

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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December 21, 2016

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the meeting to order on December 21, 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, Vern Frederickson, Warren Kemper, and Abe McNamee; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Director Bob Mueller was not able to attend the meeting.

AGENDA: The agenda was approved by Chairperson Philippi.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

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

Frederickson moved to approve the minutes of the Special Board meeting held on December 5, 2016. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

BILLS PAYABLE: After review, McNamee moved to approve the November accounts payable list in the amount of \$67,593.17. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Financial reports ending November 30, 2016 were briefly reviewed. A proforma budget was presented and discussed. The fund balance will be negative for 2016 although the final balance won't be known until we get the accounting for conjunctive use costs in the spring.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

MANAGER'S REPORT:

INFORMAL MEETING WITH CTUIR: Bridgewater and Philippi reported on an informal meeting with Joe Ely, consultant for the CTUIR. Mr. Ely wanted to let the District know how they are progressing in the tribal water right settlement, ask the District for a mitigation number we are looking for, and continue to assure that the CTUIR plans to reach a settlement that will not harm the Basin irrigators. Discussion ensued.

LEGAL/CRITICAL GW DRAFT: The Board has received a copy of the draft proposal for declaration of a shallow aquifer critical groundwater area. The Board is concerned about the money spent for legal and consultant fees and wants to decrease those costs for 2017. Bridgewater presented a plan that would do that. This is represented in the proposed budget presented later in the meeting.

OREGON SHPO: Oregon State Historical Preservation Office has sent a letter to Reclamation in response to the consultation for our Lateral 11 project. They do not agree with our findings that Lateral 11 does not have a historical significance. They want more discussion and perhaps mitigation. Reclamation will take the lead on the response. Morrow County's work on the road crossing will move forward, so we'll need to figure out how a delay would affect the operations of this Lateral in 2017.

The Oregon SHPO has a draft document that will be used as a template for putting Oregon irrigation districts over 50 years old on the historic register. At this time, there is no mitigation in the draft document for replacing the laterals such as ours. This issue is one that will Reclamation will need to engage in and likely OWRC, the irrigation district state association, as it will have impacts to irrigation districts statewide.

Bridgewater recommends that we proceed with consultation with Reclamation and the Oregon SHPO on all of Boardman this year so we can be ready for future grants to enclose laterals. Discussion. We will invite Stephanie O'Brien from Anderson Perry to a future meeting to ask how this process would work and discuss the scope of work. We should know more what the State is looking for in a few months.

CONTACT WITH IRZ ENGINEERING REQUESTING PAYMENT FOR IPS PUMP MODIFICATION: Paul Wattenberger from IRZ has been contacted both verbally and with a letter requesting they pay the work being done to shorten the pump shaft on the 300 HP pump at the Irrigon Pump Station. They are considering this request. We do not have a final number yet, but it is expected to be under \$10,000.

FLOOD IRRIGATION – CONVERSION TO SPRINKLER: Philippi discussed the Board's motion at the last meeting that would require limit irrigation delivery, basically requiring flood irrigators to convert to sprinkler, when the laterals were piped. Discussion. Points brought up:

- 1) This is part of the District's ongoing plan to conserve water.
- 2) Flood irrigators use more water than sprinkler.
- 3) The west end of the Boardman District is all flood and the soil is shallow.
- 4) Conversion is costly and there is not a way to return that cost for many landowners.
- 5) What about the few flooders remaining in Irrigon – when will they be forced to go to sprinkler?

Bridgewater pointed out that the District's standard has been for properties to convert from flood to sprinkler when actions were taken that changed how water would be delivered to the property. This would be partitions, subdivisions, or piping of open laterals. For instance, all of Irrigon went from flood to sprinkler in 1998 when the open ditches were enclosed. The same with various laterals. There were two exceptions to this, both involving the Rocky Proctor property. This property is allowed to continue flooding even though the ditch has been eliminated. It is on a limited basis – taking less water for a longer period of time. More discussion.

Bridgewater thought we should get back to this when we review the update from the Boardman Master Plan.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

FINAL PAYMENT TO HERB STAHL – IPS PROJECT: The amount of \$67,479.81 is due Herb Stahl, as contractor for the IPS rebuild project. Bridgewater presented a financial report showing that the loan funds have spent. A motion was made by Frederickson to pay Stahl using reserve funds. The UPS screen project (\$7000) and the OR unemployment Excess Refund (\$20,000) will be closed out with the remaining coming from the Conjunctive Use Emergency Reserve. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

JOB DESCRIPTION – IRRIGATION SYSTEM OPERATOR: The Board reviewed a job description that would eliminate the System Op I, II and III, and have a single job description for the ditchrider/maintenance employees. She thinks this makes more sense and gives the District the ability pay an employee as their skills are developing. She also reviewed how the employees would be evaluated. She recommends she continues evaluation at 3 months, 6 months, and a year. After that, they will be annually reviewed by the Board as a part of budget preparation. Discussion. Kemper moved to adopt the new job description. McNamee seconded the motion. Motion passed. It will be submitted to the Union as part of their proposal and be in effect January 1, 2017.

BUDGET – 2017: The budget worksheet and 2017 proposed budget was reviewed and discussed by the Board.

- There will be no overall rate increase.
- This is the first year we will have five field employees and full benefits for all 12 months.
- Two dollars per acre was moved from Legal to O&M to help cover the cost of the additional ditchrider/maintenance added in June 2016.
- The conjunctive use expense item was held at \$165,000 as this would be a normal year. If the amount goes over that, as it has the past two years, the Board will do a special assessment. In this way, patrons can be assured that the money will go where it is dedicated.
- There will not be a new pickup (replacing the ¾ ton 2004 Chevy) in this budget. But, we need to do that for 2018.

A motion was made by Frederickson to adopt the 2017 budget as prepared with changes made during discussion. Second by McNamee. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into executive session at 12:50 p.m. to discuss Union negotiations. Executive session was closed at 1:10 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson