

# WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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June 20, 2024

## **Monthly Board Meeting**

Chairperson Philippi called the Board meeting to order on June 20, 2024, at 9:03 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, Abe McNamee and Vern Frederickson; Board Secretary/Manager, Bev Bridgewater; Administrative Services Manager, Lisa Baum. Guests were Chet Sater, Manager, Umatilla Field Office, Bureau of Reclamation and Abe den Hollander from Aqua Systems 2000,

**AGENDA:** Chairperson Philippi asked for additions to the agenda. There were none. Frederickson moved to accept the agenda. Mueller seconded. Motion passed.

### MONTHLY BUSINESS

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

**BILLS PAYABLE:** The Board reviewed the bills payable report from May and asked questions of staff. Mueller moved to approve the bills payable list in the amount of \$166,192.49. Frederickson seconded. Discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** The financial reports for the period ending May 31, 2024, were reviewed.

### REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

**SCADA:** Abe von Hollander from Aqua Systems gave a presentation on the updated SCADA system he is working on. The board had questions, which he answered. The SCADA pack at the end of the Relocation canal has already been installed. The board is interested in adding an actuator to the gate at the head of the Relocation. Discussion. The board recommended the District have a written policy for onboarding and offboarding employees for the SCADA system. Von Hollander left the meeting after his presentation.

**PAYING RECURRING VENDORS ON-LINE:** Baum stated that some of the District vendors are starting to prefer on-line payments. She requested the Board consider allowing utility bills and some recurring vendors to be paid on-line. Discussion. A protocol could be developed so the Board director approving the payment would sign or initial a voucher of some sort. Frederickson made a motion to approve on-line payments for utilities and some recurring vendors once a protocol has been developed. Studer seconded. Motion passed.

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-005 – FORECLOSURE 5N2624CA1900:** This resolution orders foreclosure proceedings to begin on property located at 75207 W. Oregon St. in Irrigon, owned by Nichole Goforth. Lisa presented the figures and collection attempts. McNamee moved to approve Resolution No.24-0005. Mueller seconded. Discussion. The motion passed.

### **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.

**OPERATIONS:** Crews are focused on removing/spraying thistles and mowing right now. Alan hopes to get herbicide down sometime over the next month along the laterals and Boardman canal.

**VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT:** Repairs to Pickup No. 8 were discussed. The truck has 144,000 miles and the District has use for it. Parts have been found at an auto yard in Tri-Cities. Bridgewater will contact Cascade Auto to see about the repair or replacing the steering column with what the District has found. The Board directed staff to get an estimate and decide on the repair.

**RAILCAR:** As soon as we can find the time, District crew will air out the railcar, remove any deceased rodents and signs, then remove the old equipment and gear inside the car. The Board can come by to see what we have and make recommendations on what to do with the stuff. We will work on sealing up the car to keep out rodents and address the other OSHA recommendations before it is put back into use.

**NEW DREAMS SUBDIVISION:** The surveyor is asking for an agreement to allow them to move forward. Staff will work with him on that once we receive payment and clarification on how water will be delivered to the two properties that currently have no delivery due to the developer’s actions.

**DISTRICT DELIVERY SYSTEM:** Following up from discussion at the May Board meeting, Bridgewater handed out maps that give an overview of the delivery systems within the District. Basically it showed four different types of delivery – areas of private delivery, District delivery, farmers/growers with their own pump stations and flood irrigators. She recommended the Board review these and come back for more discussion, as needed.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into Executive session at 10:25 am in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2) to discuss the CTUIR water right settlement. The executive session ended at 11:20 am.

## OTHER BUSINESS

**IRRIGATING ALONG THE CANAL/ROAD:** The District has policies in place that prohibit irrigation within 25-feet of the canal liner. Also, those folks will be billed for any damage to, or extra work needed for the canal and road as a result of their actions. She would like to start issuing fines for irrigating over the canal road. Growers have been called many times about this and some just are not paying attention or not making the changes. The Board thought that, after contacts have failed and damage begins, a \$150 fine the first time and \$500 after that.

**METER READINGS:** Staff let the Board know that this is the third year of meter readings. We are getting about 60% of folks sending them in although some are irregular. We would like to take the readings not sent in for July and start the fine process. We may offer to waive a portion of the fine if they are sent in the rest of the season. No objections.

## ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairperson Philippi adjourned the meeting at 11:30 am.

Signed:

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Bev Bridgewater, Secretary

Attest:

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Dalarie Philippi, Chairperson