

Monday, February 23, 2015 at 10:00 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 February 23, 2015 commencing at 10:00 A.M.

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

Discussion and Acceptance of the January 19, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

Robert Wynder MOVED to accept the January 19, 2015 minutes. SECONDED by David Layton
...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the January 2015 Payroll

Robert Wynder MOVED to accept the January 2015 payroll, SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger.
...CARRIED

Reading, Discussion and Acceptance of February 23, 2015 Accounts Payable

Jim Woolf asked about the Glenwood Tire payment for tires. Robert Wynder MOVED to accept February 23, 2015 Accounts Payable; SECONDED by Jim Woolf. ...CARRIED

Audit

Hakon Skoien of Skoien Professional Corporation reviewed the 2014 Audit with the Board of Directors giving in his opinion that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the United Irrigation District as at December 31, 2014 in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for not-for-profit organizations. Robert Wynder MOVED to accept the Audit for 2014 as presented by Skoien Professional Corporation. SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger. ...CARRIED

Meeting with Brian Brewin

Mr. Brewin is a candidate for the nomination in the Provincial Cardston-Taber-Warner Constituency and met with the Board to introduce himself and to discuss any concerns or needs.

Pressure Surcharges

Issues discussed: long term source of revenue; what of irrigators who paid up front for capital upgrading to benefit their pressure; charge on rates and forget surcharges for pressure; more pressure systems in the future so need to capture this new revenue stream; implement surcharges on recent closed pipeline systems; if surcharge implemented there is no incentive to contribute to capital charges. It was decided to have Rod Bennett make his presentation at the annual meeting and discuss the issue with the irrigators.

IRP Funding

Fred asked the board for direction on construction prior to knowing the amount of funding that will be available for IRP work in 2015. The Board approved the work to start in March prior to the Provincial budget. They think there will be some funding available for IRP.

Wilde Brothers Engineering Preliminary Data on Storage on the Belly River

Darin Wilde sent information on 4 possible sites for storage and these were reviewed with indication that there could be capacity from 6,000 acre feet to 37,000 acre feet depending on location. Additional work will be done on the potential of a Payne Lake alternative.

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Emergency Response Planning

Roger Hohm has organized a meeting for Irrigation Districts to develop an emergency response planning workshop for March 17, 2015 in Lethbridge. Fred, Duane and Jim will attend.

United Irrigation District 2015 By-Laws

a. By-Law No. 1-2015 – Remuneration

The By-Law was read the First Time.

Jim suggested that Director Fees be raised to \$160 from \$140 per meeting. This was not supported by the other Directors.

Robert Wynder MOVED to read the second time. Daniel Hunsperger SECONDED.

...CARRIED

Read Second Time.

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to read the third time. Robert Wynder SECONDED.

...CARRIED

Read the Third Time.

...PASSED.

b. By-Law No. 2-2015 – Rates

The By-Law was read the First Time.

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to read the second time. Jim Woolf SECONDED.

...CARRIED

Read the Second Time.

David Layton MOVED to read the third time. Daniel Hunsperger SECONDED.

...CARRIED

Read the Third Time.

... PASSED.

c. By-Law No. 3-2015 – Water Conveyance Fees – to holders of Water Licence

The By-Law was read the First Time.

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to read the second time. Jim Woolf SECONDED.

...CARRIED

Read the Second Time.

Robert Wynder MOVED to read the third time. Jim Woolf SECONDED.

...CARRIED

Read the Third Time.

... PASSED.

d. By-Law No. 4-2015 – Household Purposes Agreements

The By-Law was read the First Time.

Jim Woolf MOVED to read the second time. Daniel Hunsperger SECONDED.

...CARRIED

Read Second Time.

Robert Wynder MOVED to read the third time. Jim Woolf SECONDED.

...CARRIED

Read the Third Time.

...PASSED.

e. By-Law No. 5-2015 – Water Conveyance Fee to Users Without a Water Licence and Rural Water Use Fee Bylaw

The By-Law was read the First Time.

Jim Woolf MOVED to read the second time. Daniel Hunsperger SECONDED.

...CARRIED

Read the Second Time.

Robert Wynder MOVED to read the third time. Jim Woolf SECONDED....CARRIED

Read the Third Time.

...PASSED.

Review of Discounts on Irrigation Rates

Craig noted a motion in 1998 to reduce discounts to 3% that was not implemented. The Board decided to leave the discount at 5% for 2015.

Budget Review and Wages for 2015

The 2015 budget was reviewed along with wages. It was determined to offer a 3% increase to management and 1.6% to the Ditchriders along with 1 more week of vacation at the slow time. Jim Woolf MOVED to accept the budget and the wage increases. SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger.
...CARRIED

Proposed Changes to the Irrigation Districts Act

Fred reviewed some of the proposed changes, mostly wording issues. The Board wants assurance from Secretariat that the wording in Section 87 "(1) A district may remove a parcel with irrigation acres from the district if, in the opinion of the district,...(d)if there has been no delivery of water to that parcel for 3 years and there is no reasonable prospect the user will resume the use of water on the parcel"does not get changed in a way that would take away from the discretion of the Board to make the decision on this issue.

Oldman Watershed Council Request for Funding

The Board does not wish to give funding to the Council at this time.

Scholarships – essay topics

Suggestions: Improving the Social Licence to Operate for Irrigation; How Does Irrigation Affect You? How do we let Urban People Know the Benefits of Irrigation? How Does Water Storage Benefit all Albertans? How Has Water Conservation Been Implemented?

Custom Work Labor and Equipment Rates Review

The question was raised about offering reduced rates on equipment and labor for custom work done for UID rate payers. It was decided that there should be some reduction in rates with the suggestion to charge IRP rates. The rationale is that we have excess labour and equipment in slower times that could benefit the District from some cost recovery.

Larry Gibb Request to Build a Berm with Pipe Across the UID Canal

Larry has proposed to build a 2 foot clay berm and install a pipe across the UID canal to move water away from his property on the SW 15-4-27-W4. The Board approved the proposal.

Reviewing the Irrigation Act in Board Meetings

Duane would like to take some time each meeting to review parts of the Act. This will be done.

Jana/Brandon Wynder Request to Transfer Acres

Application was submitted for transfer of 3 acres of the 6.5 acres of water rights on the SW 18-4-27-W4 to the NW 29-3-27-W4. The Board declined approval on the basis of the difficulty in regulating the amount of acres irrigated on the remaining property and policy of all or none to be transferred on these smaller parcels, the need for approval of creditors, and the NW 29 not being in the Wynder's name at this time. Dave suggested that policies such as noted above be filed in one place for consistent decision making in the future.

Fred's Agenda:

1. Michael Hollinda, our insurance agent, sent an email advising he is starting his own agency and requesting future business opportunities for our insurance.
2. Fred met with Jim Bester, our County councilor, looking at the drainage project. Fred said that Jim has submitted the information to County administration. The Board asked if there was any word on the UID installing culverts for the County. No word yet.
3. Fred requested permission to purchase steel to repair the Fruehauf trailer. Agreed.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 10:00 A.M.

Jim Woolf MOVED that the meeting be adjourned at 2:20 P.M. David Layton SECONDED.
...CARRIED

Chairman – Duane Nelson

District Manager – Fred Rice