

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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December 12, 2013

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the meeting to order on December 12, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. at the District office in Irrigon. Those in attendance were: Board members Dalarie Philippi, Doug Strebin, Max Hellberg, Bob Mueller and Vern Frederickson; Manager/Secretary, Bev Bridgewater; Directors-elect Abe McNamee and Warren Kemper.

AGENDA: Chairman Philippi approved the agenda as prepared.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into executive session at 4:30 p.m. to discuss Union negotiations. Executive session was closed at 5:45 p.m.

The Board set a meeting for January 2 at 5 pm to discuss the Union proposal in Executive Session, if needed (this meeting was not needed).

BREAK: The Board took a dinner break. Called back to order at 6:05 pm. Operations Manager Ray Akers and Water user Tim Hellberg joined the meeting.

2014 BUDGET: The Board met as a Budget committee and reviewed the 2014 proposed budget prepared by management. Review of anticipated income and expenses indicated no need for an increase in O&M Fees for 2014. As has been typical the past few years, if the 2014 pumping costs are higher than budgeted, the Board will consider a special assessment at the end of 2014. Hellberg moved to adopt the 2014 budget as prepared and modified. Frederickson seconded the motion. Motion passed and budget approved.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the November 2013 Board meeting were reviewed and discussed. Mueller moved to approve the minutes with a correction noting that Strebin was in attendance at that meeting. Doug Strebin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: After review and discussion, Mueller moved to approve the accounts payable list for the month of October, total amount of \$77,290.74. Second by Strebin. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: The financial statements for the month ending November 30, 2013 had been distributed to the Board.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

OPERATIONS MANAGER:

DRAINAGE WATER INTO MAIN CANAL: Ray discussed the problem of drainage water coming into the main canal. We have not allowed “new” folks to pump in for many years, but there are at least three in Boardman requesting to do so now. It presents a maintenance problem. Discussion. Currently, anyone pumping into the canal pays \$1000 annual fee and District crews manage the water. Reclamation has done some testing on the water coming from the railroad. They may be willing to allow ag water coming, but would not in the past. That needs to be further explored. The Board felt that we should develop a policy, run some costs and try to work it out, if we can. They suggested a way for a landowner to get credit for water they give the District in the summer. Formation of a drainage district is an option to be explored.

WATER TRUCKS: The City of Irrigon and the Irrigon Fire Department have each donated a water truck to us. We had to take them both.

DISTRICT MANAGER’S’ REPORT:

EPA APPROVAL OF DESIGNATED USED IN MAIN CANAL: As stated last month, EPA has approved DEQ’s Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) of its main canal for the concrete-lined section. They did not approve the dirt canal at the lower end and spillway back to the Columbia. DEQ is not concerned about this as it is ag run-off water and the Attorney General (AG) of Oregon gave a written opinion the the ag exemption will not be affected by receipt of the City of Hermiston’s Class A treated water into the WEID canal. City of Hermiston is on target for 2015. Bev has not completely reviewed the document.

JOINT LETTER OF AGREEMENT – C87872: The parties have reached agreement on the joint letter regarding Certificate 87872 which is WEID’s right to return flow and seepage water from McKay Reservoir. The parties are WEID, Westland Irrigation, Bureau of Reclamation and Water Resources Department. Strebin moved that we accept the letter of agreement and authorize the Manager/Secretary to sign on behalf of the Board. Mueller seconded. Motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

WATER SMART GRANT: Management would like to submit a federal grant request for piping lateral 7 in Boardman. Strebin moved to authorize a federal Water Smart grant request for Lateral 7 as part of the ongoing plan to enclose the Boardman open laterals. Hellberg seconded. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

100th ANNIVERSARY THREE MILE DAM: The 100th anniversary celebration for Three Mile Dam is set for Thursday, May 22. Funds were put in the budget for costs, including providing a lunch for a mid-day ceremony. Local and regional dignitaries will be invited, as well as ag folks and district patrons.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

DIRECTORS RETIRE:

Max Hellberg	2005 – 2013
Doug Strebin	1996 – 2013

Directors Hellberg and Strebin were presented plaques honoring their service and gift coupons from the Board and staff. They have served the District well and will be missed.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

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