

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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May 16, 2024

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on May 16, 2024, at 9:05 a.m. at the Columbia Improvement District meeting room located at 501 E. Columbia Ave. in Boardman. Those in attendance were: Board members, Dalarie Philippi, Von Studer, Bob Mueller and Vern Frederickson; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Administrative Services Manager, Lisa Baum. Director Abe McNamee was not able to attend.

AGENDA: Chairperson Philippi asked for additions to the agenda. Bridgewater stated that the folks from the Bureau of Reclamation were not able to attend today. Mueller moved to accept the agenda. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Studer moved to approve the minutes of the April Board meeting. Mueller seconded. Discussion. Motion passed.

BILLS PAYABLE: The Board reviewed the bills payable report from April and asked questions of staff. Mueller moved to approve the bills payable list in the amount of \$177,318.65. Studer seconded. The board discussed that Ross Machine is closing down and the district will need to find another steel supplier. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Two financial reports were given to the Board.

- 1) Financial report ending December 31, 2023. Now that the conjunctive use amounts for 2023 have arrived from Reclamation, we have final numbers for 2023. The Board reviewed the report and asked questions of staff. Bridgewater went through several line items to show how they affected the ending fund balance amount, which was higher than anticipated.

MOTION: Frederickson moved that \$25,000 from 2023 be moved to the O&M contingency fund. Mueller seconded.

- 2) Financial report ending April 30, 2023. The report was reviewed and questions asked. Bridgewater pointed out we are keeping one laborer as long as we are getting general maintenance done, such as mowing, weeding, spraying, right-of-way cleanup and gravelling the canal roads. These are basically

things our four-man crew does not have time for and are much-needed by the District. She also pointed out that we are spending more funds than budgeted on safety due to recommendations from the OSHA inspections and the need to clean-up the railroad car.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

SCADA: Baum reported that the updated SCADA system is being developed and parts on on their way. Aqua Systems did an unplanned visit in early May to get two of our Boardman sites running so we can get numbers. They will be here the third week of June to install the new system. Discussion.

FORECLOSURE UPDATE: Baum gave an update on delinquent accounts and potential foreclosures.

MANAGER'S' REPORT: A written Manger's Report was provided to the Board and is part of the meeting minutes. The board reviewed and discussed the report.

LATERAL 25: Pierce will flood one more season before going onto the pump station. The ecology blocks put in by the crew to help raise the water a bit helped out. She still needs a few days to get the water across her property. Discussion.

ASSISTING IRRIGATORS: Discussion ensued on how and when we assist irrigators. Philippi stated that we will not build or clean ditches on private property. Her concern was for the Wetherall property and his inability to get water to his property prior to start-up. Where does WEID stop? Don't we delivery to the high point?

Bridgewater stated that in Wetherall's case, the District stops at the federal ROW where the delivery box is. When the property was divided at some time in the past (decades ago), the ditch along the south boundary of the original property to Wetherall carries the water from his point of delivery at the box. He actually has three parcels that make up his 19 acres. For Doherty, the federal ROW is along the south side of their property. The District maintains to the original distribution box at the Bryce Doherty driveway. For Youngs and Sandlin, the delivery point stops near the SE corner of the Sandlin property, and they jointly have responsibility from there, including the three lots that have been divided off the original Young property. In other words, a division of property over the years does not mean that the District keeps moving its delivery to take in the new parcels. She looks to any easement or ROW documents, the original maps of the District and confirms with the 1948 map to help find the correct point of delivery and which ditches or pipelines are owned by the District. There are many pipelines, for instance, east of 15th Street where the landowners put the pipes in (typically steel) to eliminate the old ditches. These are

privately owned and there are usually no easements for them. This is simply how the District patrons developed their systems over the years.

Philippi and Frederickson both agreed that philosophically, they don't like to see the District take money from patrons when it doesn't deliver the water. Baum stated landowners are billed for the water right on the property. Bridgewater stated that in the last 30ish years, the District has been able to address partitions by requiring easements and delivery clarity. But even in subdivisions, the District does not always maintain the pipelines as they are often jointly owned by the patrons. More discussion.

Philippi reminded Bridgewater to send a letter to Dohertys about maintaining their ditch. Bridgewater reported they have cleaned it, but it will need maintenance soon, according to ditchrider. She will look at it before sending a letter. Philippi also wondered about Rodriguez as he gets his water from Lateral 24 via a private ditch through the Russell property. Bridgewater stated that he would have a prescriptive easement, like so many do, and state irrigation statutes protect their rights.

Studer wondered how many folks the District cannot physically deliver water to. Bridgewater said there are quite a few, especially in Umatilla. Studer stated this is a slippery slope and we will need to take issues on a case by case basis.

EQUIPMENT: The excavator needed work and Abe is working on it at his shop. He has completed the work on the dump truck..

CONJUNCTIVE USE: The District has received the conjunctive use billing from Reclamation. This was discussed when the Year-End financials were reviewed earlier in the meeting. The rate went down this year due to power cost decreases.

CREW: Bridgewater has been holding weekly crew meetings and working with the crew to find a more functional operating mode. They have lots of ideas on how to make things better at the District. Discussion. Mueller asked who has responsibility for maintenance? Bridgewater – they are each responsible for their own pickups and for any equipment they use. Bob is taking the shop oversight and system maintenance tasks with help from others. All work and repair orders are turned into the office so they can be tracked. We are working on a way to track equipment checks, greasing and pump maintenance. Discussion.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

BRIDGES: The Board reviewed correspondence and photos from Umatilla Emergency Management regarding three bridges over the canal. Discussion. WEID bridge agreements are about ownership, compliance with State and federal laws, and liability. A couple of bridges need some work on their railings to be compliant with their contract.

CITY OF IRRIGON FACILITY REQUEST: Staff has not found the time to send additional information to the City. However, the information has previously been given to the City a couple to times.

No update on issues with New Dreams subdivision or City's request to cross the RL-2 pipeline off Division.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 11:40 am.

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson