

WESTLAND IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Monthly Board Meeting

January 31, 2017

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Westland Irrigation District Board of Directors was held Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at the Westland Road Fire Station, 78760 Westland Road, Hermiston Oregon.

Board members present were Chairman Bob Levy, Jack Bellinger, Justin Terry, Jordan Bennett and Cynthia Parks. Others present were Manager Mike Wick, Christine Hewlett, Field Supervisor Robert Bailey and Marika Sitz. Patrons in attendance were Dixie Echeverria, Hoss Hodges, Jim Kooch, Art Prior, Bill Quick, Gary Kowalski, Lon Wadekamper, Lane Wadekamper, Patty Horn, Jake Madison, Chuck Royer, Phil Sharkey, Vern Frederickson, Mike Taylor and Craig Parks. Guests in attendance were J.R. Cook, Northeast Oregon Water Association Executive Director and Gibb Evans, from IRZ Consulting.

Chairman Levy called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

MINUTES: The minutes for the December 20, 2016 Board Meeting were presented for review. Director Bellinger made a motion to approve and Director Terry seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIALS: On a motion by Director Parks and second by Director Bellinger, the December 2016 financial reports were approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Field Supervisor Bailey reported on crew activity. With the winter weather the crew has not been able to work on cleaning the ditch and will need to finish in a few places before the water starts. They have been building new safety walkways on the main ditch and doing maintenance on the pumps and flow meters. Mr. Bailey has completed pump station restart procedures and sent a motor from F-9 and one from A-34 to be reconditioned. He also stated that the crew had taken a CPR/First Aid class last week. Manager Wick informed the Board that Clifton Wade had given his notice today so Mr. Bailey will be looking for a new employee soon.

Manager Wick reported that JZD Construction should be finished with the work on the Dillon turnout sometime this week if the weather allows.

Manager Wick informed the board that a grant application had been submitted to Reclamation as part of the WaterSMART Program for a DFA Level Sensor and a formal board resolution is needed to finalize it.

Manager Wick requested that the Board check their schedules to determine potential dates for staff from SDAO to conduct board training. SDAO has offered to do an evening training if work schedules won't allow the training during the day.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Manager Wick presented the final draft of the Dillon Pipeline & Water Delivery Agreement and went over the public comments that had been received regarding the previous draft. Manager Wick recommended accepting the new Dillon Contract which would provide approximately \$20,000 additional income to Westland. Director Terry made a motion to approve and Director Bellinger seconded. The vote was 4 – 1 with Director Parks voting no.

J.R. Cook, Northeast Oregon Water Association Executive Director, gave an update on the Central Project and the steps that need to be taken to continue with it. A letter of intent needs to be

completed and sent in with \$4,000 to show that Westland is still committed to getting the Central Project in place. The bonds will be sold in July 2017 and to be eligible for the \$4,000,000 grant a viable project needs started by then and able to be completed within 2 years. If Westland is not able to continue with the Central Project at that time the opportunity will be given to someone else. A Resolution was presented that would have Westland continue their efforts to continue with the Central Project. Director Terry made a motion and Director Bellinger seconded to accept the Resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cook reported that the first payment on the mitigation water right for the Central Project would be due in March and be approximately \$42,000. This is due even though the water has not been used. He also stated that the water right is flexible and can be leased out on a yearly basis. Jake Madison has offered to lease the 12.6 cfs water right for 2017 and pay \$10,000. The Board agreed for Manager Wick to work out details with Mr. Madison and present them at the next meeting.

Manager Wick presented a Resolution approving applying for grant funding for the Level Sensor Project and other possible projects. On a motion by Director Bellinger and a second by Director Terry, the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Manager Wick reported that IRZ Consulting had done an analysis of the gate at the A-Line/B-Line split with Field Supervisor Bailey and had provided an estimate on a Rubicon gate that would provide better control and save water. The gate alone is \$38,248 so there would be additional charges to modify the existing structure of approximately \$6,000. Manager Wick will submit this project for possible grant money from the Bureau of Reclamation and the State of Oregon Water Resources Department.

Oregon Water Coalition Intern Marika Sitz has been working with Manager Wick to start a Westland Irrigation District website. She presented samples of other irrigation company websites and newsletters. The goal is to have better communication with the patrons and to provide better service. The new website should be up before the end of February with new items being added soon such as a patron portal.

Manager Wick presented the preliminary budget for 2017. The Board agreed that an amount needed added for litigation costs. Director Parks made a motion to approve the budget with the addition and Director Bellinger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Manager Wick also recommended a 2 ½ % raise for designated Westland employees. On a motion by Director Terry and a second by Director Parks, the motion carried unanimously.

Manager Wick presented the 2017 Draft Incurred Charges Resolution which will remain the same as 2016. Director Bellinger made a motion to accept the incurred charges and Director Bennett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Manager Wick informed the Board that a Resolution was needed to update the Banner Bank signature card with current board members to be able to sign checks for the District. On a motion by Director Bellinger and a second by Chairman Levy, the motion carried unanimously.

Manager Wick handed out a proposal from IRZ for a Limited License No. 1447 Monitoring Plan that will be reviewed at a later date. Manager Wick also let the Board know that there will be upcoming meetings regarding the tribal proposal that could affect Westland and the other irrigation districts in the area.

NO EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD:

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.



Robert Levy, Chairman



Christine Hewlett, Secretary designee