

# WESTLAND IRRIGATION DISTRICT

## Monthly Board Meeting

April 12, 2017

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Westland Irrigation District Board of Directors was held Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at the Westland Road Fire Station, 78760 Westland Road, Hermiston Oregon.

Board members present were Chairman Bob Levy, Jack Bellinger, and Cynthia Parks. Others present were Manager Mike Wick, Office Manager Tami Sherer, and Field Supervisor Robert Bailey. Patrons in attendance were Dixie Echeverria, Hoss Hodges, Jim Kooch, Art Prior, Bill Quick, Leroy Smart, Glen Saul, Jay Nicodemus, Jerry Friend, Teres Fair, Ray Vogt, Gregg Harris, Ruben Harris, Mike Harper, Harry Bither and Joe Howard. Guests in attendance were Gibb Evans and Fred Ziari from IRZ Consulting.

Chairman Levy called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**MINUTES:** The minutes for the March 22, 2017 regular monthly Board meeting were presented for review with Director Bellinger making a motion to approve and Director Parks seconding. The motion carried unanimously.

**FINANCIALS:** On a motion by Director Bellinger and second by Director Parks, the March 2017 financial reports were approved as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** Field Supervisor Bailey reported on crew activity. Steven is in training as a ditch rider. All equipment and facilities have been checked and ready to go. Iron Horse Construction has been working on the canal roads. Bobby has been spraying weeds when weather permits.

Manager Wick stated that McKay is about 99% full at this time and the Bureau of Reclamation is releasing water for flood control.

Manager Wick reported above average flow with A-Line running at 32 cfs and B-Line is running at 43 cfs. To date approximately 3,200 acre feet of recharge water has been delivered to County Line.

Manager Wick reported that another meeting was held with the small ditch companies and the Tribal Negotiating Team, to talk about the CTUIR water rights claims settlement proposal. He also reported that Amazon is still working with the district on canal crossings and possibly taking some of their data center cooling water. He will keep everyone informed as the work progresses.

Manager Wick reported that the State Circuit Court has scheduled a hearing for dismissal of litigation filed against the district; the hearing is May 15, 2017 at 9:30am, room #5, Umatilla Circuit Court in Hermiston.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Gibb Evans gave a presentation breaking down the cost regarding the Central Project. He also showed maps as to the proposed pipeline location and some of the challenges that will be faced such as utilities and easements. Mr. Evans said the next step would be to decide exactly where the pipeline would go. Exact placement and the alternatives were discussed

**NEW BUSINESS:** Manager Wick reported that he's been looking with Marika Sitz at web portal programs to allow District patrons to access their account information online and is continuing to

review available programs.

Chairman Levy asked if there is any information that the patrons would like reported at the meetings. If there is, he asked that it be a written request.

Manager Wick discussed the handout on ORS545.315: Petition to Construct Improvements for Irrigation. This is the statute for patrons to petition the board to continue the Central Project. The board will schedule several weekly meetings in the next few months to help the patrons to understand what is being proposed. The board discussed timing for a petition to be presented and a district-wide vote to be held as well as use of the water from the project.

The board was questioned about any water rights available for purchase. Manager Wick explained that the district doesn't facilitate the sale of water rights, however, the district does keep a list of people that would like to be contacted if the district is notified of water rights for sale.

Manager Wick recommended to the board that two of the board members should start attending the CTUIR meetings to represent the district. Chairman Levy gave historical information regarding the relationship in the past with the tribes. Director Parks made a motion authorizing Chairman Levy and Director Bellinger to accompany Manager Wick to the meetings with CTUIR and Chairman Bellinger seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

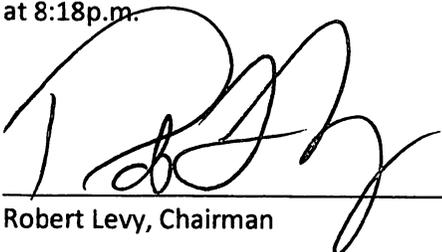
Manager Wick discussed board training. George Dunkel of Special Districts Association of Oregon will be in Hermiston May 4, to conduct a training session for directors and staff from the irrigation districts in the area. Special Districts also has a web based training program named "Safe Personnel" for online training and tests. The more board members that participate the better our insurance rates will be.

Manager Wick discussed the report from the Oregon Water Resources Department to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council: Amount and Disposition of Umatilla Project Water.

Public comments were received by the board regarding the Central Project and upcoming meeting schedules.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** No Executive Session

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:18p.m.



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Robert Levy, Chairman



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Tami Sherer, Secretary designee