

Monday, January 28, 2019 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 January 28, 2019, commencing at 10:00 A.M.

Present: Duane Nelson – Chairman
Daniel Hunsperger – Vice-Chairman
Jim Woolf – Board Member
Brandon Gibb – Board Member
Craig B. Smith – Board Member
Fred Rice – Manager
Viera Ducky – Assistant Manager
Public in attendance - Lloyd Smith

Discussion and Acceptance of the December 18, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes

Brandon Gibb MOVED to accept the December 18, 2018 minutes; SECONDED by Craig Smith.

...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the December 2018 Payroll

Brandon Gibb MOVED to accept the December 2018 Payroll; SECONDED by Jim Woolf.

...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of January 28, 2019 Accounts Payable

Jim Woolf MOVED to accept January 28, 2019 Accounts Payable; SECONDED by Brandon Gibb.

...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the Financial Statement to January 28, 2018

Brandon Gibb MOVED to accept January 28, 2018 Financial Statement; SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger.

... CARRIED

RBC Investments

Dennis Chinner, Vice President & Investment Advisor from RBC Dominion Securities Inc. was invited for meeting to give the Board an updated information about UID's investment portfolio in 2018. Mr. Chinner gave us full review about each fund separately as well as he reviewed the whole investment account. The UID's funds are in quality investments with 100% principal protection at maturity and guaranteed 3-6% annual yield first 3 years and 0-6% following 3-7 years. Current yield of dividends for UID in 2018 was 3.39%. Two of our funds are mature but the Board has decided to keep it in investment portfolio as currently we don't need to cash them. The Board Directors are not planning to make any changes in RBC investments.

Replacement of cables on radial arm gate at headworks

Fred informed the Board about the situation with cables at headworks and asked if they agree to invest in maintenance while water level is low and before irrigation season. It's visible that cables on radial arm gate are rusted, fact is that they are under water the whole season. The quote from INSTREAM in Lethbridge offers ¾" stainless steel cables which will be around \$4,500 for the length we need. For installation we will need a crane to lift the gate, which can be \$6,000 for cables and installation together.

Fred with our crew will try to pull covers off and will see how the condition of the gate is. Fred also advised that they will clean up some sediment at the siltation pond at headworks.

The Board has decided to order cables now as we will need them anyway and do the work ourselves.

Buying irrigation assessed acres from Vaughn Smith

The agreement to buy 65.77 irrigation assessed acres from Mr. Smith was already signed and cheque was issued. The amount was lowered by the amount of the invoice from 2018 for irrigation rates which was not paid.

Accounts receivable

The Accounts receivable for rates from 2017 is \$ 1,061.00 as of today and ratepayers who owe us are: Fox, Paxman, Welch.

The Accounts receivable for rates from 2018 is \$ 7,003.00 as of today and ratepayers who owe us are: Fox, Francis, Paxman, Porter, Stephan, and Welch.

The Rate Enforcement needs to be filled out before March 1st, 2019 if rates from 2017 are not paid. Viera will contact those ratepayers and send them the registered letter informing about the Rate Enforcement.

Additional grant funding for operation for 2019

On January 21, 2019 the UID received a letter from Minister Oneil Carlier informing us about the additional grant funding for operation for 2019 in amount almost same as last year. The agreement was signed and forwarded to Irrigation Secretariat as requested. Our district appreciate this funding.

ATB Financial – Electronic Funds transfer

As we are interested in electronic funds transfer for payroll for employees, Viera contacted our bank institute to find out how are their fees for this service. For 10 employees it would be around \$27.50 monthly with initial implementation fee \$125. Brandon suggested to contact ATB Financial and ask for lower fees because the UID do a lot of business with them.

Mountain Vista Water Co-op

Dennis Rieger from Mountain Vista Water Co-op at the Barn Dance came to the UID to ask if they could take over the responsibility of irrigation water which is now Barn Dance. After the discussion with Fred, Trevor Kunkel, the owner of the Great Canadian Barn Dance delivered a letter. In the letter Mr.Kunkel agree with transferring of the responsibility, so the Mountain Vista Water Co-op will take over the distribution system and install their their own water pump. The existing turnout can serve both agencies, however some modification is needed so Mountain Vista Water Co-op will be responsible for it.

The Board agree with it as well, however Fred needs to ask Trevor if he needs irrigation water at the Barn Dance to refresh the lake. They still have 9 assessed acres so they can have up to 1.8 acre feet of water per season.

Letter to ratepayers about selling irrigation acres

Fred prepared the letter for our ratepayers informing them about the option to buy extra irrigation assessed acres from the UID. The letter will be sent out together with the notice of Annual General Meeting of the UID.

The UID will do the best to have a fair approach to all ratepayers. The list of criteria is prepared to choose the buyer.

Brandon suggested expanding our district so we have enough irrigation acres for those who are interested. As Fred pointed, we need to be careful with those "sleeping acres". We can see now that some acres has been irrigated lately even they have never been irrigated before.

As Brandon re-suggested, we need to apply highly efficient irrigation system which is a scheduling system.

Communication between Ditch Riders and farmers is critical which can lead to efficient rating system.

The UID needs to be proactive and ratepayers will be informed about it at our AGM this year.

Audit 2018

Auditor Hakon Skoien started with audit last week and will come this week again. He will then come for next meeting to review our financial situation for 2018 with the Board.

Letter to Irrigation Council

Letter expressing the UID's concerns about other district expansion was sent to Irrigation Council. The UID is concerned because other districts expansion is a direct line to lower IRP funds for our district. Our district is raising rates every year and it seems like it will be raised even more in the future.

Call Conference with the Minister about funding for Irrigation District

On January 24th, 2019 all Irrigation districts were invited for the Call Conference with the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. The Minister briefly gave an opening remarks about operational funding and IRP funding. Afterwards all participant had the opportunity for comments and questions. Fred and Duane represented our district during this call conference.

Meeting with the Lethbridge County

A meeting with the Lethbridge County, other municipalities and irrigation districts is scheduled for March 28, 2019. This meeting should be about changing Irrigation Act and Water Act, so districts will be responsible for drainage and new infrastructure in the municipalities. They are trying to get all Southern municipalities agree with them and requesting a Chairman of the Board involvement. Duane mentioned the bad state of most of the gravel roads in Lethbridge County compared to ours. Brandon pointed one aspect affecting it is a better drainage in our county.

The fence along the UID's canal

Brandon suggested to replace the fence along the UID's canal at the old Lawrence Draper's place. The fence was installed in 1986-87 and it has already fallen down. Brandon Gibb is the new owner of that land and he feels like he shouldn't be investing into this fence. Barbed wire is still useable, only posts needs to be replaced. Board discussed the situation and agreed that we need to replace our fences regularly as part of operation and maintenance. The board asked Fred to order a whole semi-load of fence posts and replace some of the fences this year.

The board is considering to make a policy that UID will build a fence and it will be a farmer's responsibility to fix the fence when needed. The fences are built to keep a livestock out of ditch or canal.

United Irrigation District 2019 By-Laws

a. By-Law No. 1-2019 – Remuneration

The By-Law was read the First Time by Duane Nelson. Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to read the second time. Jim Woolf SECONDED. ...CARRIED

Read Second Time by Daniel Hunsperger.

Craig Smith MOVED to read the third time. Brandon Gibb SECONDED. ...CARRIED

Read the Third Time by Jim Woolf. ...PASSED.

b. By-Law No. 2-2019 - Rates

The By-Law was read the First Time by Duane Nelson.

Craig Smith MOVED to read the second time. Brandon Gibb SECONDED. ...CARRIED

Read the Second Time by Daniel Hunsperger. Brandon Gibb MOVED to read the third time. Jim Woolf SECONDED. ...CARRIED

Read the Third Time by Jim Woolf. ... PASSED.

c. By-Law No. 3-2019 - Water Conveyance Fees - to holders of Water Licence

The By-Law was read the First Time by Duane Nelson. Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to read the second time. Brandon Gibb SECONDED. ...CARRIED

Read the Second Time by Jim Woolf. Duane Nelson MOVED to read the third time. Daniel Husperger SECONDED. ...CARRIED

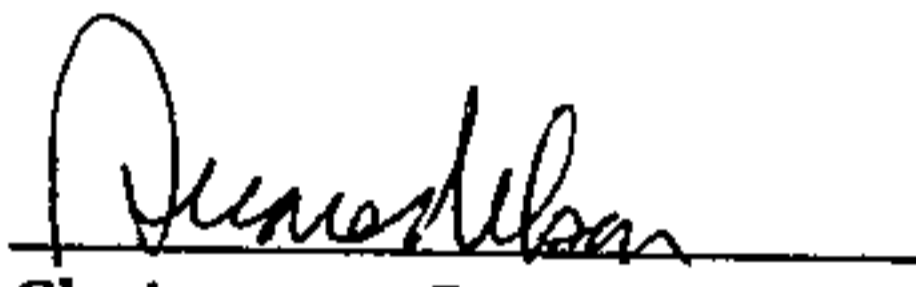
Read the Third Time by Brandon Gibb. ... PASSED.


Salary 2019

The Board discussed wage increase for employees and agreed to increase 6% for the Manager and for one seasonal worker-BC, 3% for Ditch Riders and Assistant Manager.

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED that the meeting be adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 25, 2019 at 10:00 A.M.


Chairman - Duane Nelson


District Manager - Fred Rice