

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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April 18, 2017

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called Board meeting to order on April 18, 2017 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 Abe McNamee and Warren Kemper; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Field Superintendent, Richard French; Office Manager, Lisa Baum; Guests, Pat McNamee and Morrow County Commissioner Don Russell. Director Bob Mueller was absent.

AGENDA: Chairman Philippi approved the agenda and moved McNamee's discussion earlier in the meeting.

BOARDMAN WATER RUN-OFF AND GROUNDWATER DISCUSSION: Many of the open laterals in Boardman take run-off water in the off-season. What will happen to that run-off water when the District pipes its laterals? This winter, along Rippee Road where the pipe went in last spring, water was standing in the fields. We are working with Frederickson to take water from their pond into our lateral and then to the natural drainage system. Discussion and cooperation will be needed as we move forward. Russell stated that all areas were impacted with the weather events of this year. Along Bombing Range Road, the groundwater has been steadily increasing over the last 30 years. What do we want from the County?

Bridgewater suggested working with the County, the Port and locals to establish how the drainage water can be collected and continue to the Columbia with the least impact. Several other issues were brought up – the work a few years ago along Kunze Road where the county changed some ditches and did not put culverts in to properly allow for run-off and subdivisions where planning for drainage was not done.

Russell pointed out that we need to do a better job of educating about the groundwater problem. There is nothing in the planning process to deal with groundwater. Switching from flood to sprinkler irrigation will help during the summer. McNamee stated that piping will make it worse in the winter.

Discussion. Russell will talk to Burke and Matt at County. Bev will talk to Port of Morrow. Perhaps a small working group can be formed. Also, we may be able to work with NCRS on planning and funds for implementation.

Commissioner Russell left the meeting at 9:23 am.

MCNAMEE WATER RIGHT TRANSFER 5N2626 Tax lot 400: In 2008, starting with the 2009 irrigation season, the Board approved McNamee addition of 37 acres for irrigation. This land had to be brought inside the district boundaries. Water rights were not water available at the time from the Irrigon system, so we have been doing temporary transfers from the main canal for this piece. He is pumping from the pond on his property that gets tailwater from the Relocation canal. Now, water rights in Irrigon are available. Bridgewater wants the Board is asked to revisit this matter. McNamee would prefer to stay on the pond, but wouldn't object to changing to the Irrigon system if he had to. Points of discussion:

Irrigon System: The District increased the delivery pipe sizes and can deliver the water for the 37 acres. Permanent water rights are becoming available, but not enough yet. The District may be able to get additional water rights on Irrigon by doing a conserved water right for the 2018 season.

Pond System: The pond gets tailwater from the Relocation canal and has a flowage right. The district increases the spill at times, especially in the heat of summer, to accommodate McNamee's pumping, but for the most part it is tailwater. There is a large waiting list for Umatilla rights, so using the Irrigon rights here would allow for more irrigation in the entire District system.

Abe McNamee, who had not been participating in the discussion, declared a conflict of interest. He commented that the relocation canal spills create a large wet area and pumping the water helps keep that under control.

McNamee wondered if we could make the Columbia River (through the IPS) primary and the pond supplemental. Bridgewater suggested we keep it the same for this year, apply for the conserved water rights next season and revisit this next year. The Board agreed.

Pat McNamee left the meeting at 9:30 am.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board, joined by Director Mueller on the phone, went into executive session at 9:30 a.m. The session was requested by Director Kemper to discuss areas of concern in accordance with ORS 192.660. The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:00 a.m.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: McNamee moved to approve the minutes of the March 2017 Board meeting. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

BILLS PAYABLE: After review, Frederickson moved to approve the March accounts payable list in the amount of \$105,267.63. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

FIELD SUPERINTENDENT RESIGNATION: Richard French has accepted a position in the Carpenters Union and will be leaving the District. He will not solicit work yet, but will need to take a job once it is offered. He has enjoyed his time here, but it is very stressful – a large amount of responsibility. He would also earn more at the Union job.

Bridgewater stated that French brought a lot to the District, especially in his organizational skills and work ethic. He was thanked for his time here. For now, we will work with the crew we have and give them time to develop. We may have a crew leader among them. Between her and Walt, they can continue the employee training, job oversight and keep things moving forward.

EXCAVATOR WORK: French reported that the excavator is worn out, really sloppy. Abe suggested we have Rowand Machinery put on a new swing brake and do any repairs. Frederickson moved to have Rowand Machinery come to shop and do repair work. Kemper seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM START-UP:

- Canal start-up was busy. Lots of private leaks and broken valves.
- Landowners need to be reminded about checking their own systems.
- Umatilla area folks are facing deteriorating steel lines that need replaced.
- Landowners need to know where they own shut-offs are and make sure they are in working order.
- Abe commented he liked the way we started the canal this year.
- Boardman was a day late due to windstorm that blew corn stalks into the canal. Discussion. Letter will be sent to cornstalk landowner.
- New weed bucket worked great and saved time (see below)

WATER RIGHT TRANSFER UPDATE: Lisa gave an update on the water right transfer project. It's progressing better than expected, but still many landowners left for follow-up.

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

DISTRICT BUSINESS

WEED BUCKET: The District had a weed bucket made by Ross Machine for dipping weeds out of the canal. It worked well and saved a bunch of time. Bridgewater would like to take the cost of the bucket from the equipment reserve. Kemper moved to take the \$4930 for the excavator weed bucket from the equipment reserve. McNamee seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

TELEMETRY SYSTEM RADIOS: Our telemetry system has been in place since 1998. It is a radio system which we need to keep due to the remoteness of some of the sites. We have one bad radio now (a second since the meeting). The radios need to be updated. There are several options. Discussion.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-007 – WATERSMART GRANT: Frederickson moved to accept Resolution No. 17-007, authorizing the District to apply for a \$75,000 grant to upgrade District facilities. McNamee seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

KEMPER CONCERNS: Several of Kempers concerns were discussed in Executive session earlier. Kemper wants to stay “hard” on policies that Board sets so all are being treated the same. He also asked that he be informed of issues that come up in his area of representation. Chair Philippi asked that issues of concern come to the Board regularly so they can be openly discussed and addressed. Even if a landowner has a concern that they share with any board member, that landowner does not need to attend a meeting. The Directors or Manager can represent them. She and the Board want all District members to be heard.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Dalarie Philippi, Board Chairperson