

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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March 21, 2016

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called Board meeting to order on March 21, 2016 at 9:10 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 and Warren Kemper; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Guest Bob Ringering from Special Districts Association of Oregon. Directors Bob Mueller and Vern Frederickson were not able to attend.

AGENDA: Chairman Philippi approved the agenda.

SDAO: Bob represents the irrigation districts as part of his job with SDAO. He reviewed what they offer to the Districts – on-line safety training, human resource support, Board member training and support, special trainings upon request. He talked about the Global Harmonizing System, asking us to assure our District will complete that transition by June 1. He talked about the Haz Mat communication plan that needs to be developed by the District and about Hazardous identification protocol. He mentioned that SDAO is focusing on Ethics training for the Districts and Boards this year as part of their own safety program. WEID has received all the safety credits on our annual bill, and encouraged us to keep that up. He said that the SDAO safety grant would focus on water intrusion again this year. He thought that work done along our canal towards safety of adjoin landowners (drainage) would qualify for that grant. Bob left his phone number of 541-460-3633 and said we could call him at any time with questions. He will do a safety check with Bev after the meeting.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: McNamee moved to approve the minutes of the February 2016 Board meeting. Kemper seconded. Motion passed.

BILLS PAYABLE: After review, McNamee moved to approve the January accounts payable list in the amount of \$198,536.14 plus \$128,252.30 from the project fund. Kemper seconded. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: The financial reports were reviewed and discussed.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

MANAGER'S' REPORT: A written report was distributed to the directors and is attached to and a part of the minutes.

PROJECT UPDATES: Bridgewater gave updates on the IPS and Lateral 7 projects, which is also listed in the Manager's report.

FIELD SUPERINTENDENT JOB DESCRIPTION: Richard French has been hired as Field Superintendent. The Board reviewed the job description for Field Superintendent. McNamee moved to accept the job description. Kemper seconded. Motion passed.

EMPLOYEE LIVING OUTSIDE IRRIGATION DISTRICT: Two employees, Casey Surber and Richard French, currently live outside the district. The Districts policy states, "*Employees are expected to reside within the District or as approved by the Board.*" Bridgewater asked for Board approval for these two employees. Casey lives in McNary and Richard in Hermiston. They are both within 15 minutes of Three Mile Dam and 20 minutes of the office. McNamee moved to approve these employees with the intent to evaluate the situation at the end of the irrigation season. Kemper seconded. Discussion: these living areas are closer to the office and definitely the dam than someone living in Boardman. In case of canal failure, the first report is to the dam or Spillway No. 1. Motion passed.

DRUG, ALCOHOL & PHARMACEUTICAL RANDOM TESTING: Discussion about random testing for alcohol, drugs and selected pharmaceuticals, as authorized by law. McNamee moved to approve random drug, alcohol and pharmaceutical testing as part of standard procedures for the District. Kemper seconded. This is in addition to pre-employment testing, testing in the case of an accident, and reasonable suspicion testing. Motion passed.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

CENTURY TEL CROSSING – RELOCATION CANAL: Century Tel will be doing an underground crossing of the Relocation Canal on the west side of Division within the next month. This is after the start of irrigation season. Both Reclamation and the District recommend allowing this crossing as it will not impact the canal. Kemper moved to allow the crossing. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

EASEMENT AND SAFETY ISSUES: Discussion relative to new employees along with training of new employees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into executive session at 10:24 a.m. to discuss correspondence from District's attorney. Executive session was closed at 10:35 a.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

GROUNDWATER DISCUSSION: The Board discussed the recent meeting with the groundwater folks from Water Resources Department and groundwater issues.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Dalarie Philippi, Board Chairperson