

# WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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February 15, 2018

## **Monthly Board Meeting**

Vice Chairperson Frederickson called Board meeting to order on February 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, Vern Frederickson, Abe McNamee, Bob Mueller, and Warren Kemper; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater. Chairperson Dalarie Philippi was unable to attend.

**AGENDA:** Vice Chairperson Frederickson proposed adding setting the next meeting date to the agenda. Mueller moved to accept the agenda with the addition. Kemper seconded. Motion passed.

**BOARDMAN DRAINAGE DISCUSSION:** Bridgewater has talked with landowners in the area of the Wilson Road/Root Lane drainage and researched for any private water rights in the area. There is one private primary water right off drainage water and a supplemental right for the property south of Wilson Road (the blueberries). Riekkola and Taylor have offered to allow the District to put a pump on their property downstream of the blueberries, which would be about 300 feet from the canal. This allows the water to travel through the Bartlett property, who is using it for livestock watering. Taylor is interested in taking the water for irrigation at that site. Discussion. Frederickson asked Bridgewater to bring more particulars and a budget for this project to the next board meeting.

## **MONTHLY BUSINESS**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mueller moved to approve the minutes of the January 2018 organizational and Board meeting. Kemper seconded. Motion passed.

**BILLS PAYABLE:** After review and discussion, McNamee moved to approve the accounts payable list in the amount of \$180,292.72. Mueller seconded. Motion passed.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:** The preliminary financial reports for the year ending December 31, 2017 were reviewed and discussed. Bridgewater stated that we do not have a final accounting for conjunctive use pumping yet so this report shows the full amount of \$165,000 being spent. There could be a swing either way of \$10,000. WRD is reviewing their measurement at UMTO upon her request. This report indicates a fund balance of \$34,000. She recommends that \$25,000 of that be put into the legal reserve to offset the \$60,000 negative balance from 2016 for legal

expenses. \$5,000 would be added to the equipment reserve. The Board spent some time going over the reserve accounts and discussing what amount they should have in reserve. Bridgewater suggested that the O&M Reserve and the Conjunctive Use Reserve should be higher. They are at \$35,000 and \$17,000 respectively. The Board would like more discussion on reserve funds at a future meeting.

## REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

**OPERATIONS:** Bridgewater reported that 71 panels have been replaced in Boardman and approximately 30 upstream of Slaughter Spill. All panels thus far have been in water, so pumping the water out of the work area and putting in toe drainage behind the panels is taking place. This takes a lot more time. Discussion.

**THREE MILE DAM CONCRETE WORK:** Bob stated his concern about the panels at Three Mile Dam. There has been discussion in the past about the deterioration of the panels at the Dam due to groundwater interference. He and Abe looked at access to this area last year, which would be very difficult. They recommend the District use a pump truck to help pour the concrete panels on the backside and perhaps a boom truck with a bucket. Bridgewater will take a look at the area. She thinks the District has the time and crew to do this work starting next week if it makes sense and we can find the right equipment. More discussion and direction to do what we can, but don't delay the start of water.

**WATER START-UP.** Water is planned to be turned into the main canal on March 15 and to Boardman March 20. Irrigation will start April 3.

**NEW ¾ TON PICKUP:** Bridgewater reported that the crew has requested the new truck be a flatbed vehicle. We would do this rather than put the pipe rack on it. McNamee pointed out that this would give some working surface for the crew on job sites and thinks it would be helpful. He has been looking for a flatbed and reported to the Board what he has found so far.

**SPRAYER:** The spray equipment is in the process of moving to the 2007 ¾ ton Chev. The Board asked about the boom for spraying across the canal. Bridgewater said it is being added.

### **MANAGER'S' REPORT:**

**SDAO CONFERENCE:** Bridgewater reported on several issues following up from her and Lisa's attendance at the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) conference. There were many sessions of interest and importance to the District: Harassment, Marijuana in the Workplace, Executive session information, Pay Equity Law, Risk Management, 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment rights, Employee retaliation claims. She reviewed the Pay Equity law, which took effect January 1, 2018. She believes we are in good stead and have a plan to assure all employees doing the same job are paid

equally, based on longevity, experience, and skills. She distributed a handout to the Board for their own review.

## DISTRICT BUSINESS

**MARCH BOARD MEETING DATE:** The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, March 21 at 9 am at the Irrigon Fire Hall.

**PARLOW REQUEST TO PUT IN POND ALONG SPILLWAY:** Matter tabled.

**EMPLOYEE DRUG & ALCOHOL POLICY:** The Board thoroughly reviewed the District Drug & Alcohol Policy. They would like a “No Tolerance” policy and to be sure we are up to date on any allowable testing. They recommend we ask Mike Snyder to review our current policy and let us know if and when it should be updated. He would do that work for us. Bridgewater noted any changes would need to be approved through the Union.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

February 21 – Area OWRC Board members at Frederickson home at 5 pm. In Hermiston.

February 27 – OWC sponsoring a Water Rights 101 Workshop at 7 pm in Hermiston.

## ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Vice Chairperson Frederickson adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Signed:

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Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

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Vern Frederickson, Board Vice Chairperson