

# WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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April 18, 2016

## **Monthly Board Meeting**

Chairperson Philippi called the meeting to order on April 18, 2016 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, Abe McNamee, Warren Kemper, Bob Mueller (on phone) and Vern Frederickson; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; visitors Jeff Saks and Larry Burns

**AGENDA:** Chairman Philippi approved the agenda as prepared.

**JEFF SAKS, WATER USER:** Jeff had several issues to bring to the Board.

- 1) Mc Graw Pump Operation: He showed the board several items that he felt would help operating the McGraw Pump Station, where he gets his water. One would be a timer that would allow the pump to turn on automatically and the second is considering a VFD for the pump station. He felt that it is unfair for the patrons in the subdivision to rely on Jerry Anderson to turn the pump on and off each day. The Board directed staff to consider these items and get back to Sak.
- 2) Water Rights: Jeff is concerned that water rights are being transferred off properties in the district, including his, without proper authorization. The Board assured him this is not the case. He went through his own experience, which included several adjustments to his billings, based on 3111 adjustments, removal of roadway. Bev explained this subdivision came in as 3111 was winding down – rights on the roadway were signed off by the developer, but were kept on the property until after 3111. She has been transferring the roadway rights off annually to keep them available in the district for use. Last season, she made the adjustment to the billings for houses and driveways plus the roadway. Landowners about a pending transfer. It turned out that the road adjustment had already been made a few years earlier, which added to the confusion. In the meantime, several landowners requested clarity on the water rights. She has had them mapped, but has not had a chance to review the entire history of the rights and present that to the landowners. Since the property borders the canal, and our current maps are more accurate than 3111, the total rights do not actually balance with the original 3111 filing. She will try to get this done when things slow down at the office, but early summer. In the meantime, the landowners have been allowed to pay the lesser billing until she can provide clarity on the water rights and speak with the landowners.

The board thanks Sak for his time and he left the meeting at 9:20 am.

Larry Burns, Irrigon Fire Marshal, spoke to the Board about the Department's November bond election. If it passes, the Fire Department will start working on its new building. The current one, where we meet, will become available for lease. Discussion. He left the meeting.

## MONTHLY BUSINESS

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Frederickson moved to approve the minutes of the March 2016 Board meeting. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

**BILLS PAYABLE:** After review, McNamee moved to approve the March accounts payable list for the amounts of \$128,025.00 for the general account and \$41,768.20 for the capital account. Kemper seconded. Motion passed.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** The financial reports for the period ending March 31, 2016 were reviewed.

## REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

**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.

Richard French, new Field Superintendent arrived at the meeting. He was introduced to the Board. Discussion, Q&A.

**DEQ COMPLAINT:** Bridgewater reported that DEQ had received a complaint about oil being buried along the canal in Boardman. This was a bogus claim and turned out to be called in to DEQ by a temporary employee that was recently fired. She will investigate and send report to DEQ and doesn't anticipate the need for any further action.

**IRRIGON PUMP STATION ISSUES:** We hve been notified by Herb Stahl about possible issues with the new pumps at the Irrigon station. We are investigating the complaint. Discussion. The board directed staff to be sure that all pump cans work properly and are repaired if there is a problem.

## DISTRICT BUSINESS

**REFFETT METER:** Wayne Reffett has asked that the Board reconsider the size of the meter that will be installed for him. He prefers a six-inch meter in order to keep as much pressure on this system as possible. The Board declined to reconsider and confirmed the previous decision for the four-inch meter.

**DISTRICT SHOP:** Discussion about a shop for the District was postponed.

**CANAL ACCESS OFF DEPOT LANE TO HG 78:** Abe wanted to know if the District's position about having a road from Depot Lane to the canal at this location has changed. It had not. Bridgewater explained that the landowner was previously contacted about improving the former ditch into an access road now that it has been piped. The owner, Sandra Dooney, came to a Board meeting about this. Abe offered to do the needed improvement. Bridgewater will send a new letter to Dooney.

**OWRD GROUNDWATER MEETING:** Three Board members (Philippi, Frederickson, Mueller) attended a recent meeting with the groundwater staff from Oregon Water Resources Department and the District legal team. The meeting was held in Hermiston. Discussion.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into executive session at 11:40 a.m. to discuss correspondence from District's attorney. Executive session was closed at 12:05 a.m.

### OTHER BUSINESS

**CANAL GATES:** Boardman police reported that there has been drug running along the canal in Boardman. The district will close all canal gates (they have been left open during the start-up) by the end of the day and keep them closed. There are 4-5 gates needing repair. We will get to them as quick as we can.

**DEQ PERMIT:** The City of Hermiston's DEQ permit is almost ready to go out for public comment. A request has come in from Hermiston Foods asking about the City of Hermiston Class A water. The District will work with the City to prepare an official handout for such requests.

### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 12:15 a.m.

Signed:

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Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

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Dalarie Philippi, Board Chairperson