

# WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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July 20, 2015

## **Monthly Board Meeting**

Chairperson Philippi called the meeting to order on July 20, 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.

**AGENDA:** Mueller moved to approve the agenda as prepared. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

### **MONTHLY BUSINESS**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Frederickson moved to approve the minutes of the June 2015 Board meeting, as presented. McNamee seconded. Motion passed. Frederickson moved to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2015 special Board meeting, as presented. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

**BILLS PAYABLE:** After review, Mueller moved to approve the June accounts payable list in the amount of \$68,699.17. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

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

### **REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **OPERATIONS REPORT:**

**EXTRA DITCHRIDER:** We have picked up an extra ditchrider, Neila Coffman, for the season. This has really helped with regulation.

**2001 CHEVROLET PICKUP:** This “shop” pickup needs some repair work that is very costly for its value. Ray recommends replacement. We are scheduled for a new pickup in 2017, and he hopes we will do that and he can move the 2004 ¾ ton Chev to being the shop truck. Discussion at budget time.

**SURPLUS 1985 JOHN DEERE BACKHOE:** After consignment fees, we received \$6684 for the backhoe that we sold at auction. We spent \$1927 for maintenance and repair before the sale and it had been fully depreciated for many years. We will put the difference of \$4757 into the equipment reserve fund.

**SHUTOFFS:** Crew is doing shut-offs. Board is concerned that we are just now getting to shut-offs that have payment due from previous years. Why were these folks taking water to begin with? Discussion about shutoff and the “no water” lists. We have procedures in place and why are they not being followed? We will have Lisa at the next meeting and discuss how this can be addressed in future years.

**ROW MAINTENANCE:** The Board and Ray discussed the need for increased maintenance on the ditch roads and canal. Small trees and shrubs are growing in the canal and next to it that need to be addressed. There are many places where the canal road is below the concrete liner, thus exposing the liner. This was part of Reclamation’s recommendations at their past few years inspection. His crews are working on this as they can, but it would take quite a focused effort in time and labor to get caught up.

**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.

**CUSTOMER WAYNE & CATHY REFFETT ISSUES:** Bev and Ray met with Reclamation staff, Kathleen from Senator Wyden’s office and the Reffetts recently. Director Mueller was there as well. Four main complaints by Reffetts were discussed and reviewed.

1) Removal of the berm placed by Reffett at the end of the 2013 season. The berm was encroaching on reasonable passage of vehicles along the road and could not be maintained while performing maintenance. It was the District’s decision to remove it and Reclamation supports that decision.

2) Reffett believed that the berm would keep water from rain/flooding events from running off the canal road into neighboring property. Ray plans to rebuild the road over the next few years and slope it slightly towards the canal to address this issue. The Board agrees this is a good plan and asked Ray if he could get it all done this year. We will check with the other parties to that cost.

3) Federal right-of-way. Reffett thinks it is too wide and wants it narrower. Reclamation went through a lengthy explanation and history of the 200-foot wide federal right-of-way for the main canal that was reserved under the 1890 federal canal act. They are firm that the 200-foot is needed for the full length of the canal, except in the short area that was publically owned at the time the canal was built and rights-of-way had to be acquired.

4) Reffett would like to use the outer portion of the canal right-of-way. He would bring in more fill on the north side of the existing canal road and set that area up for his own use. If the District agrees, this requires a federal “consent to use” permit which Reclamation. Reclamation has given him the application. They reviewed the process and will send the material to him again.

Reffett had complaints about canal maintenance, leaving the concrete in the right-of-way, the District's cleaning of the canal, and the road maintenance. We listened to those and have discussed them internally. There were no new issues that had not already been reviewed by management and that are at a higher concern than any other area of the canal.

**REFFETT METER:** We are reviewing the report from JUB regarding the meter for Reffett's 18.4 water right acres. It is a new 8-inch pipe taking the water from the main canal to the current 6-inch delivery. Ray wants to be sure that we install a meter that will measure the range of flows that go through the pipe, which could be from 50 gpm to over 200 gpm (160 gpm is the allotment). Discussion. Board will review JUB report regarding the meter size for this delivery.

**LANDOWNER MATCH FOR GRANT:** Bridgewater discussed matching dollars from landowners for the Lateral 7 grant. The Board appreciates offers of landowners to participate and has accepted assistance in the past, especially when particular landowners are anxious to get the benefit of piping (converting from flood to sprinkler). For the Boardman laterals, if matching is requested, it should be even among all landowners. Bridgewater will give some consideration to this and bring back information for the next meeting.

**CONJUNCTIVE USE UPDATE:** Bridgewater presented a report showing that we will have used 10,000 acre-feet (AF) of conjunctive use (supplemental) pumping by the end of July for a cost of \$154,500. This compares to 11,228 AF thru the same time in 2007 and 7265 AF last year. Irrigation season 2007 was the most recent drought year and we pumped 15,376 AF of conjunctive use water that season. We expect the 2015 season to be over this amount as it appears to be drier and may be so going into fall. The budget line item for 2015 is \$165,000.

**IRRIGATION WATER STORAGE DISCUSSION:** The board discussed the need for irrigation water storage and possible locations. They would like to keep an open mind about this and look for grant funding that will help the District determine the feasibility of a storage project.

**BOARDMAN MASTER PLAN:** Maps are being updated from old format to new and have been reviewed by staff. We will have a plan for enclosing all the laterals with pipe. The Board agreed to stay the course. It was a good plan originally, so just needs updating, not any major changes.

## **DISTRICT BUSINESS**

**PAYMENT TO STAHL BRETHERN:** The permit for retrofitting the Irrigon pump station and screens has not been finalized yet. Stahl has expenses for engineering, screens, consultants and the boring work. The Board understands that all work has been done in good faith, anticipating the permit. We want to be a good partner, and

pay our share of the costs incurred thus far. We also need to consider our fiduciary responsibilities and that the permit has not yet been issued. Frederickson moved to pay the District's 25% of the engineering, consulting, and boring work. McNamee seconded. Discussion – we will need invoices for the payments. Motion passed with unanimous approval.

**BOND POST-ISSUANCE COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES:** This procedure is required by the IRS and outlines the requirements and procedures for the District to ensure compliance with federal laws and securities relative to the bond issuance. McNamee moved to adopt the procedures and Kemper seconded. Kemper noted that this is a lot for the manager to be responsible for and wondered about bonding for the employees. Bridgewater stated we have bond coverage for employees and Board. She will send out the information on this. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

**2013 DISTRICT AUDIT:** The 2013 District audit was distributed to the Board previously for review. Mueller moved to accept the audit. Kemper seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

**SDIS BEST PRACTICES REVIEW:** Information from Special District's Insurance Services (SDIS) was passed out relative to the best practices discount for our annual insurance. They are asking the board to review the public records and public meetings policy. An update to that policy was provided to the board for review. It will be on the agenda for adoption at the next Board meeting.

**IPS PUMPING:** McNamee wondered how the Irrigon Pressurized system pumping costs have compared to previous years. We are at 51% of our annual allotted use. Bridgewater stated that the new pipeline has saved us some water we didn't know we were losing, and our costs for pumping are fairly equal with last year so far (about \$1500 over which is 8.5%). The crew is working very hard to talk with over-users and keep the total use under control.

## ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Signed:

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Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

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Dalarie Philippi, Board Chairperson