

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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May 18, 2015

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the meeting to order on May 18, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the Irrigon Fire Hall located at 705 N. Main St. in Irrigon. Those in attendance were: Board members, Dalarie Philippi, Warren Kemper, Bob Mueller Abe McNamee and Vern Frederickson; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Operations Manager, Ray Akers. Guest, Herb Stahl, arrived for the last half hour of the meeting.

AGENDA: Chairman Philippi approved the agenda as prepared.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Frederickson moved to approve the minutes of the April 2015 Board meeting as presented. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

BILLS PAYABLE: After review, Frederickson moved to approve the March accounts payable list in the amount of 187,508.40. Mueller seconded. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: The preliminary financial reports for the period ending April 30, 2015 were reviewed.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

OPERATIONS REPORT:

DROUGHT MANAGEMENT: The crew has been working with errant water users (overuse, off schedule and irrigating roadways) and most folks are cooperating with efforts to conserve water. Efforts for use issues will continue. There are several areas where the end guns of a circle are causing problems on the canal easement road. These folks will be contacted. Frederickson reminded everyone that striking a balance between farming and taking care of the easement needs to be considered.

SCHEDULING: The Board discussed some scheduling ideas. Ray, Bev and Walt will meet tomorrow to go over the schedule to see if it can be tightened up.

EQUIPMENT SURPLUS: The surplus equipment has not been sold yet. During discussion, the backhoe could be sent to the June sale at Bookers. The pipe will continue to be advertised.

MISSING WELDER: The trailer-mounted Hobart welder is missing and presumed stolen. Loss (replacement cost) is approximately \$8000. It was not part of our equipment schedule for insurance, although we understand it may be covered under the shop coverage. We are getting information on all our equipment and trailers and will add them to our insurance schedules to protect against loss in the future. The board discussed ways to protect our equipment. Bev suggested applying through the SDAO Safety Grant to fence the shop area. They have up to \$3000 in matching funds specifically to prevent loss. That grant comes out in the September/October time frame. The Board agreed that this would be a good use of funds.

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 WATER SMART DROUGHT GRANTS: Reclamation has put out two new Drought grant opportunities – 1) Drought planning and 2) Drought projects. We will apply for a project grant for Lateral 17 in Boardman. We will see if we have time and a good fit for the drought planning grant. There is a short turn-around for these grants as grant applications are due June 25. Projects need to be completed within two years of approval (approximately September 1, 2017).

DISTRICT BUSINESS

FLEXLEASE LOAN: The bond sale documents are prepared in final form and are being reviewed by all agencies involved. We anticipate the funds to be available to us in mid-June.

IPS FISH SCREENS: Herb Stahl arrived at the meeting and gave an update to the fish screen project. The Corps required that core samples of the river bed be taken within 60 feet of the shore as part of its historic and archeology review. That process was completed a few weeks ago (cost of \$27,000) with no relevant findings. The permit process should be moving ahead now. He hopes to have it in July. The project is staged and ready to go when the work window opens, January 1. He had to pay the Corps of Engineers \$45,000 upfront for them to do the permit. They have given him a broad list of costs thus far and it appears he will get about \$20,000 of that back. Bev asked if he had a scope of work to go with the cost estimate and a contract or letter for the amount paid up front. The District would like a copy of that.

Herb stated that there will be a new agreement with the Corps of Engineers and provided us with a copy. It appears there will be an annual fee of \$236. Discussion.

Discussion ensued about the screen, pumps and electrical work.

IPS AGREEMENT: Stahl suggested we put a new agreement together for the IPS system, updating the old one and reinforcing the ownership issue on a 75/25 basis. The board agreed and Bev will work on the draft for everyone's review.

JUNE BOARD MEETING: The next board meeting is Monday, June 15 at 9:00 am.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Dalarie Philippi, Board Chairperson