

Monday, September 18, 2023, 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 18th, 2023, commencing at 10:00 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 17, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes

Duane Nelson MOVED to accept the July 17, 2023 Minutes; SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger.
...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the July and August 2023 Payrolls

Nicholas Barfuss MOVED to accept the July and August 2023 Payrolls; SECONDED by Craig Smith.
...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of September 18, 2023 Accounts Payable

Nicholas Barfuss MOVED to accept the September 18, 2023 Accounts Payable; SECONDED by Jim Woolf.
...CARRIED

The Board briefly discussed the situation with the 24' FalCan Industries gooseneck trailer we bought from Larry Lybbert. To avoid possible complications in the future, the UID needs a truck with the turnover ball to be able to tow the trailer.

Nicholas Barfuss MOVED to buy and install a turnover ball gooseneck hitch in the 2022 Dodge Ram; SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger.
...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the Financial Statement to September 18, 2023

Nicholas Barfuss MOVED to accept September 18, 2023, Financial Statement; SECONDED by Jim Woolf.
...CARRIED

Letter from Irrigation Secretariat regarding 2022 Audited Financial Statements

The letter stated that the UID's operating revenues were less than the operating expenditures for fiscal year 2022. As the district incurred a deficit in 2022, if a deficit is also incurred in the fiscal year 2023, the UID must submit its budget for the 2024 fiscal year to the Minister for approval or revision.

The Board of the UID is fully aware of the situation and Board members acknowledged that they avoid a deficit this fiscal year.

Owen Doherty's concerns

Owen and his wife Audrey are concerned about Daniel Hunsperger using his position as a Board member to influence other Board members in decisions. The letter was sent to Owen as Daniel was concerned that irrigation water from Owen's property would cause him problems. Daniel stopped this letter being sent last year. However, Owen kept good control of his water this year.

The UID discussed the issue and will not be sending this kind of letter in advance in the future, it will only be sent if damage is caused.

The ongoing battle between Dan French and Robert Wynder

Dan's irrigation water was leaking on Robert's land this time. They called Fred to see the problem. When Fred arrived, he could only see the ongoing battle between two neighbors. This is not a problem that UID could and should resolve and it is a waste of time for Fred.

Irrigation Council tour – thoughts

The feedback was positive from all Board members on the tour as well as on the meeting with the Irrigation Council. It seems that both parties were satisfied with the event.

Irrigation water for Colin Beazer

Mr. Beazer asked for a cost estimate on the turnout for Lateral B7 which is on a corner of Rex Wynder's old land. The estimated cost is around \$2,200 installed and Colin agreed to the cost. The UID will most likely complete the work during winter or early spring before irrigation is on.

Lateral F4 project

The UID is planning to include the Lateral F4 project as a Year-one project in the Annual Rolling Three-year plan this year. The Board discussed the project as there is the possibility that we can currently purchase a 48" PVC pipe which can be substituted for the proposed 36" and 30" PVC pipe.

New acres added to the Assessment Roll

Since new acres were added to the UID Assessment roll, we received applications for 295 acres so far. The deadline for the first application round is October 15th.

Letter from Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Jason Hale

The UID received the letter from the Deputy Minister on August 28th. The letter outlines two requests as a precaution. Firstly, it is to consider minimizing post-harvest irrigation for unseeded acres and discretionary water use. The second request is to attend upcoming planning sessions which will be organized by Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (EPA).

The situation with irrigation water was critical this year, however, for the UID it has been no different than other years due to no storage on Belly River.

Shut-off day for the UID's canals

The UID is planning to shut our canals off on Friday, October 6th if water is still available. The water in the river is extremely low, we might close them earlier.

IRP # 2378 F Lateral open ditch

Cardston County contacted Fred and agreed to contribute to the project with \$92,000 for culverts.

Water usage from Waterton Dam

The estimated water usage from the Waterton dam is 9,167 acre-feet of water as of today September 18th. The estimate was calculated based on data from Alberta Environment. We have been taking about 1 m³/s from Waterton Dam since September 7th and 1 m³/s from Belly River since August.

Water samples


Fred thinks that it is a waste of his time to do water samples each month during irrigation season.


Nick's proposal

Nick was asking for permission to cross Glen Lateral with a pivot. The Board gave him permission.

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED that the meeting be adjourned at 12:05 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, October 23rd, 2023, at 10:00 A.M


Chairman – Duane Nelson


District Manager – Fred Rice