

# WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 100 IRRIGON, OREGON 97844

PHONE: (541) 922-3814 FAX: (541) 922-9775

May 15, 2017

## **Monthly Board Meeting**

Chairperson Philippi called Board meeting to order on May 15, 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 Bob Mueller; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Office Manager, Lisa Baum; Bureau of Reclamation Field Office Manager, Boris Belchoff; Guests, Patrick Smith, District Supervisor, and Chris Lulay, Wildlife Specialist, from USDA Wildlife Services. Director Warren Kemper was absent.

**AGENDA:** Chairman Philippi approved the agenda. Introductions were made.

**USDA DISCUSSION/VARMINT CONTROL:** The District has concerns about various varmints affecting the canal. The USDA folks contract out for varmint control. Discussion. The Board would like to enter into a contract with USDA for this nuisance control. Two agreements will need to be in place:

- 1) Permission to be on the land that and identify all animals that could be addressed. Boris confirmed this is a district contract as part of the O&M and Reclamation does not need to be involved.
- 2) A financial agreement. It would cover salary, vehicle, equipment and materials used - typically around \$50 per hour.

Various methods of control are used, depending on the circumstance. Animals are typically euthanized. Lulay explained that they assess risks to the public in the course of their work. The contracts could be put together in mid-June to July for the remainder of 2017. Then, we can redo for the full year at budget time.

**ACTION:** Frederickson made a motion to allocate \$1500 for this work in 2017. McNamee seconded. The directors want a good amount to start with so we can judge for next year. The funds would come from the weed control part of the budget. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

McNamee said there is a lot of activity on the Stahl property, so we would want access on the south side of the canal. That area is one of the worst. Bev will call Stahls. She will e-mail Patrick to get started on the contract.

Smith and Lulay left the meeting at 9:20 am.

## MONTHLY BUSINESS

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mueller moved to approve the minutes of the April 2017 Board meeting. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

**BILLS PAYABLE:** After review and discussion, Mueller moved to approve the April accounts payable list in the amount of \$159,033.41. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:** The financial reports for the period ending March 31, 2017 were reviewed. Not all income has been posted through this date as water right transfers are still being done. Several expense areas of concern were brought up. Financially, Bridgewater stated, it's going to be a tight year.

## REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

**FIELD CREW:** Bev plans to keep the Field Supt position open for the summer. She thinks there is an 80% chance that one of our current crew will be able to step into the position. Discussion about retired employee Walt Steagall and his work at the District for health insurance. Walt sees the system as a whole and will give a perspective to the employees different from Bev's. The employee that managed the water last year is gone, so right now, that burden is on Bev. Walt will be helpful to her and the crew. Board asked that we cut him to 20 hrs per month for training and water control and he pay half of his health insurance.

Bridgewater reported that training of the employees continues. They are each taking an area of responsibility (Irrigon, Main canal, Boardman and shop/maintenance) for thirty days, then rotating. Of course, they have to fill in and help each other, but she thinks this will give us a good crew that is cross-trained by the end of summer. Frank is still working on getting his CDL. Our dump truck has been in the shop for two weeks, so he hasn't had much drive time. The Board agreed to give him an extra two weeks to pass his CDL, before the next Board meeting.

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

**STORAGE FEASIBILITY STUDY:** Ben Volk and engineers from JUB have been working on the feasibility study for storage. There are three sites in the project to be considered:

Regional storage site

Mid-district storage that could pick up winter runoff water

Re-Reg pond at spillway No. 3 – I-84 site.

Discussion ensued on the various sites. This is a WRD grant of \$40,000 for the \$80,000 project. The completion date for the grant is June 30, 2017. The engineers will be at our June meeting for presentation and discussion.

**HYDRO DISCUSSION:** Boris talked about someone looking at hydro for McKay Dam. The District has considered hydro quite a few times. We would have to take water through Three Mile to Spillway No. 1. There is a good fall there (115 feet). Mueller pointed out it could run Jan to May some years, But, not enough to make such a project feasible.

**IPS PUMPS:** Thus far, the pumps are working fine – no cavitation. The meter does not seem to be working properly yet. This is a problem we've had since the new meter was installed about four years ago. Once the flows reach about 11 or 12 they quickly increase to 17 cfs. In perspective, max flow for the water rights on that system is 18.8 cfs. That Board suggested we have IRZ test the pipes and flow. If it is the meter and the pump is now working, we can settle with them on the cost of shortening the pump shaft.

**LOG JAM BEHIND THREE MILE DAM:** With the spring run-off, there was quite a log jam on the east bank at Three Mile Falls Diversion Dam. DSL held up the work permit, so the BPA crews could not remove the logs at optimum timing. The fisheries side lost their log boom. Many trees remain now, waterlogged and sunk into the mud. The WEID site is clear of trees, but lots of silt has settled in. The last real work done was 22 years ago under FEMA funding when Musselman dredged above the dam. We are likely looking at a summer silt removal in front of our headgates at the minimum.

The fish folks seem okay with how things are now, but Bridgewater is concerned, especially about the next high water event. Boris reiterated to the Board that WEID has the O&M for the dam under the 1926 O&M contract. It has the liability. We are covered for \$1 million under our insurance, according to Bev. Board discussion and questions ensued:

Are these logs a problem for the dam?

Who has the responsibility for the DSL permit and the work to be done?

Is there a contract between BPA, the CTUIR and BOR for the facilities on the east bank?

Has Mike's work as supervisor of the BPA crew on this issue been under his BPA contract?

At what point does the District need a DSL permit to remove silt?

Boris will bring up the matter at the next River Ops meeting. Answers to these questions will take time, but are important.

**BOARDMAN DRAINAGE:** The Port of Morrow is very interested in participating in discussion about runoff or drainage water in Boardman, especially how it affects

ODOT and port facilities. A meeting is being planned between interested parties. Discussion.

## DISTRICT BUSINESS

**TELEMETRY SYSTEM RADIOS:** Our telemetry system is a radio monitored system. Our radios are wearing out and need replacement. To find the current radio, we need to go to refurbished or find “old” stock. To replace all the radios with upgraded models is a \$45,000 cost. The board directed we get the refurbished for now and delay upgrading to new radios as long as we can.

**MEAKINS/DANIELS LINE:** We have been trying for many years to find a solution for Doug Daniels, located in Magic Gardens Estates, to get water to his property. He has been connecting to various landowners’ lines around him. Now, he has agreed to put in his own line. We’ve identified a line along 8<sup>th</sup> Street that was put in by Scott Meakins. It is an area the District planned for a line. Meakins hooked onto our 4-inch valve and installed a 2-inch line, getting permission from former Op Manager, Ray Akers for that work. We would need a 3-inch line. Meakins has a 3-inch 125 psi PVC carrier line that may be used. He wants to be paid if the District takes over his line. Director Kemper has reviewed the situation and suggested we make an offer to Meakins for the line. The Board agreed to offering him \$1500.

**BOARDMAN MASTER PLAN MEETING:** We want to hold a District-wide meeting about the Boardman Master Plan as soon as possible. It is still in the process of being updated, basically on Bev’s “plate” right now. The Board agreed that the week after Labor Day at the Port of Morrow should be the target for a meeting with plenty of notice.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Vern thanked Boris for attending the District meetings. We really appreciate input from him.

## ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

Signed:

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Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

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Dalarie Philippi, Board Chairperson