

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
EAST COLUMBIA BASIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

May 3, 2017

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District was called to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room of the District Office in Othello by President Orman Johnson.

Present were:

Directors

Orman Johnson
Don Osborne
Bernie Erickson
Boe Clausen

Staff

Craig Simpson
Richard Lemargie
Rosa Dekker
John McCourtie
Nate Andreini
Jed Crowther
Wendy Lange

Visitors: Toni Turner, Jennifer Hickenbottom and Sarah Maciel, USBR; Melissa Downes, WSDOE; Mike Schwisow, Consultant; Paul Wollman, Edward Stahl, Jake Wollman, Jr., Brian Kuest, Michele Kiesz, Clark Kagele, Matt Hampton, Mark Booker and Sandy Booker.

Visitors

Mr. Matt Hampton joined the meeting to discuss his previous request of bridges over an open drain. Assistant Manager Andreini reported the permit was presented at the April Board meeting but was not approved. Assistant Manager Andreini reported he has spoken with Mr. Hampton about him purchasing the pipe for the District to install in the fall. Assistant Manager Andreini reported he is waiting for more information to determine the total length of the pipeline. Mr. Hampton requested three temporary bridges for the 2017 irrigation season. Following discussion, Director Clausen moved to preapprove the permit for three temporary bridge crossings for the 2017 irrigation season conditioned that the circle turn off as it crosses the open drain and pipe to be purchased by Mr. Hampton. Director Osborne seconded and the motion carried.

Public Comment
Period

Minutes of the regular meeting of April 5, 2017, had been mailed to the Directors. Director Osborne moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 5, 2017, as written. Director Clausen seconded and the motion carried.

Minutes
Approved

Manager Simpson presented the following contracts a. and b. for approval:

District
Improvements

Contracts

- a. Permanent Release of Water Allotment, Freeman Farms Land, LLC, Block 44, Farm Unit 4, Lot 1 of Preliminary Freeman Farm Unit 214 Short Plat, 0.6 acres

- b. Permanent Release of Water Allotment, Freeman Farms Land, LLC, Block 44, Farm Unit 4, Lot 2 of Preliminary Freeman Farm Unit 214 Short Plat, 0.5 acres

Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve contracts a. and b. as presented. Director Clausen seconded and the motion carried.

Assistant Manager Andreini presented the following permit a. for approval:

Permits

- a. SFI Properties, LLC Encroachment Block 46, FU 155

Following discussion, Director Erickson moved to approve permits a., as presented. Director Clausen seconded and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson reported Mr. Doug Campbell had planned on joining the meeting to discuss permits for cattle guards and a fence along the East Low Canal. Mr. Campbell owns land on both sides of the Warden Siphon. He reported Mr. Campbell has always had a fence with a cattle guard on the West side of the ELC and now would like one on both O&M roads. Manager Simpson stated that Mr. Campbell had been informed it is against District policy to allow for fence encroachments and it would need to be addressed by the Board. Director Erickson stated he is in agreement with cattle guards. Manager Simpson also reported Mr. Campbell is not relying on the canal as a water source, although they can access at some locations, there is water elsewhere for his cattle. President Johnson stated this needed to be discussed with Mr. Campbell further and agreed that animals in the canal are unwanted.

Campbell Fence Encroachment

Manager Simpson reported an assent has not been received for the following Order for Hearing for Petition for Inclusion of Lands:

Order for Hearing for Petition for Inclusion of Lands

- a. Kagele Family Farms, LLC, Inclusion No. 223

Vouchers audited and certified by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a listing, which has been made available to the Board. After reviewing the vouchers submitted for payment approval, Director Clausen moved to approve for payment check nos. 308008 through 308214 in the amount of \$3,087,869.14 and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of \$358,369.36 for a total of \$2,317,190.68 from the O&M Fund, \$118,591.92 from the Construction Fund and \$652,086.54 from the 2016 Project Fund. Director Osborne seconded and the motion carried.

Vouchers

Manager Simpson reported SB5261 and HB1578 have passed, allowing for public entities to partner with private entities for hydropower development.

CBP Hydropower Development

Assistant Manager Andreini presented Resolution 2017-11, Branom Sole Source Supplier, for Board approval. He reported Branom is the only authorized dealer of Siemens electromagnetic meters, now the meter supported by the District. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to adopted Resolution 2017-11, as presented. Director Clausen seconded and the motion carried.

Resolution 2017-11

Development Coordinator Crowther reported the Warden Siphon project has been completed.

OGWRP
a. Development
Office Report

Development Coordinator Crowther presented a Rotschy, Inc. invoice in the amount of \$180,337.95, for progress completed per Warden Siphon project contract. Following discussion, Director Clausen moved to authorize payment to Rotschy, Inc. in the amount of \$180,337.95 as presented. Director Osborne seconded and the motion carried.

Development Coordinator Crowther commented he appreciated Staff Engineer Dean Gable's oversight of the Warden Siphon project and his services to the District. He reported Staff Engineer Gable's last day is Friday. He also reported Development Office Clerk Pam Lewison is also leaving the District on Friday.

Development Coordinator Crowther reported the AAI study and cultural resource work is being performed. The easement documentation work is being reviewed by USBR. He reported PFM, our financial advisors, were here and toured the EL47.5 project sites. Development Coordinator Crowther provided maps of the EL47.5 delivery area, ELC canal widening project and new delivery systems, to the Board.

Manager Simpson reported he has revisited the idea of rehydrating the Artesian Lake and Black Lake area with WDFW and USBR. He reported water was made available for WDFW through coordinated water conservation efforts. The Office of Columbia River grants designate 20% of the Coordinated Conservation water for WDFW. WDFW has requested to be allowed to divert water from the ELC for a year as a pilot program to see how the lake will react and how much water it will take. Manager Simpson stated he endorses WDFW using water to rehabilitate wet lands area. This is a great example of coordination between entities for ecological improvements. Manager Simpson reported WDFW has also requested to not be charged for the water during the pilot program. He reported the District has pipe available for WDFW's use. Director Erickson stated he would expect WDFW to pay for O&M for use of the canal water for future diversions. He stated his concern that the District will get billed for the water from USBR. Following discussion, Director Clausen moved to authorize a temporary siphon over the ELC to deliver 5-10 cfs per day for WDFW use during the pilot program and for the District to be paid for diversions if a permanent installation is installed in the future. Director Osborne seconded and the motion carried.

Assistant Manager Andreini reported staff has been looking at different scenarios for the EL47.5 delivery system based on what is being proposed by the House and Senate. Cost estimates have been updated for the possibility of having to oversize part of the system, associated with a Senate budget proviso.

b) EL47.5
Delivery System
Update

Assistant Manager Andreini reported two physical model study consultant submittals were received for services related to the EL47.5 sump design. The submittals were reviewed in-house. Assistant Manager Andreini stated it was determined that NW Hydraulic Consultants had the ability to meet the District's schedule, was the most qualified firm and recommended entering into contract negotiations with NW Hydraulic Consultants. Following discussion, Director Clausen moved to declare NW Hydraulic Consultants as the most qualified physical model study consultant and enter into

contract negotiations with NW Hydraulic Consultants. Director Erickson seconded and the motion carried.

Assistant Manager Andreini reported HDR is still working on review of the structural design. Staff Engineer Armacost-Felton has been discussing the design and providing more information as HDR requests.

Assistant Manager Andreini reported he has received comments from USBR regarding the 60% EL47.5 pipeline designs submitted. District staff discussed the comments with USBR staff by conference call. He reported USBR's standard depth to bury pipe is a minimum of 3' but have recommended burying the pipe deeper based on past experience with other irrigation districts. Assistant Manager Andreini reported he plans to meet with the EL47.5 landowners to get a better understanding of farming practices and address a couple other comments from USBR.

Mr. Jake Wollman, Jr., reiterated that the pipelines need to stay out of cultivated areas. Assistant Manager Andreini commented the last discussion he had with WHB one stretch of ½ mile pipe had been agreed upon to be installed through a cultivated area. He requested direction from the Board. Mr. Paul Wollman stated they had requested the District straighten the line and that no blow offs would be allowed in the fields. The pipeline should move along the edge of the field and that this needs to be discussed further. President Johnson stated that discussions on the pipeline can continue after the meeting.

Development Coordinator Crowther reported there was nothing new to report on either the EL11.8 or the EL22.1 at this time. He reported the USBR requirements and standards have been provided to the landowners and their consultants.

c) EL11.8 MOU and EL22.1 MOU Update

Assistant Manager McCourtie requested authorization to call for two mower tractor bids. Following discussion, Director Erickson moved to authorize a call for two mower tractor bids, as requested. Director Osborne seconded and the motion carried.

Quotes and Bids

Assistant Manager McCourtie requested authorization to call for vibrating roller bids. Following discussion, Director Clausen moved to authorize a call for vibrating roller bids, as requested. Director Osborne seconded and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson reported the 1st Half Reserved Works Payment has been paid, in the amount of \$1,303,351.54. There are still items left to be clarified and are expected to be discussed before the 2nd Half payment is due at the end of June.

1st Half Reserved Works Payment

Manager Simpson reported all three Districts are involved with addressing wheeling issues with Grant County PUD. A substantial impact could occur with a transition from no power wheeling charges to what they are proposing, which could be in the millions for the Project. USBR has sent a letter to Grant County PUD to discuss the impact further and request a delay.

Grant County Reserved Power Wheeling

Treasurer Dekker reported the District has an outdated version of Springbrook and is now dealing with issues when repairs are needed. This District has been testing a cloud-based version on a trial basis. A cloud-based Springbrook subscription would not be hosted on a District server. The updated version of Springbrook has been budgeted for. Director Erickson asked whether there was an option to back up the District's information on a hard drive. Treasurer Dekker reported she would look into that and requested authorization to change over to the cloud-based Springbrook contingent upon the ability to backup information on a District hard drive periodically. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to allow Treasurer Dekker to change over to the cloud based Springbrook.

Cloud Based
Springbrook

USBR EFO Operations Manager Turner reported on operations, changes at Lake Roosevelt, Trail Lakes, Grant County PUD reserved power wheeling, and staff retirements.

USBR Report

Safety Supervisor Walraf presented the monthly safety report.

Safety Report

Assistant Manager Andreini reported engineering staff's focus has been mainly Odessa related. Assistant Manager Andreini attended a Federal grant administration workshop that covered applying, receiving and what has to be dealt with if a grant is received.

Assistant
Manager
Technical
Services Report

Treasurer Dekker presented the monthly Treasurer's report. She reported on investments and maturities for the month. Treasurer Dekker reported she had attended the annual Treasurer's Conference and is looking to update the District's investment policies. She also reported she is trying to schedule the audit in June.

Treasurer
Report

Assistant Manager McCourtie gave the monthly O&M report. He reported priming of the East Low Canal went well. Burning has been completed and crews will start spraying next week.

Assistant
Manager O&M
Report

Manager Simpson reported on past and upcoming meetings and conferences he will be attending. He also reported on staff changes. Communications Technician Bob Dirks will be retiring from the District after 43 years of service at the end of June and Assistant District Engineer Linda Randall will also be leaving the District at the end of June.

Manager Report

Manager Simpson reported he had spoken to Roger Hartwig, Adams County Commissioner, regarding the vacant Director 4 position. He stated Mr. Hartwig is looking forward to receiving recommendations from the District.

Manager Simpson reported there is a potential for a solar panel development on a Farm Unit in Block 45. The agreement for the development is for 20-25 years. Manager Simpson reported it isn't clear if the landowner will be releasing their water allotment. There are also a lot of underground drains in the area. Discussions will continue with the landowner.

Manager Simpson reported the City of Othello is looking to create a City irrigation utility with M&I water. He reported he will meet with them along with the USBR to discuss further.

Manager Simpson reported the three Districts plan to meet to discuss changes in the Communications Department.

Attorney Lemargie reported the Quincy District's Board authorized the retainage of a forensic expert for the review of the Grant County PUD's proposed rate increase. The proposed rate increase is substantial and worth having an expert review. Attorney Lemargie stated at the next meeting the Board should expect Quincy to ask for participation in the forensic review. Manager Simpson requested authorization to work with the Quincy District on obtaining a forensic expert. Following discussion, Director Erickson moved to authorize working with the Quincy District on obtaining a forensic expert. Director Clausen seconded and the motion carried.

Attorney Report

Director Erickson moved to authorize the Board, Manager Simpson and appropriate staff to attend the NWRA 2017 Western Water Seminar, August 8-10, 2017, El Dorado Hotel & Spa, Santa Fe, NM and Manager Simpson and Development Coordinator Crowther to attend the Water Infrastructure and Alternative Financing Forum, Tuesday, May 9, 2017, Denver Sheraton West, Denver, CO. Director Clausen seconded and the motion carried.

Authorize Travel

At 12:12 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Board at that time, President Johnson continued the Hearing for Petition for Inclusion of Lands and adjourned the meeting.

Meeting
Adjourned


Secretary
President