

# WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 100 IRRIGON, OREGON 97844  
PHONE: (541) 922-3814 FAX: (541) 922-9775

December 22, 2014

## **Monthly Board Meeting**

Chairperson Philippi called the meeting to order on December 22, 2014 at 9:05 a.m. at the Irrigon Fire Hall located at 705 N. Main St. in Irrigon. Those in attendance were: Board members, Dalarie Philippi, Abe McNamee, Warren Kemper, Bob Mueller and Vern Frederickson; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Operations Manager, Ray Akers;

**AGENDA:** Chairman Philippi approved the agenda with an addition – adding review of the letter to Hermiston Irrigation District.

### **MONTHLY BUSINESS**

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

**BILLS PAYABLE:** After review, Mueller moved to approve the November accounts payable list for the amounts of \$210,490.21. The Board asked about a series of voided checks. Bridgewater stated she had done payroll and printed the checks on the wrong side, so they were voided. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:** The financial reports were reviewed.

### **REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

**OPERATIONS REPORT:** The IPS pipe replacement project is well underway. Abe McNamee has been assisting with the work – really appreciated by Ray as he cannot get reliable labor. Bev reported that we can pay him for his work, according to SDAO. It appears that we will have about 400 feet of 24-inch PIP left over. We will sell it after the project is complete.

He is checking into the cost of mortar lining the penstock from the IPS pumps. The pipe is steel 30 and 36-inch. There is about 1100 of pipe to be lined. It appears the IPS screening project will not happen now, but next winter. That gives us more time for planning, but Stahls need to confirm this to us.

**OFFICE MANAGER:** Our website page is being constructed and looks like it will be very helpful to us. We will send a letter to patrons asking if they want to go on

our e-mail list and if they want to receive their statements via e-mail. We are still checking into the debit and credit options.

**MANAGER’S’ REPORT:** The written report was reviewed and discussed.

**ROBBINS LAWSUIT UPDATE:** Discussion. Several Board members stated they purchased a manufactured home built on swampy ground. It sits in a low-lying area and is impacted by groundwater. The Board discussed drainage issues and artesian wells in Boardman. In looking at Robbins property, overgrazing it contributed to the problem. Dalarie mentioned other such areas that have ground water issues – Sunrise and Eastregaard.

**SUB-IRRIGATED GROUND:** This led to discussion on folks like Jim Lands, Brewers, Kegler who are paying for water rights and don’t have to irrigate due to the sub-irrigated ground. Frederickson wondered if they could have a special rate. Bridgewater stated all customer must be charged the same, but we may be able to do something about the customer fee since there is no delivery. She will do a little research. She also stated that OWRC had opened the door on this with OWRD over a year ago, but no follow-up. Perhaps it can get back on the table for more discussion at the State level – likely after the legislative session.

**INFORMATIONAL MEETING WITH OTHER IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARDS:** The meeting/social with other irrigation district board members and manager will be Wed., Jan. 7 at 6 pm. Vern and Suzi Frederickson will host.

**IPS SCREENS:** The deadline by which we needed to receive the Corps permit has passed. Herb Stahl wants to make a decision in early January on the project as he still hopes to get it done early 2015. The Board asked that our engineer meet with Stahl and IRZ to go over some questions about the screen design.

**REVIEW MANAGEMENT HOLIDAY LEAVE PROVISIONS:** Ray had a question about holiday leave. When he negotiated his wage increase, he believe he was given two weeks of holiday leave annually. The board recalled the discussion about two weeks off, but didn’t mean to approve this with pay. In the past, management has been allowed to take the time off between Christmas and New Years with pay. Frederickson moved to continue the holiday pay for the work days between Christmas and New Years Day for management. McNamee seconded. Discussion. This is not transferrable and can only be used for those days. It’s a use it or lose it deal. Motion passed.

## **DISTRICT BUSINESS**

**JOB DESCRIPTIONS:** The Board reviewed the job descriptions, which we updated as a result of the November Board meeting. Mueller moved to accept the job descriptions as revised. Kemper seconded. Motion passed.

**WATER CONSERVATION PLANNING & DISCUSSION:** The board discussed applying for grants to get started on implementing the Boardman Master Plan (piping the open laterals in Boardman). The following points were discussed:

Need to educate the landowners that the project will happen

Should we do it all at one time

What is the practical depth for the pipeline, due to hardpan

Should we pressurize Boardman?

One screen, one pump station, one pipeline for a number of acres. What are the sizes and the costs? What would be the ongoing cost to the landowners?

Electronic meter readings

Camera and telemetry on the screen

Clean-outs, drains

Can we provide enough labor and equipment for the work or would we have to hire part of it done.

The BOR WaterSMART grant has a category of up to \$1,000,000. Bridgewater stated that if we applied, we would have to match. We could do this over three years with \$100,000 from our budget (labor, equipment and some materials) and borrow \$600,000 from the DEQ Clean Water Revolving Loan (2-2.5%). She will check into all this if the Board wants to move forward.

More questions came up about what we would need for storage as we start enclosing Boardman; what about other ways to make money such as Hydro, Solar. Can water we saved be used under the State conserved water statutes on new ground.

Bridgewater stated that we should update our Boardman Master Plan as doing so will allow us to address the questions we have about that project. We can do it in a public process, so irrigators can have input. Also, it may be good to revisit some sections of our Water Management and Conservation Plan this spring.

**BUDGET 2015:** Bridgewater presented budget income information. The Board reviewed and discussed. They liked the Option 3 for income. It raised the base to \$350 and raises the improvement fees \$5 per acre. This gives us money to use for paying back our loans for the IPS screens and to get started on the Boardman laterals.

**RESOLUTION NO. 14-018, BUDGET 2015.** A motion was made by McNamee to accept Resolution no. 14-018 for the 2015 Budget. This accepts Option No. 3, increasing the customer/delivery fee to \$350, sets the O&M Fee at \$52 and increased the Improvement fee by \$5. Kemper seconded. Discussion. The Board wants to be sure that the increases go to improvements. Motion passed.

**RESOLUTION NO. 14-014 – FLEXLEASE LOAN.** Frederickson moved to accept Resolution No. 14-014, authorizing the District to seek funding of \$500,000 from the Flex Lease program for upgrades to the IPS station and screen. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

**RESOLUTION NO. 14-015 – Water Conservation Filed Service Grant.** .  
Frederickson moved to accept Resolution No. 14-015, authorizing the District to apply for a \$25,000 grant to upgrade District facilities. Mueller seconded. Motion passed.

**RESOLUTION NO. 14-016 – WaterSMART Grant.** McNamee moved to accept Resolution No. 14-016, authorizing the District to apply for a \$300,000 grant to upgrade District facilities. Kemper seconded. Motion passed.

**RESOLUTION NO. 14-017 – WaterSMART Grant.** McNamee moved to accept Resolution No. 14-016, authorizing the District to apply for a Multi-year grant for up to \$1,000,000 grant to upgrade District facilities. Kemper seconded. Motion passed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

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