

Monday, September 19, 2022, at 9:00 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 19th, 2022, commencing at 9:00 A.M

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

Discussion and Acceptance of July 25, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to accept the July 25, 2022 Minutes; SECONDED by Jim Woolf.
...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the July 2022 and August 2022 Payroll

Craig B. Smith MOVED to accept the July 2022 and August 2022 Payroll; SECONDED by Nicholas Barfuss.
...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of September 19, 2022 Accounts Payable

Nicholas Barfuss MOVED to accept the September 19, 2022 Accounts Payable; SECONDED by Jim Woolf.
...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the Financial Statement to September 19, 2022

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to accept September 19, 2022, Financial Statement; SECONDED by Duane Nelson.
...CARRIED

Dan French's flooded hayland

Dan French was invited to the Board meeting to address concerns regarding his flooded hay land. During haying season Dan noticed that his land was flooded. The land was wet and soft, however, the equipment didn't leave ruts but ridges. Fortunately, he was able to get it baled and moved the hay to high ground. Mr. French is upset that this has happened again as had happened other times in the past. According to Dan, his land is repetitively flooded which causes him difficulties selling his hay. The water was found to be coming from Robert Wynder's land. The UID will check the land and send the letter to Mr. French's neighbors.

Daniel Hunsperger has similar issues with Owen Doherty's irrigation water coming to his land. There needs to be ditch plowed along the fence line only. Daniel requested a letter to be sent to Owen but Daniel phoned the next day after the meeting and asked to postpone the letter.

UID's BBQ

The event went very well, everybody enjoyed it and the crew appreciates it. It was discussed that we might have another one after the pipeline on Lateral B is done this fall.

IRP funding 2022 received

The IRP provincial funding was received on August 23rd and as per the agreement's requirement, the district's contribution was deposited to our cost-share account on August 23rd.

Loan at the National Bank of Canada (CIB) on modernization projects

The current amount of the loan on the modernization projects from the CIB is around \$350,000. The amount includes the cost of the PVC pipe for our last project B Lateral which will be substantially finished this fall.

QuickBooks Desktop

New accounting software QuickBooks has been installed and our data transferred from Price&Comin's server into our new software. As the software includes payroll as well, the payment for software will be charged on monthly bases on our credit card depending on how many employees we have that particular month. The office Manager will do a company backup on external memory regularly.

The Board discussed how we will handle the bank reconciliation in QB as Price&Comin can not host us on their server anymore.

Duane Nelson MOVED that responsibility for the preparation of the bank reconciliation has been assigned to the Office Manager and responsibility for reviewing the bank reconciliation has been assigned to District Manager; SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger. ...CARRIED

Expiry date on some licenses transferred from the UID

Fred found out that water licenses that we have transferred or sold have expiry dates even though our license is without an expiration date. The license given to the Village of Glenwood and Village of Hill Spring will expire in 2053 and the water license sold to South-Eastern Water Co-op will expire in 2029 and the other one in 2041. We already contacted them and they are going to contact a particular/specific AEP office to find out more.

1000-gallon fuel tank

1000-gallon fuel tank with hoses and nozzles will cost us around \$7,000 from Co-op Lethbridge. The UID would need the tank if the company will have trucks for Ditchriders. After Fred discussed trucks with Ditchriders, they decided to use their own truck, therefore we do not need to buy the tank now.

1999 Ford service truck

The service truck's transmission was broken. The truck is currently at Mister Transmission in Lethbridge for repair and the cost for service should be around \$7,500 with a new clutch. The quote from CSL Ford in Cardston was \$9,200 and it would not be done until the middle of November.

The crew moved the fuel tank, air compressor, greaser, and welder onto the 1996 Ford truck until the service truck is repaired.

The Board agrees that we need to upgrade our equipment when we have some extra funds in order to function properly.

Water leak at Barrie Allred's land

On Tuesday, August 30th one of the Hengerer Farms' combine hit an air vent on Barry Allred's land and we had quite impressive geyser. To fix the problem we needed to drain the whole line. The air went was repaired that evening. An invoice for work and parts was sent out to Hengerer Farms.

Irrigation Alberta Inc.(IAI)

As mentioned in previous meeting minutes, IAI is initiating collectively lobbying with the government for additional funds for modernization projects. Only three districts in total are in favor of doing this but the rest would support the group. All irrigation districts would like to rather see fund increase in the Irrigation Rehabilitation program (IRP)

Instream quote

Instream sent us an updated quote on fixing the Rotork starter for one of our gates at Headworks. They are still not sure if the contactor is causing the problem. Fred found out that other districts have issues with these automatic gates and we might look into manually operated gates. Jim suggested contacting Larry Bester who is a good electrician. He might help us to solve the problem. Fred will contact him.

Salary and wage increase

Jerry Reed approached Fred with a request to increase his wage.

Nicholas Barfuss MOVED to increase the wage for Jerry Reed, Robert Lybbert, and Byran Cahoon by \$2.50/hour and increase the salary for the Office Manager by \$3/hour; SECONDED by Craig B. Smith.

...CARRIED

AIDA’s Board of Directors meeting on September 29, 2022

The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 29, 2022, at 10:00 AM at the Taber Heritage Inn.

One of the Provincial Pre-budget proposed recommendations from AIDA is to increase GoA IRP funding to \$30 million from the current amount of \$12 million which is on agenda for the meeting.

Ratepayers Donna & Roy Buettner

One of our ratepayers who owns 43 irrigation-assessed acres was complaining about paying their rates every year even though they are not using the irrigation water and about the amount of money they spent over the years. The UID would gladly buy the assessed acres from them and offer them to those farmers who are looking for more assessed acres. Fred asked them to send a letter with a request to sell assessed acres as this is subject to Board’s approval. As of today, we have not received the letter and no payment either. Duane knows Mr.Buettner well so he will contact them again.

Folsom Dairy Ltd.

Jim Folsom would like to move UID’s Texas gate off the main canal and move it onto the road to Spring Glen Park. Spring Glen Park is frustrated with Jim’s bulls coming too close to the park. According to Jim, the Texas gate on the main canal does not have a purpose anymore. The Texas gate will stay in place and the fence to the gate needs to be repaired.

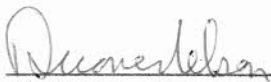
A different idea to get water into B Lateral

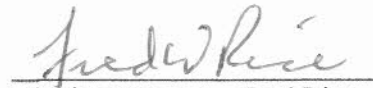
Fred came up with a different idea of how to get water into the B Lateral. The first option would be to pump water from the environment canal but approval will be required from Alberta Environment and Parks. The second option would be to get water from Cochrane Lake which will be more expensive.

The Board decided to pursue the first option and if the issue occurs then we will proceed with the other idea.

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

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, October 24, 2022, at 10:00 A.M


Chairman – Duane Nelson


District Manager – Fred Rice