

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 100 IRRIGON, OREGON 97844
PHONE: (541) 922-3814 FAX: (541) 922-9775

November 26, 2024

Monthly Board Meeting

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on November 26, 2024, at 9:00 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, Vern Frederickson, Von Studer, and Bob Mueller; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Employees Alan Svantonsky and Ben De Los Santos. Director Abe McNamee was ill and unable to attend.

AGENDA: Chairperson Philippi asked for additions to the agenda. Mueller moved to accept the agenda as presented. Frederickson seconded. Motion passed.

FLOOR BUSINESS

There was no floor business.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Frederickson moved to approve the minutes of the October Board meeting. Mueller seconded. The motion passed.

BILLS PAYABLE: The Board reviewed the bills payable report from October. Frederickson moved to approve the bills payable list in the amount of \$147,940.18. Mueller seconded. Discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: The financial reports for the period ending October 31, 2024, were reviewed.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

OPERATIONS REPORT:

The board discussed winter canal work with employees Alan Svantonsky (Operations Supervisor) and Ben De Los Santos. Much work is needed between Laterals 21 and 27 in Boardman and that will be a focus. The berm along the canal needs building up. Wise Construction will be contacted to help with this work. The crew also plans

to do necessary work on the canal road (landowners will pay a portion of the work per their contracts).

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

A written report was provided to the Board and is part of the meeting minutes. The report was reviewed and discussed.

GIS MAPPING & DATA MANAGEMENT: This is a project the District has been exploring for a few years. Staff has worked with a local contractor who has provided a bid to initiate and support this work. Discussion.

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was called by Chairman Philippi in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2) (e) at 10:30 s.m. The executive session was concluded at 10:40 a.m.

The Board directed Bridgewater to reach out to the CTUIR representatives with a counter-proposal and to let them know their efforts towards resolution are appreciated.

PERS INCREASE: The District has notified that PERS rate would increase starting July 1, 2025.

LATERAL 17 PROJECT UPDATE: Bridgewater provided a cost update to the Lateral 17 project. She is working on finding additional funding, which will include a grant application to OWRD and private funding. Discussion. The board is very interested in seeking support from Amazon for the 17 piping project and directed Bridgewater to reach out to them.

POLICY REVIEW: Two policies were reviewed.

- 1) **METER POLICY.** Policy clarification was added that once land is metered, it will continue to be metered, despite of landowner changes. A fee of \$100 per month was added for non-responsive landowners with non-working meters. A motion was made by Frederickson to adopt the changes to the policy. Second by Studer. Discussion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
- 2) **PUBLIC MEETING & PUBLIC RECORDS POLICY** was updated at the last meeting by vote. The new changes were incorporated into the existing policy and that policy was reviewed.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT: Under ORS 545.093 – 545.095, subdistricts may be formed within an irrigation district for the purpose of improvements to their land. These subdistricts can be charged separately for such improvements. There are other statutes relative to borrowing funds to benefit local improvement districts. Discussion. The Board has no objection to looking into these methods to assist local landowners in the improvement of their irrigation methods as old private irrigation delivery systems fail or are replaced.

2025 BUDGET: The budget was presented, but discussion postponed until the December meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 11:00 am.

Signed:

Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson