

## UNITED IRRIGATION DISTRICT

### Monday, December 17, 2012 at 9:00 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 Monday, December 17, 2012 commencing at 9:00 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 November 19, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Daniel noted that there most likely should have been a price limit made on the motion to purchase a band saw that he made last meeting. Robert suggested that a good unit be purchased as we are saving significantly on the production of the turn outs.

Robert Wynder MOVED to accept the November 19, 2012 regular meeting minutes; SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger. ...CARRIED

#### **Discussion and Acceptance of November 2012 Payroll**

Noted that all hourly employees except Jared Nelson have been laid off and he will only be used for a few more days. David Layton MOVED to accept the November, 2012 payroll, SECONDED by Jim Woolf. ...CARRIED

#### **Reading, Discussion and Acceptance of December 17, 2012 Accounts Payable**

Items noted were the expenditures for the Christmas party, IPEX and Crane Supply.

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to accept December 17, 2012 payables. SECONDED by Robert Wynder. ...CARRIED

#### **Reading, Discussion and Acceptance of December 17, 2012 Petty Cash**

No petty cash activity for December.

#### **Reading and Discussion on Financial Report to December 14, 2012**

Reviewed the Irrigation Council form for the estimated year end position of surplus/deficit. Fred noted the significant increase in O&M work over the budgeted amount for the year. Daniel

Hunsperger MOVED to accept December 14, 2012 financial report. SECONDED by Robert Wynder. ...CARRIED

#### **Irrigation Act Review**

Section 11 "Transfer of Water Licence" was reviewed. Question of when section 6(b) applies as it relates to the Minister authorizing a transfer without a plebiscite. It was thought that if no charge was made for the transfer that this could be done but it will be looked into for clarification.

#### **South East Alberta Water Co-op Request for Transfer of Water Licence**

The Board members contacted about 26 water users to get their feedback on the potential transfer. For the most part there was a positive response but there were some objections. Issues such as use

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it or lose it, uncertainty about future allocations and adjustments to existing priorities, the ability to keep water rates at a lower level if the funds received could help, future values of water, setting precedents, preserving the existing licence and get more storage, using any transfers for the local benefit rather than outside the District, and the increase in usage of existing assessed lands in the future. David Layton wanted to be on record that he opposes any transfer. The other Board members understand his defense of maintaining the present licence amount but can see that this transfer will not be of any significant detriment to the District's future position given the amount requested. Fred would like to see it used locally. The decision was tabled and suggested that further discussion was needed by the Board and with the water users. It may need to be deferred until the Annual Meeting for discussion with the water users.

### **AIPA Conference Report**

Fred reported that the conference was interesting for the most part with topics referencing the use of water and irrigated production for food and bio-fuel. The networking was beneficial with other Districts and suppliers. Andy Strang will be replacing Gordon Zobell as the AIPA representative for the seven smaller Districts.

### **Band Saw Progress**

Daniel looked into a number of options with low to high value. His recommendation is a 7x12 Jet band saw with a cost of around \$2,000. It could be picked up in the USA for around \$1,200. A purchase will be deferred until 2013.

### **Oldman Watershed Council Request for Contribution**

Shannon Frank will attend the January Board meeting to explain the work of the Council. Daniel approves of the riparian work of the Council and has used the resources for some of his river land. Craig attended a meeting in Pincher Creek sponsored by the Council on December 4.

### **History Book**

The book has been reviewed with some additions to pictures and narrative information. Interviews have been held with Kirt and Ron. It will be forwarded to Corrine by year end.

### **Water Licence Letter**

Dave McGee has not provided any further details. No action will be taken until we hear from him.

### **Purchase of a Ripper for the JD 240DL Excavator**

Fred has quotes for a used ripper of \$3,900 and a new ripper for \$5,600. Questions were raised about the warranty, the actual need and use of the ripper. Daniel favours new over used given the price difference. Jim is not sure that we need to spend the money given the amount of use. Duane felt we could leave it up to Fred to determine the need/want value of the purchase. It was tabled until the next meeting to get more information.

### **Neil Allred – Pesticide Applicator Certification**

Fred would like to have Neil take the on-line course and become certified as an applicator for the benefit of the UID applications in the future.

Jim Woolf MOVED that the District have Neil Allred take the up to date tutorial course from Lake Land College. SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger. ...CARRIED

### **UID Logo Vests/Jackets for Board Members**

Robert asked that this be looked into. Prices for Vests would likely be \$25 plus; Jackets \$50 plus.

David doesn't want jackets. It was suggested that Mike Bishop be contacted for prices. More information will be provided for the next meeting.

### **Irrigation Management Workshop**

Alberta Agriculture would like to put on a workshop in the Mountain Districts in February. It was decided this would be a good idea to promote for the water users. There would be a charge to the participants. Dave wondered about getting some suppliers to be present and see if they would cover the cost. Jim and Robert felt the Ag Society may help with the sponsorship.

### **Pre-By-Law Discussion**

It was felt the By-Laws should not change for 2013 except that a minimum \$300 charge should be added to category (e) of By-Law No. 5 to state \$45 per acre foot for Municipal, Commercial/Industrial with a minimum \$300 charge.

### **Discussion of Wages for 2013**

There was some clarification needed for Holiday pay for the employees. It appears this needs to be changed for Statutory Holiday to pay the workers for that day even if they are not working. Jim feels this should be in place even if Employment Standards does not specify it for the Ditch Riders. The Board met without the employees and then suggested consideration of a 4% increase for 2013 either in pay or time off or a combination. Fred would like pay. Craig would like part pay and part time off. A final decision will be made at the January Board Meeting.

### **Al McEwen/Village of Glenwood Request for Contribution to the Skating Rink Renovation**

The Board decided this should be left to the municipal bodies responsible for this maintenance.

### **Virginia Layton Irrigable Unit Resolution**

Robert Wynder MOVED that the Resolution to form an Irrigable Unit on land in the name of Virginia Fern Bates Layton Title No.'s 101 109 496 and 121 318 494 be approved. SECONDED by Jim Woolf.

4 voted in favour. David Layton abstained. ...CARRIED

Next Meeting: January 21, 2013 at 10:00 A.M.

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED that the meeting be adjourned at 1:00 P.M. SECONDED by Jim Woolf.  
...CARRIED

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Chairman – Duane Nelson

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District Manager – Fred Rice