

Monday, April 20, 2020 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 April 20, 2020, commencing at 10:00 A.M

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

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

First of all, Fred welcomed Nicholas Barfuss on the Board of Directors of the United Irrigation District. Nick is a new Board member elected by acclamation.

Secondly, Fred called for nominations for Chairman. Jim Woolf Nominated Duane Nelson. Seconded by Daniel Hunsperger. Nick Barfuss MOVED that Nominations cease. Duane Nelson elected Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Lastly, Duane called for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Duane Nelson Nominated Daniel Hunsperger. Seconded by Jim Woolf. Nick Barfuss MOVED that Nominations cease. Daniel Hunsperger elected Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Discussion and Acceptance of the March 18, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to accept the March 18, 2020 Minutes; SECONDED by Nicholas Barfuss.
...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the March 2020 Payroll

Jim Woolf MOVED to accept the March 2020 Payroll; SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger.
...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of April 20, 2020 Accounts Payable

The significant items were reviewed. Duane Nelson MOVED to accept the April 20, 2020 Accounts Payable; SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger.
...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the Financial Statement to April 20, 2020

Nicholas Barfuss MOVED to accept the April 20, 2020 Financial Statement; SECONDED by Jim Woolf.
...CARRIED

Jared Nelson – Ditch Rider’s salary when he is acting manager

Fred suggested to increase a salary for Jared when he is acting manager in case of Fred’s absence. After discussion the Board agreed with Fred’s suggestion.

Jim Woolf MOVED to increase Jared Nelson’s annual salary which will equal to extra \$1/hour; SECONDED by Nicholas Barfuss.
...CARRIED

Three Board members voted yes, one abstained.

Transferring money to restricted funds

\$39,000 was transferred from general account to high interest account-restricted funds on April 2nd, 2020 based on motion from March 18, which is the amount of surplus from the fiscal year 2019.

Board will discuss moving surplus to restricted funds again at the end of each year.

Investments market value

Fred informed the Board about the investment situation with market downturn especially in March. With ATB Wealth we lost 5% of our investments and with RBC Dominion 13% in first quarter of this year. Everyone is hoping that situation will improve soon.

Budget 2020 - Jim’s concerns about wages

Jim expressed some concerns about the amount for wages in budget for 2020. It seemed too much comparing to year 2019. Viera prepared a spreadsheet explaining how salaries and benefits were planned. In 2019 we didn’t proceed with work on IRP projects so we had low amount in salaries other than full time employees and one seasonal worker. This year we are planning to finish IRP#2298 – Lateral B8 and therefore we have extra \$55,000 for salaries in budget 2020.

Accounts receivable – Rate Enforcement

One ratepayer still owes payment to the UID for rates from 2018, but the amount is insignificant. Duane will contact him and will also explain that the UID is interested to buy his assessed acres if he is not using them for irrigation. He still can have an access to irrigation water through Household Purpose Agreement.

Pipe locator AML Pro

Fred highly recommends the AML Pro all materials locator after attending CONEXPO in Vegas. He sees that it can be highly beneficial for our district and we can repay it by custom work to our ratepayers or other districts. The locator can locate the pipeline up to 16 feet deep and even without water running in the pipe. Duane asked how much it costs if we break one of our installed PVC pipes. To repair a 30” PVC pipe would cost around \$6,000.

Nicholas Barfuss MOVED to buy the AML Pro all materials locator from Spatial Technologies in Calgary; SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger. ...CARRIED

Hengerer Farms

Fred contacted Mr. Hengerer and he agrees to pay \$2,000 for engineering the project. Fred was also speaking with our engineer Darin Wilde and the cost for the whole quick engineering should be around \$4,000. The project would be around 460m long and it needs to be an open system.

Capital Assets Charge Bylaw

Bylaw No. 7-2020 – Capital Assets Charge Bylaw

The Bylaw was read for the first time by Daniel Hunsperger. Duane Nelson MOVED to read the second time. Jim Woolf SECONDED. ...CARRIED

Read the second time by Jim Woolf. Duane Nelson MOVED to read the third time. Nicholas Barfuss SECONDED. ...CARRIED

Read the third time by Nicholas Barfuss. ...PASSED

AIDA – Economic Stimulus Project

We have received email form Margo Jarvis Redelback, Executive Director of the AIDA. AIDA will be submitting a sector wide application for Economic Stimulus Funding to the Provincial Government. They will collect and compile information on district projects, and then they will submit the list of projects to the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. Each district was asked to follow the guidelines and to use form template when submitting projects.

The UID prepared three projects for submitting: Lateral A1e, Lateral D1 and Lateral F Drain from Three-Year Plan. The Board reviewed the projects, acknowledged that we will submit them as mentioned above and pay for the engineering.

2020 AIDA Inter-District Tour

AIDA needs to make a decision whether to postpone or to cancel the tour this year and requested a help from Board to make the decision. The Board suggested to postpone the tour as far as possible and maybe even cancel this year's tour. Fred will contact Margo.

QGIS – Quantum geographic information system

We have lost our mapping system QGIS in one of our main computers recently. We asked for help the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry to install the system again but unfortunately, they are unable to help us with it this time. Fred was speaking with our Engineer Darin Wilde and they have an expertise member in their team who would provide support to our district - an installation of QGIS and any update in the future when projects are engineered and completed.

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to hire Wild Brothers Engineering to install QGIS and to make the updates in the future according to engineered projects; SECONDED by Nicholas Barfuss. ...CARRIED

Covid-19 situation

As the Covid-19 is affecting our lives in all direction, businesses are affected as well. As Irrigation districts are listed under essential services in Alberta, Fred expressed concerns and wanted to discuss situation in case some of our employees are affected. Some suggestions were brought up to hire a person skilled especially in QuickBooks to make at least payroll and other essential office tasks however the decision has not been made yet.

Bar Double M Ranching - Mitch Merrill

Mitch is going to put a pivot on NE 8-4-27-W4 under Annual Acre Agreement. Because this pivot would be supplied by water from Lateral A, building a dugout is one of the conditions. He wants to hire the UID to build the dugout and it should be a custom work in amount of \$25,000 approximately.

Fuel pump


Over the years we had a problem with a switch for fuel pump. Darren Butler found the solution for this problem and offered to repair it if we are interested. Duane suggested to go for it.

Water Samplers

Janelle Villeneuve, Water Quality Specialist from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry contacted us as water sampling days are coming soon. Research station is closed due to Covid-19 precaution and all work needs to continue with strict isolation protocol. They asked the UID to collect all three water samplings from our district and the sampling from the Mountain View Irrigation District and deliver sampling caddy to Lethbridge before 3pm on 4 sampling days this year. The Board suggested to contact MVID and ask for cooperation, so they can deliver sampling in the morning to our Headworks area which is also first place to take sampling in our district and Jared Nelson, Ditchrider can deliver it to Lethbridge.

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED that the meeting be adjourned at 12:45 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 9:00 A.M



Chairman – Duane Nelson



District Manager – Fred Rice

