

Monday, July 20, 2015 at 9:00 A.M.
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
AGENDA

These are the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Directors of the United Irrigation District, held in the Glenwood Office on July 20, 2015 commencing at 9:00 A.M.

Present: Duane Nelson – Chairman
Daniel Hunsperger – Vice-Chairman
Jim Woolf – Board Member
David Layton – Board Member
Brandon Gibb – Board Member
Fred Rice – Manager
B. Craig Smith – Assistant Manager

Discussion and Acceptance of the June 15, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

Reviewed the issue of livestock on the UID Right of Way on SE 26-4-28-W4. Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to accept the June 15, 2015 minutes. SECONDED by Brandon Gibb. ...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the June 2015 Payroll

David Layton MOVED to accept the June 2015 payroll, SECONDED by Jim Woolf. ...CARRIED

Reading, Discussion and Acceptance of July 20, 2015 Accounts Payable

Noted – UID Cost Sharing cheque deposited into Cost Sharing account and IRP work claimed and deposited into the General Account. Also noted Crane Supply bill for IRP 2263 work. Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to accept July 20, 2015 Accounts Payable; SECONDED by Jim Woolf. ...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the Financial Statement to July 20, 2015

The statement was reviewed noting irrigation income and cost sharing cheque included in income and expense. Brandon Gibb MOVED to accept the financial statement. SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger. ...CARRIED

IRP Funding Agreement

The agreement has been signed. Funding is down 9.5%.

Livestock Grazing on UID ROW on SE 26-4-28-4

The cattle were removed upon discussion with Irrigation Secretariat.

Seepage Control Plan

After discussion, the order of work to be done was rearranged for the seepage control program. These projects will be completed in conjunction with IRP projects. The areas identified are: Lateral E - NE 35-4-27-4; SE 1-5-27-4; Lateral A1d - NW/NE 17-4-27-4; Lateral A1d; Lateral A-4.5 - NW/NE 17-4-27-4; Lateral A1 - SW 16-4-27-4; Lateral B8 - NW/NE 18-5-27-4. The projects will be completed in this order. Daniel Hunsperger MOVED that the Seepage Control Plan be adopted in the order of completion as outlined. SECONDED by Brandon Gibb. ...CARRIED

Drone Mapping of Romeril/Payne Lake

The Board decided that the information now available from the Wilde Brother's Engineering Ltd. Study was adequate. David asked where the most likely location for the best cost would be in what had been analyzed to date. Fred will encourage Darin Wilde to have it prepared for the Irrigation Council tour/meeting in September so it could be a part of the discussions. It was noted that water storage in the areas identified would provide good flood mitigation as well as water storage capacity for SMRID, RID, TID and MID as well as the UID.

Lateral E Status

Fred reviewed the costs and future work of IRP # 2263, Lateral E. The estimated budget remaining on the project is \$436,626. Wilde Brothers estimated balance to complete the project is \$379,000. The balance remaining in the IRP Cost Share account is \$214,757. Fred asked for approval of completing the project this fall which would mean working into the 2016 IRP funding. The Board agreed that completing the project this fall would be best for the water users and the District and approved the working into the next year funding.

Future IRP Project

Lateral A-4.5 needs to be rehabilitated. This includes land in the proposed Seepage Control Plan on the NW/NE 17-4-27-4. This will be on land owned by Peterson Brothers, Lawrence Draper, Dennis Connolly and Merrills. The Board approved this project to go on the IRP 3 Year Plan.

Community in Bloom Fabrication Request

Wayne Smith had approached the UID to build a border flower arrangement for the Dump Station on the west end of Glenwood. Upon looking at the plans for the project the UID has determined this to be outside the capacity of our systems to build and will advise the association of such.

Irrigation Council Tour/Meeting September 23, 2015

A visit to the proposed sites for storage on the Belly River will be the tour suggested by the UID to Irrigation Council with a meeting and lunch to be held in conjunction with the council. David suggested that this would be a good time to emphasize the need and the benefit for all Irrigation Districts drawing on the Belly River waters.

Meeting with the New Provincial Agricultural Minister on July 22, 2015

Fred would like the Board Chairman to go to the meeting on Wednesday with him. If Duane cannot go Daniel Hunsperger, the Vice-Chairman will attend.

Whisper Valley Campground Water Usage Fee

The Board had previously agreed to water usage on the campground under the Other Uses of the Water Licence. There was discussion about what the water will be used for. David indicated it will be for fire protection and some non-potable water needs of the campers and the campsites. Brandon Gibb MOVED that the water usage fee be set at \$350 per year without a flow metre subject to on-going review on a yearly basis. SECONDED by Jim Woolf. ...CARRIED

Review of Water Ordering and Shut-Off Policy

There have been some instances this year of water being shut off on Saturdays and Sundays or during storms without notification to the Ditch Riders. This has resulted in some laterals over-topping and causing problems. Fred asked the Board for direction and policy. There was lengthy discussion on whether the salaried ditch riders should be on call all the time during the busy watering season or whether the current policy of Friday noon deadline for ordering or turning off water be adhered to. The board was divided on the issue, some favouring the current week-end policy and some favouring the on-call change. An on-call policy would need to allow compensation for time worked on week-ends in time off in lieu or monetary along with travel compensation. It was decided to determine what other Irrigation District's were doing and investigate the policy further for the next meeting. There were some suggestions that all water orders go directly to the Ditch Riders and that the farmer deal directly with them rather than calling the office. It was suggested that cameras could be installed at the leveling pond, at Cochrane Lake and at other critical points that could be monitored from the ditch rider's cell phone rather than requiring frequent and costly travel to monitor the water levels. It was also suggested that when water is ordered that an expected shut down time could also be determined to be more efficient in water management.

Beck's Excavating Concerns about UID Unfair Competition in Custom Work

Derrick Beck had registered a complaint to Brandon Gibb and Jim Woolf about the UID doing custom work with his potential clients. The issues raised included non-commercial licence plates for the trucks and government funds being used for equipment purchases. After some discussion it was determined that Brandon would speak with Becks and clarify that government funds were not used for equipment but for irrigation infrastructure. This lead to other discussion as to what it would take to be in a position to do custom work under commercial licensing and insurance for at least one truck and hoe. More investigation will be done to determine the costs and possible opportunities for future custom work as the District is frequently asked to do this type of work.

Photocopier

Craig indicated that TRS Officeware is indicating they will no longer be offering a service contract on the present photocopier. A couple of quotes for a different copier are around \$2 – 3 thousand dollars with the service contract at about \$1,000 per year. The present copier is still working well and will be continued until such time as a replacement will be needed.

AIPA Board Meeting, August 10, 2015

The Board meeting will be held in Lethbridge. At this time Duane and Fred will attend.

Fred's Agenda:

The UID needs to replenish the crushed gravel inventory. David Layton MOVED that the UID purchase 15 loads of gravel for inventory. SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger. ...CARRIED
Fred reviewed the installation of the culverts at the intersection of Hwy 810 and 505 in the Hengerer approach. He also discussed the Alberta Transportation policies for the installation and for the culverts that will need to be filled in with cement/grout.

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED that the meeting be adjourned at 1:15 P.M. SECONDED by Brandon Gibb.

Next meeting: September 21, 2015 at 9:00 A.M.

Chairman – Duane Nelson

District Manager – Fred Rice