

# WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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October 19, 2015

## **Monthly Board Meeting**

Chairperson Philippi called the meeting to order on October 19, 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. Guests at the meeting were J.R. Cook, Executive Director of the Northeast Oregon Water Association (NOWA) and, later in the meeting, Herb Stahl of the Stanfield Hutterian Brethran.

**AGENDA:** Chairman Philippi accepted the agenda as prepared with the exception of adding a date for the budget meeting.

**GUEST:** J.R. Cook gave an overview of the work NOWA is doing in the Basin. He discussed representation of the Basin at legislative and oversight meetings and planning for the current water projects. The Central Project plans are underway. This will involve piping water from the existing Amstead pump station east of Irrigon, across the WEID main canal, and into in the Westland Irrigation District (WID) canal for delivery to WID irrigators. The Board mentioned that we have not seen any information on this project and that WID has not contacted the District for a crossing agreement. These agreements typically take 90 days as they now have to go through Boise for approval. Question and answer discussion on NOWA's work.

## **MONTHLY BUSINESS**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Frederickson moved to approve the minutes of the September 2015 Board meeting. Mueller seconded. Motion passed.

**BILLS PAYABLE:** After review, Mueller moved to approve the September accounts payable list in the amount of \$85,747.76. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

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

**PROFORMA BUDGET:** The proforma budget, indicating expenditures for the remainder of 2015 was reviewed. Akers has decided to bring in the prison crew to for four weeks to clean the Boardman laterals now rather than February. The budget was reviewed and discussed.

## REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

### **OPERATIONS REPORT:**

**EMPLOYEE:** Walt Steagall has submitted his notice and will retire effective December 31, 2015. Walt has been with the District since June 2009. He is the equipment operator, relief ditchrider and does the water management. He will be missed and very hard to replace. Discussion.

**DUMP TRUCK:** Ray reported that he has been looking for a used dump truck in the \$12,000 price range. Thus far, he is not finding anything that would be an upgrade to what we have now. McNamee stated that our truck would likely pass the DMV inspection as most inspectors wouldn't notice the problems our mechanic has identified. We have two employees trying to get their CDL and need to use the dump truck for our winter work. Thus, we need it back on the road. Ray agreed. He will take it in for inspection and keep his eyes open for a good deal moving forward.

**FALL/WINTER PROJECTS:** Ray reviewed the winter work schedule, which included updates, as listed below:

- 1) The 30-36-inch penstock and manifold at the Irrigon pump station will be exposed for inspection right away. We will know more what to do once we dig up this pipe. The pumps will be pulled as soon as the permit is in hand.
- 2) Lateral 5 and 7 project – we are waiting for delivery confirmation from Fredericksons, then will put a budget together for the project. We have identified someone to do the historical work.
- 3) The work is being done on the canal road off Patterson Ferry Road.
- 4) Canal and lateral cleaning – will be started in November.

These three projects are anticipated to be done and are in preliminary planning:

- 5) Install a new drain in the main canal near Three Mile Dam.
- 6) Work on the road into Three Mile Dam, just off Powerline
- 7) New screen for the McGraw pump station in Boardman

**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.

**IPS PROJECT:** Herb Stahl gave an update on the IPS screen project. He anticipates the permit to be mailed the first week in November. Discussion. Stahl presented his invoices thus far for Ross Machine, consultant, and engineering. The invoice from the screen supplier will be forwarded to Bev. The Board agreed to pay their share of the costs once Bridgewater has reviewed all the invoices and confirmation of the permit.

**WATER SUPPLY WORK:** An updated matrix was handed out to the Board, showing the progress of various water supply efforts and projects done by the District.

**FEASIBILITY STUDY GRANT FOR STORAGE PROJECT:** Water Resources Department's feasibility grant application process is open to mid-February. Based on meetings with the City of Umatilla and discussion with the City of Hermiston, Bridgewater recommends that we submit an application. Cost to submit the application will be \$2500, prepared by JUB. Cost of the actual feasibility study will be \$25,000 - \$50,000 depending on the number of sites we want studied, the size, and the scope of the geological and hydrological work needed. If we get the grant, we will look for regional partners. The Board agreed to move forward with the application.

**CONSERVED WATER STATUTES:** Bridgewater distributed information on Oregon's conserved water statute. For the Irrigon enclosed system, she thinks we may be able to add acres, due to the piping work we did last winter and the upgrades we will do this winter, under this program. These are preliminary thoughts, and she wanted the Board's approval before looking into this possibility. The Board wants to be sure there would be no harm to the District patrons as part of any consideration. The Board agreed for management to move ahead with research into this.

**DUES FOR NOWA:** The Board had no objection to paying the \$1000 in dues to NOWA, as budgeted in 2014.

## DISTRICT BUSINESS

**2014 DISTRICT AUDIT:** Mueller moved to accept the 2014 WEID audit as prepared by the auditors. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

**DISTRICT ELECTIONS:** Vern Frederickson filed a petition for Division 4 Director by the closing date. Abe McNamee filed a petition for Division 2 Director by the closing date. Mueller moved that Frederickson and McNamee be declared elected. Kemper seconded. Motion passed with Mueller, Philippi and Kemper voting aye. McNamee and Frederickson abstained.

**BUDGET MEETING:** After discussion, the 2015 budget meeting was set for Monday, November 16 at 8:00 am at the Irrigon Fire Hall (later cancelled).

## ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

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Dalarie Philippi, Board Chairperson