion passed. Bridgewater stated that staff will try to contact the owners one more time now that the foreclosure has been ordered in case arrangements can be made.

MARTINEZ PROPERTY TAX, 5N2723B, tax lot 901: Umatilla County has foreclosed on the Martinez property and there is a month left in the redemption period. The District may lose its interest in the property (currently 2700.58) if it is not redeemed since the County's interest forecloses all others. The pay-off for redemption is \$13,825,63 for the County taxes with interest accruing daily. If we redeem it, Linda Martinez retains ownership. We would then start our own foreclosure proceedings with all costs included (County taxes, WEID fees and legal). Hellberg moved to authorize WEID to redeem the Martinez property, using funds from the District's building reserve. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

WELL USERS REQUEST: The well users are interested in helping the District find water to replace the water they are deemed to be pumping from the Umatilla River (1500 af). Discussion. One of the projects being considered is pumping along Division St. near the Relocation Canal, with water going back to the main canal. Board directed Bridgewater to continue working with them and JR Cook to find solutions.

NEW BUSINESS

OWEB GRANT: The OWEB Grant deadline is approaching. Bridgewater is not sure if we have time to prepare a submittal and needs to read the new criteria. Motion by Frederickson to approve an OWEB Grant for piping Lateral 17, 15 or 7. Hellberg passed. Motion passed.

OREGON FARM BUREAU (OFB) MEMBERSHIP: The membership application for the Oregon Farm Bureau was reviewed and discussed. An incentive is a discount on our Verizon bill. Frederickson moved to join the OFB. Hellberg seconded. Motion passed.

ELECTION DATE: The 2013 election date is November 12. There are four open positions on the Board. Division One is vacant due to Cline's resignation. One year left on the term. Division Two position is currently being filled by Doug Strebin until a director is elected – two years remaining on the term. Divisions Three and Five are up for a three-year term election. Bridgewater reported that applicants have picked up petitions for all four positions. The petitions are due October 8 at 4:00 p.m. Frederickson moved to hold a mail-in election on Tuesday, November 12 and to appoint Max Hellberg as election judge. Philippi seconded. Motion passed.

AUDIT REPORT: Discussion postponed to the next meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into executive session at 8:10 p.m. to discuss the Union letter requesting negotiations. Executive session was closed at 8:15 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

UNION NEGOTIATION: Frederickson moved to forgive the tardy date on the letter from AFSCME notifying the District of their intent to negotiate a successor contract on behalf of the employees and to enter into contract negotiations. Hellberg seconded. Motion passed.

MEETING DATES: The dates of the next few meetings have conflicts, so new dates will need to be selected. The Board asked that they are e-mailed with the new dates.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

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