

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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January 15, 2018

Organizational Meeting 2018

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the meeting to order on January 15, 2018 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, Bob Mueller Vern Frederickson, Abe McNamee and Warren Kemper; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Office Manager, Lisa Baum; Guests Miff Devin and Glenn Chowning.

ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

OATH OF OFFICE: The following newly elected director took his oath of office:

Division One: Bob Mueller (three-year term)

OFFICER ELECTION: Philippi asked for nominations for officers of the Board. Mueller nominated Dalarie Philippi to continue as Chairman and Vern Frederickson to continue as Vice Chairman. He moved that a unanimous ballot be cast for this slate of officers. Kemper seconded the nominations and the motion. A unanimous vote was cast thus electing Dalarie Philippi as Chairman of the Board of Directors and Vern Frederickson as Vice Chairman.

Bev Bridgewater was appointed to continue Secretary for the Board of Directors.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-001 - REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2017 and ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR 2018: The Board discussed meetings for the year and would like to move to Thursdays. Bridgewater needs to check the OWRC schedule to note any known conflicts. Others will do the same. Movement on the Resolution is postponed to the next meeting.

The board agreed that the next meeting date will be Thursday, February 15 at 9 am at the Irrigon Fire Hall.

Mueller moved that the organizational meeting for 2019 will be on Thursday, January 17 at 9:00 am. at the Irrigon Fire Hall. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

BANKING: Frederickson moved to continue banking with Banner Bank of Oregon and Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP). Mueller seconded. Motion passed.

BANKING SIGNATORS: Those authorized to sign on District accounts are Board Directors, Dalarie Philippi, Vern Frederickson, Warren Kemper, Robert Mueller, Abe

McNamee and Manager/Secretary, Beverly Bridgewater. Lisa Baum is authorized to make transactions. Since there are no changes to the accounts, no action was needed.

AGENDA: The agenda for the rest of the meeting was reviewed with additions. It was approved by Chairperson Philippi.

Introductions were made.

BOARDMAN GROUNDWATER ISSUE: Miff Devin and Glenn Chowning were at the meeting to discuss the considerations about the groundwater problem in Boardman. Miff reported that he doesn't see any issue with water quality, but does have more testing to do. Bridgewater handed out a map showing the three pumping sites that are under consideration. Discussion ensued about the three sites:

Site A – off Root Lane

Site B – off Bombing Range Road

Site C – Off Wilson Road by the Blueberry Farm

Frederickson moved to go forward with pumping water from Sites A & C. Mueller seconded the motion. Discussion. Bridgewater will need to confirm whether or not there are any water or livestock rights downstream from Site C. Chowning reminded us about his discussion with Reclamation years ago when he was trying to get a right on his well sump at that site and Reclamation stated that the water is within a Reclamation project and is Reclamation project water. Bridgewater recalled that meeting with Tony Justus, Loren Kjeldgaard, Chowning and herself. Motion passed.

Discussion continued about where water would go during the non-irrigation season. The Port plans to address it. At least if they don't have to manage the water during the irrigation season, that is very helpful to them. Thus, WEID is looking at taking as much water as it can (if it makes financial sense) during the irrigation season and the Port will deal with it in the late fall and winter.

Chowning's concerns relative to Site B are that pumping water from the ponds along Bombing Range to the canal will affect his well water rights. The well is hydraulically connected to the ponds. He is OK if drainage water is picked up and sent to the WEID canal, but he would want to take a like amount of water from the WEID canal – an exchange of sort. He wants to be sure we protect what he currently has and is not injured. The Board understood and concurred with this.

Miff and Glenn left the meeting at 9:55 am.

The Board discussed the pumping costs involved with this water. The District will only receive benefit when it is on conjunctive use, but would be expected to pump the water all season. It would need help with the cost of pumping and would look for at least 50% assistance.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Review and discussion. Frederickson moved to approve the minutes of the December 2017 Board meeting. Mueller seconded. Discussion. Motion passed.

BILLS PAYABLE: After review, Mueller moved to approve the December accounts payable list in the amount of \$80,268.92. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

OPERATIONS REPORT:

EMPLOYEE DRUG TESTING: Abe asked if the employees were drug tested. The District has 1) pre-employment testing, 2) reasonable suspicion testing and 3) post-accident testing. Those with a CDL are in a random testing pool, as required by ODOT. Discussion. Bev stated that our Union negotiator, Mike Snyder, worked with the Board to amend our drug testing policy in 2002. Random testing was removed at that time. This policy has held up well for us over the years. The Board would like to reinstate random testing. This will require an update to the current policy and Bridgewater will start work on that. In the meantime, the three most recent temps were not drug tested and we will get their pre-employment test done.

WINTER WORK: Work is moving along. We started concrete work Jan. 3 and canal cleaning with the prison inmate crew on Jan. 9. Our own crew has been passing the flu around, so we haven't had a full crew very often. We have one prison crew and will get a second one or two days a week. We will forge ahead with using both crews as much as we can right now while the weather is holding. We plan to be out of Boardman with work and cleaning by the end of January although will need to be back in March for the Gattenbein corner concrete work. That leaves us five weeks on the upper canal. We'll need all that time.

WATER START-UP: Dalarie stated concern that folks will want to start water early with the weather we are having. The target date right now is March 19, but Bev felt we could move to March 15 with April 3 in Irrigon. There is a lot of concrete panel work to do since we have a lot of damage still from last winters big freeze, and we will prioritize them based on time.

OFFICE MANAGER - COLLECTIONS: Lisa presented a property to be sent to the attorney for collections and potential foreclosure. She explained the process to the Board. Discussion. Frederickson doesn't like to incur more costs on these small lots. The landowners are already in dire straits. Kemper agreed. He doesn't like to see additional costs added to the accounts. Bridgewater explained the collection procedures and that under Irrigation Law, the districts have a right to collect what is owed to them and have been given the authority to do so. McNamee pointed out that, if we don't follow our procedures, how can we assure folks will pay their bill?

We could start down a path that could easily snowball. Bridgewater explained we have a standard that we follow, and we've relaxed that standard a bit the past three years, based on these same concerns by this Board. Previous Boards worked on the standard and wanted lands to go to collections in the same year they became past due. We would have in excess of 20 landowners come to the Board annually. This is after billings from the District and two certified notices to the landowners.

Lisa pointed out that over the 20 years she has been here, only three have gone to foreclosure. The more strict and shortened process kept folks from getting so far behind. As far as bill delinquency, many folks respond to the lien notice, the next layer is the foreclosure notice, which more will respond to. The rest respond to the collection notice from the attorney. This also allows a mortgage holder to step in, which further keeps the bill from snowballing.

RESOLUTION 018-0004: RESOLUTION TO PROCEED WITH COLLECTIONS: Kemper moved to adopt Resolution No. 018-004 which authorizes staff to send information on the Vickery property located at 485 SW Second Street, 5N26E Section 25A, tax lot 203, to the attorney for collections. The Resolution includes authorization to proceed to foreclosure in compliance with State law. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

DISTRICT LOTS: Kemper and Frederickson asked about the two lots we own in town. There is one off 3rd St and one by the school. Maybe it's time to consider selling those.

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

IPS DISCUSSION: No decision on action for metering the Irrigon Pump Station. The meter we have in place does not measure properly and hasn't since the retrofit. She needs help finding out if the meter is the problem or the installation. Board suggested Bridgewater talk to Miff at the Port. Also to contact the vendor of the meter we have to see why it isn't measuring properly.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 18-002 – 2018 BUDGET: The Board met in December as a budget committee. The recommended budget had been distributed to the Board with comments about any changes. Bridgewater noted this does not include anything for the drainage work or pumping the "nuisance" water. She also noted there is no increase to the landowners in this budget, as recommended by the Board. Mueller moved to adopt resolution No. 18-002 which approves the 2018 budget. McNamee seconded. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 18-003 – O&M FEES AND COLLECTIONS: After review of the Resolution, including the collection information, Mueller moved to adopt

Resolution No. 18-003 which sets the O&M Fees starting January 2018 and establishes collections procedures. McNamee seconded.

JOHN PARTLOW UPDATE FLOOD CONVERSION: Postponed to the next meeting.

FLOOD IRRIGATION DISCUSSION HG 86 & 87: This has been discussed several times in the past. Bridgewater handed out area maps, which included topographic information. There is a fall of 45' which explains why the flood water reached Depot Lane so quickly. Discussion. Direction decided:

- 1) If we pipe or replace the heagates, landowners will need to convert to sprinkler.
- 2) Flooders need to keep their water off the county road or their delivery will be shut off.

Bridgewater said both these actions are consistent throughout the District. She will send a letter to the two landowners involved.

ANNUAL AUDIT: Our auditors would like a three year contract. The contract and price was reviewed. Mueller moved to accept the three-year contract with Barnett and Moro, PC. McNamee seconded. Bridgewater stated that we've gone to bid in the past. Barnett and Moro are the only folks in the area that are able to do municipal audits and were the only bidders. The board thought the cost reasonable and the increase is tied to the Consumer Index. The motion includes authorization for Chairman Philippi to sign on behalf of the District. Motion passed.

RECLAMATION LETTER: The Board reviewed and provided comments on a letter that will be sent to Reclamation Regional Director, Lorri Gray.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at Noon.

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson