

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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June 19, 2017

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called Board meeting to order on June 19, 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; Engineers from JUB, Ben Volk, Gary Weatherly, Greg Moore. Director Warren Kemper was unable to attend.

AGENDA: Chairman Philippi approved the agenda with the addition of Strebins damage claim to the Managers report. Introductions were made.

WATER REUSE & STORAGE FEASIBILITY STUDY: The engineers gave an update on their work for the Feasibility Study. There are three areas they are reviewing in the course of the study:

Reuse reservoir. As near to the head of the canal as possible makes the most sense. Several sites have been identified on the Army Depot ground.

Reservoir for winter storage.

Re-reg to control water going into Boardman.

The engineers reviewed their findings on each area and potential sites. Lots of discussion. Water would have to be pumped one way on any site. The cost of the stored water will need to be compared to the District's cost of purchasing water through the Phase I facility. Vern wanted to know about widening the canal and using it as inline storage. It would need a series of pools to regulate the water. This was the original recommendation by Dr. Burke from Cal Poly Technical Institute in 2001. That's when we started purchasing the Langemann gates.

After discussion and review of findings, it was generally agreed that a reservoir would depend on economics and funding. The larger, regional reservoir or even a reuse in Boardman would need funding partners. A reservoir for irrigation alone may not be financially feasible. For the anticipated continued decrease in the Umatilla River, piping the open laterals and Boardman canal may be a better investment.

Discussion completed, the engineers left the meeting at 10:45 am.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

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

BILLS PAYABLE: After review and discussion, Mueller moved to approve the May accounts payable list in the amount of \$76,958.53. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: The financial reports for the period ending April 30, 2017 were reviewed and discussed.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

FIELD CREW: Bridgewater went over her plan for the crew which is to elevate Ben De Los Santos to supervisor. This would be a temporary assignment as he needs to get his pesticide license. Dalarie asked if this plan would allow for an increase in some other employees' pay, which it will. Bridgewater hopes to have things settled by early September. Kasey Kroske is here through summer. There will be an opening when he leaves. Retired employee Steagall is paying half of his health insurance and will work 20 hours per month - mainly water management and ditchrider training.

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

BOARDMAN DRAINAGE MEETING: Two meetings have been held thus far involving ODOT, Port of Morrow, VADATA, Morrow County and us. Focus has been on the east part of Boardman encompassing the Coyote Springs drainage area. Water Resources Department was invited to the last meeting. There is more than one source of the problem and lots of ideas on how to address it. The water problem seems to be getting worse each year. It is headed towards the Columbia, so we need to decide how we can get it there (or reuse it) with the least disturbance. Educating the public will be necessary. Discussion.

CONJUNCTIVE USE BILLING ERROR: Two errors were made by Reclamation in the calculation of the conjunctive use cost of water for 2015. They send us a bill for \$9752. Boris explained the errors were discovered in an internal audit. Discussion. Boris has arranged that the funds be paid in 2018. Bridgewater stated that we still have \$4676 in reserve funds from the 2015 special assessment. We will hold this and pay it all at one time.

How can we keep this from happening again? Reclamation sent Bev their spreadsheets for 2015 and 2016. She thinks she would have caught the error if they

had done so at the time. Moving forward, they will be more transparent in their calculations and will double-check from their end.

CONJUNCTIVE USE 2016. Our rate for 2016 was determined to be \$15.39 per acre-foot. 13,985 acre-feet were used for a total cost of \$215,229.15. We had budgeted \$165,000 and got \$53,970 from the special assessment (\$218,970). This would put another \$3741 towards the 2015 deficit.

LGIP CHANGES: The Local Government Investment Pool is making changes to how they invest their funds. This is where we keep a majority of our funds. We have been notified and there may be some new resolutions required in the future. They will keep us informed.

IPS PUMPS: No cavitation or problems. Meter is likely not working properly. IRZ will be called to check meter.

CUSTOMER ISSUES:

Robbins called on Friday and threatened to sue if we didn't get our little drainage pump working. The screen was clogged. We will need to get a permit from WRD to continue pumping, which we will do. The pump is back on.

Strebin called the office, threatening to sue for crop loss due to the copper sulfate treatment. Vern has investigated – it looks like about 4-5 acres total has some type of “burn” damage in four different circles. Abe said his Dad was ON at the same time, upstream from Doug, also has corn, and does not have any damage. Bev stated the Strebin fields off the Relocation Canal, where the concentrate of copper is higher, has no damage. The Board thought we should notify our insurance of a potential claim.

A customer, Van Nice, off Southshore Drive called to complain about not being notified of the copper treatment as he has goats drinking the water. He was told how to get on the notification list. This information is sent out every year in our spring newsletter. He remained upset and wanted to talk to a Board member. He called Mueller, who reported the conversation to the Board.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

LOGS BEHIND THREE MILE DAM: We'd asked Boris some questions at the last meeting about the logs behind Three Mile Dam. He has answers.

Q: Are these logs a problem for the dam? Boris talked with Reclamation engineer and the logs are not a problem. They have not effect on the dam itself.

Q: Who has the responsibility for the DSL permit and the work to be done? Mike Wick has the authority as the supervisor under a BPA contract to get the permit and for any work done on the east side of the dam for the fisheries.

Q: *Is there a contract between BPA, the CTUIR and BOR for the facilities on the east bank? There was a 1987 BPA and BOR contract for the debris to be removed for the fish facilities. There are several work maintenance contracts. Those have been cancelled when BPA took over the fish passage responsibilities.*

Q: *Has Mike's work as supervisor of the BPA crew on this issue been under his BPA contract? Yes.*

Q: *At what point does the District need a DSL permit to remove silt? Work done to maintain our irrigation diversion is exempt from permitting.*

Boris stated that the plate put on the dam with an eye bolt to secure the former log boom did not cause any damage to the dam. Reclamation will permit any further work and get drawings for the District to review. Dalarie stated we need to be sure that BPA doesn't do anything that will impact the District including increasing our liability.

SILT REMOVAL AT THREE MILE DAM DIVERSION: Bridgewater stated it has been four years since we desilted in front of our screens and it needs to be done this summer. Boris wondered what we do with the silt removed. It is placed near the site to shore up the "shore" area.

OTHER BUSINESS

BOARDMAN PUBLIC MEETING: Discussion and decision to move the meeting to later in the month - possibly Sept. 21.

SEPT BOARD MEETING: The 11th, is possible. No meeting in August.

BORIS BELCHOFF JOB ASSIGNMENT: Boris is leaving the Hermiston Field office to take a position out of the Yakima office. This is a parallel move and it was a difficult decision as he enjoys his work in the Umatilla Basin. He has enjoyed working with the WEID staff and Board. The Board has appreciated him and especially his attendance at the monthly Board meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Dalarie Philippi, Board Chairperson