

Monday, September 20, 2021, at 10:00 A.M.
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

These are the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Directors of the United Irrigation District, held in the Glenwood Office on September 20th, 2021, commencing at 10:00 A.M

Present: Duane Nelson – Chairman
Jim Woolf – Board Member
Craig B. Smith – Board Member
Nicholas Barfuss – Board Member
Fred Rice – District Manager
Viera Ducky – Office Manager
Daniel Hunsperger – Vice-Chairman – absent

Discussion and Acceptance of July 19, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes

Nicholas Barfuss MOVED to accept the July 19, 2021 Minutes with amendments; SECONDED by Craig B. Smith. ...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the July 2021 Payroll

Craig Smith MOVED to accept the July 2021 Payroll; SECONDED by Duane Nelson. ...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the August 2021 Payroll

Nicholas Barfuss MOVED to accept the August 2021 Payroll; SECONDED by Craig Smith. ...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of September 20, 2021 Accounts Payable

Nicholas Barfuss MOVED to accept the September 20, 2021 Accounts Payable; SECONDED by Jim Woolf. ...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the Financial Statement to September 20, 2021

Jim Woolf MOVED to accept September 20, 2021, Financial Statement; SECONDED by Nicholas Barfuss. ...CARRIED

Letter from Joseph Schow, MLA regarding decommissioning relief wells throughout district

Early this year the UID was concerned about decommissioning relief wells in our district so therefore we contacted Mr. Schow. On August 5th we received the email from Mr. Schow explaining the reasons why the AEP proceeds with these steps. This project is in the final design stage and they will begin with work this fall.

Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) and the agreement with the UID

Even though AEP reassured us that the UID shouldn't be concerned about decommissioning relief wells, however, it seems that they have changed their view on this matter. Paul Ulser from AEP contacted Fred and explained that they are preparing an agreement for the UID to accept water coming from these wells and springs in the area. He also asked if we are aware of any written agreement from the past regarding wells. Unfortunately, no agreements have been found to this day.

IRP funding 2021 received

The IRP provincial funding contribution was deposited to our cost-share account on August 5th, the district contribution was transferred to the account as per the agreement's requirement as well.

Modernization project Lateral D1

Work on Lateral D1 closed pipeline is in process. PVC pipe was delivered on July 23rd and construction started on August 4th. In regards to work progress, four PVC pipes and an inlet structure are left to be installed. So far we have spent 74% of the originally estimated cost. Inlet structure, crane rental, and two days of work will be added to the final cost, however, we are still able to finish this project under the originally estimated cost.

Dan French and Larry Gibb

Dan French came in with concern on Monday, August 16th that Larry's water off of the French Ranches' land was getting onto his property and was causing damage to his corner fence by Dipping Vat Lake.

Larry Gibb phoned on Thursday, Aug 19th and he wanted Fred to come to have a look at the area. After looking at it Fred determined that it wasn't Larry's water that was causing the damage and in fact, it was Dan's own water that was causing the problem.

Fred talked to Dan and he was adamant that it was Larry's water. Fred suggested to Larry to put a little dirt by the turnout just to make sure no water could get into Dan's land.

It was pretty obvious where the water was coming from this year. Fred and Jared took some shots with the level and determine that the land slopes away from the turnout. Larry's water was not the issue. Then they turned on the water and physically tried to push the water into Dan Frenches', they could only push it in about 3 ft and then it stopped. So, it wasn't Larry Gibb's water that was causing the damage to the banks of Dipping Vat Lake. And from the looks of the green grass, it was in fact water from Dan French's own turnout.

Dan French and flow coming from Ducks Unlimited

Daniel French contacted the UID and was expressing concerns about flow coming out of Chrapko's and Ducks Unlimited's lake that is causing erosion on the Dipping Vat lakeshore. Fred went to examine the situation and doesn't think there was a lot of water flowing, it was more just a trickle. There are some rocks placed next to the outlet structure of Dipping Vat Lake causing the level of the lake to be about 8" higher than the weir crest, however, Craig Boland will not let us touch the rocks. It is not really the UID's problem.

A person interested as a backup for the Office manager's position

We have received an application from a person who is interested in a part-time or backup on Viera's position. The Board discussed the situation and decided to not proceed with the interview and training at this time.

SGE School is looking for snow removal this winter

Fred was asked by Kelly Thomas, principal of the SGE School if the UID will be interested in snow removal for this school this winter. This should be most likely a Skid-steer job and the UID doesn't have the proper equipment for it. The Board decided to leave it to the private sector.

The National Bank and fees related to online banking transactions

Modernization projects funding, loan, and all transactions related to them are tied to National Bank as each district needed to open a bank account there. The bank wants to charge \$75 per transaction. This is quite an expensive fee. So far we need to wait as the AIM project group is looking into a cheaper solution.

Riverside Colony are interested in fencing on Lateral F7

Riverside Colony suggested hiring them to do fencing on Lateral F7 because they would like to do it their way. It will be 2.5 miles long fence after work on IRP#2340 Lateral F7 project is substantially completed. The suggestion was made to offer them a price we would be able to make the fence with our crew and if the colony is able to make it cheaper, we can hire them, otherwise, the UID will make the fence.

The grant from Enerva Energy Solutions Inc.

The UID received the grant in the amount of \$17,850 for the Solar system from Enerva Energy Solutions Inc. on September 8th. The application for the grant was submitted before the solar system was installed early in spring this year.

Cochrane Lake Dam – an audit inspection

On August 31st Fred met with Jenna Montgomery, Dam Safety Technologist from Alberta Environment and Parks at Cochrane Lake for an audit inspection. Fred gave her a copy of our last report together with pictures from spring when we check the condition of the structure and bank of Cochrane Lake. Mrs. Montgomery even visually inspected the inlet structure, rip-rap on the bank, and discussed our operation and maintenance of Cochrane Lake. Currently, we are still waiting for the report from AEP.

Screened rock at Rice's pit

We have used all screened rocks at Rice's pit for various projects. Fred asked the Board if the UID wants to screen more rocks for future use as we have a few weeks gap between projects and the crew is not that busy. The Board agreed to spend one week screening rocks.

Lynn Bishop and crop damage

Lynn plans to combine the rest of the field where the UID was working on modernization project Lateral D1 and some crop damage was done by the UID. Our engineer Darin Wilde has surveyed the crop damage so we will have an acre count. It is around 2 acres of crop damage. Fred will speak with Mr. Bishop.

Water rationing

This year has been very dry and we are trying hard not to come to water rationing. Communication between the UID and ratepayers is essential, especially in these times. Waterton dam is only 15% full and we are pulling water from the environmental canal as well. Payne Lake is 85% full but they need to keep minimum winter target level.

Thoughts about UID's BBQ

All employees and Board Directors really enjoyed the BBQ on July 26th. The Board decided to organize another BBQ as a fall water shut-off party for employees and the Board. We might not be able to have our traditional Christmas dinner as last year due to Covid-19 restrictions.

WCB – the time frame for appeal

The Board was curious if there is a time frame for the appeal against the decision made by the WCB. Generally, it is one year from the date of the decision. So far the UID is not planning to submit an appeal, however, it might be useful information for the future.

Gas prices for Ditch Rider's mileage

Since gas prices raised this year significantly and our Ditchriders are using their own trucks for the whole irrigation season, they asked for a higher contribution to their mileage cost.

Jim Woolf MOVED to increase payment for mileage for each Ditchrider by \$200 per month, retroactive for whole irrigation season for this year because of high gas prices; SECONDED by Nicholas Barfuss.

...CARRIED

Shut off day for the UID's canals

The UID is planning to shut off our canals on Friday, October 8th if water is still available. The water in the river is extremely low, we might close them earlier.

AIDA Board meeting

AIDA Board virtual meeting is planned for September 30th at 10:00 AM. Fred and Duane are planning to attend the meeting.

Nicholas Barfuss MOVED that the meeting be adjourned at 1:40 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, October 25, 2021, at 10:00 A.M


Chairman – Duane Nelson


District Manager – Fred Rice