

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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November 21, 2016

Monthly Board Meeting

Vice Chairperson Frederickson called the meeting to order on November 21, 2016 at 9:05 a.m. at the Irrigon Fire Hall located at 705 N. Main St. in Irrigon. Those in attendance were: Board members, Vern Frederickson, Warren Kemper, Abe McNamee and Bob Mueller; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Engineer Gary Weatherly. Director Dalarie Philippi arrived later in the meeting.

AGENDA: The agenda was approved by Vice Chairman Frederickson.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into executive session at 9:08 a.m. to review communication from the District's attorney and engineer relative to a groundwater issue in Boardman. Executive session was closed at 9:35 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION BUSINESS – DRAINAGE ALONG THE DONOVAN MEADOWS SUBDIVISION IN BOARDMAN: In order to protect its canal and alleviate some of the natural drainage problems along the Donovan Meadows subdivision, the Board made the following motion:

Moved by Mueller to continue monitoring the wells in the area of T4N, R25E, NW ¼ NW ¼ Section 22 and to install drainage within the federal right-of-way on the north side of the canal. McNamee seconded the motion. Discussion. Landowner fences will need to be moved. Bridgewater was directed to contact the landowners asking them to be a minimum of 40 feet from the canal liner, distance to be field confirmed. District crew will need to remove some trees and brush. There is power at the Donovan Meadows pump station that can be used to pump the water into the WEID canal. There will be a meter on the pump so we know how much water is being pumped. We will start with the area along Robbins property and the property to the east for now – a distance of 1000 feet. Motion passed.

The Board discussed canal lining ideas with Weatherly, asking about HDPE type linings. Gary pointed out that they work well in areas where there is not underground water. In many parts of our canal where water is moving towards and under the canal, the lining would float and would need concrete to hold in place. He felt that what we are doing now – pouring 3.5 – 4 inch thick concrete walls and looking at adding drainage, is the best course. Weatherly left the meeting about 10 am.

LEGAL/MODELING DISCUSSION: Frederickson brought up his concern about the amount of legal fees the District is paying and what are we getting out of it. Can we move forward in a direction that won't need all the legal fees? He stated that the modeling effort will be important for us to be engaged. We need to know what we stand to lose. We will need water to make up for the loss of return flows. Bridgewater pointed out that the modeling will support our claim for loss of flows. She stated that we are ready to submit a request for a shallow aquifer critical groundwater area. The Board agreed we should do that, but perhaps put other things on hold until the modeling is complete and we see where things are with the CTUIR water right settlement meetings.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

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

BILLS PAYABLE: After review, Mueller moved to approve the October accounts payable list in the amount of \$70,593.70. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Financial reports ending October 31, 2016 were briefly reviewed. McNamee had some questions about the lines and laterals part of the budget, why we purchased dump truck tires at Boardman Tire Factory rather than Commercial Tire and did we pay someone to put the starter in the dump truck? Bridgewater will get the answers to these questions and send them out.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

MANAGER'S' REPORT:

MAIN CANAL HG 86: The crew is working on repair to the main canal near HG 86. This is an area we have watched all season as the liner has failed. Changes to the ownership on the south of the canal have alleviated the need for us to install drainage as the new landowner will do that. We need to remove the bridge and have discovered there is not an owner to the bridge. It looks like Morrow County installed that bridge many years ago. Once we get permission from the County to remove the bridge, we can finish the work there. Stahls will likely agree to put the bridge back in place and own the bridge moving forward.

STEAGALL: Walt Steagall has been working for the district, trading out his work for insurance. He plans to help with canal cleaning and projects this winter. Discussion. The Board feels that Walt has been a valuable employee to the District and would like to help him keep his insurance. They understand he has been ill and needs the insurance. They directed Bridgewater to find a way to allow him to assist

with training, excavator operation, and water management as we need and see if he can pay part of his health insurance if he is not able to work the 40 hours. They would like to get him to Medicare, if possible.

BASIN MODELING: Bridgewater reported on the second Basin Modeling meeting held at the BOR office last week. There hasn't been much movement yet. Reclamation is staying solid on trying to identify return flow losses due to Phase II and potential losses from a CTUIR water right settlement. WRD is very engaged on this issue. She thinks that we don't need a hydrologist right now, but may need someone to help us review what Reclamation puts out.

CTUIR WATER RIGHT SETTLEMENT: The CTUIR has been meeting with other irrigation districts, discussing water right settlement. We are most concerned about their request to trade Maxwell water to Hermiston for Columbia River water. Frederickson pointed out that we should meet with the CTUIR and keep communication open so they know our concerns.

EMPLOYEE CERTIFICATIONS: Here is where the employee's certifications stand:

- 1) Ben Svatonsky was hired with a CDL. He has obtained a Haz Mat endorsement and recently got his public applicators license with Right of Way endorsement. He will test for his aquatic license in December.
- 2) Casey Surber failed his first test for Laws and Safety and will test again. He has been told that we will let him go if he doesn't get at least one of his certifications by the end of his probation. He is going for a Right of Way endorsement and will follow with the aquatic.
- 3) Richard French needs to get a public applicator license with aquatic endorsement and a Class A CDL. He will test for his Laws and Safety in December.
- 4) Frank Villegas is working on his CDL. He will follow with an applicator license.
- 5) Ben de los Santos is working on his public applicators license with Right of Way endorsement.

Frederickson pointed out that we should find out where they are having trouble in testing and help them. It is likely calibration. He is willing to spend 45 minutes or so helping with calibration.

Discussion ensued about paying for the testing. The Board confirmed that the District will pay for the test when passed – one test only for each category.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

LANDOWNER DELIVERY WHEN PIPE GOES IN: Kemper asked if it is the Board's attitude that landowner have to go to sprinkler irrigation when laterals are piped? He wants to make sure everyone is treated fairly? Discussion. The main

purposed of piping is water conservation. The pipes are sized to deliver 8.5 gallons per minute per acre (gpm), which is the District standard. Frederickson said that folks could take their allotment anyway they want as long as they stay within our standards and are metered. Kemper moved to limit the landowners on a piped system to 4.5 acre-feet of water annually and their flow to 8.5 gpm. McNamee seconded. Discussion. Deliveries would need to be metered. Motion passed.

RECESS

The Board recessed the meeting at 11:05. They moved to the District office located at 840 Hwy 730.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into executive session at 11:30 a.m. to discuss Union negotiations and meet with their Union representative, Mike Snyder. Executive session was closed at 1:15 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Vice Chairperson Frederickson adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Vern Frederickson, Board Vice Chairperson