

WESTLAND IRRIGATION DISTRICT
Monthly Board Meeting
May 17, 2017

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Westland Irrigation District Board of Directors was held Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at the Westland Road Fire Station, 78760 Westland Road, Hermiston Oregon.

Board members present were Chairman Bob Levy, Jack Bellinger, Cynthia Parks, Jordan Bennett, and Justin Terry. 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, Ray Vogt, David Prior, Cregg & Mary Buckallew, Malcolm Skinner, Dean Cherry, George Simmons, Lon Wadekamper, Scott Wadekamper, Vince Vazza, Maurice Ziemer, Brad Lund, and Dick White. Guests in attendance were Gibb Evans from IRZ Consulting; Marika Sitz, Coordinator, Oregon Water Coalition; Brett Thompson and Tina Tompkins.

Chairman Levy called the meeting to order at 6:58p.m.

MINUTES: The minutes for the April 12, regular monthly Board meeting, April 20, Emergency Meeting, April 26, Special Meeting, May 2, Special Meeting and May 10, Special Meeting 2017 were presented for review with Director Bennett making a motion to approve and Director Terry 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. Alex is ditch riding with Bobby and Steven the relief riders. Dillon turnout had an issue that has been resolved. Flow meter repair and installations are done. WID rented a compactor and worked the canal roads after Iron Horse Construction graded them. The crew had to build a temporary dam on the north side of the river to remove gravel and debris.

Irrigation Season & Reservoir Storage: McKay Reservoir is full with releases by Reclamation for flood control being matched with inflows. Umatilla River live flow is approx. 1,200 cfs. The May 1, Oregon Basin Outlook Report continues to project above average river flows for this spring and summer.

County Line Recharge: Approximately 5,200 acre-feet has been delivered to County Line.

Dillon Turnout Leak: Water diversions into the canal were stopped the evening of April 19 due to a leak at the Dillon turnout location. Watts Construction was hired to repair the leak and water was back in the canal system the morning of April 21.

Meeting with CTUIR Negotiation Team: On April 27, a meeting was held with representatives of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) Tribal Negotiation Team. Present were Eric Quaempts (Tribal member); Joe Ely

(Stetson Engineers) by telephone; Dan Hester (Tribal attorney); and Gary Burke (CTUIR Board of Trustees Chairman). Discussion continued on the Tribes' proposal to obtain the Umatilla River water right of Hermiston and Stanfield Irrigation Districts in trade for an equivalent amount of water from the Columbia River. The Tribes reported they continue to have discussions with the small ditch companies (Allen, Pioneer, Courtney, and Dillon) about trading for their water rights. Additional meetings are expected over the next several months as the Tribal proposal continues to be developed and more details are learned.

Litigation: On Monday May 15, 2017 Senior Judge Michael J. Gillespie heard oral arguments. At the conclusion of the arguments, the matter was taken under advisement. Judge Gillespie issued his ruling Wednesday, May 17, 2017, allowing for the case to go forward in its present form.

Data Center: Discussions are continuing with Amazon regarding taking their data center reuse water for irrigation purposes into the Westland system. DEQ plays a big role in the determination.

Customer Web Portal: Investigation is continuing into possible web portal programs for patron access to their billing, water use, and other information.

Board Training: George Dunkel with SDAO conducted a board training session on May 4, in Hermiston attended by representatives of Westland, Hermiston, Stanfield, and West Extension Irrigation Districts.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Dillon turnout leak was discussed. Patrons asked who would be responsible for the repair. Manager Wick explained it's the District's position that the contractor and design engineer should be responsible. The tribal talks were discussed more with Director Parks asking if WID would benefit from the proposal the tribes are working on. Manager Wick stated details of the proposal have not been presented yet to allow a clear evaluation of impacts or benefits. Discussion will continue with the tribes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Levy asked for public comment. Hoss Hodges read a ruling from the Ninth Circuit Courts ruling on April 9th, 2017 regarding a California tribe's right to water. It was the judge's decision that the tribes have a right for groundwater on their reservation. Water is inherently imbedded in the tribes. Mr. Hodges stated that the Central Project would help WID if the Umatilla tribes' settlement is completed.

Manager Wick talked about the template drafted by the WID legal counsel Dave Filippi regarding the Central Project. This template should be used by patrons to bring the board.

The board moved to Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2) (h) at 7:40pm.

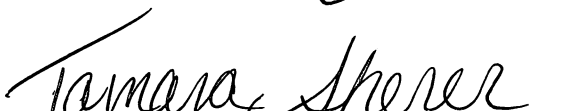
The board discussed issues relating to the continued litigation.

Executive Session ended at 8:27pm reconvening to the public session.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27p.m.



Robert Levy, Chairman


Tamara Sherer, Secretary designee