

Wednesday, March 15, 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 March 15th, 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 February 22, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to accept the February 22, 2023 Minutes; SECONDED by Nicholas Barfuss.
...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the February 2023 Payroll

Nicholas Barfuss MOVED to accept the February 2023 Payroll; SECONDED by Duane Nelson.
...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of March 15, 2023 Accounts Payable

Duane Nelson MOVED to accept the March 15, 2023 Accounts Payable; SECONDED by Jim Woolf.
...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the Financial Statement to March 15, 2023

Jim Woolf MOVED to accept March 15, 2023, Financial Statement; SECONDED by Nicholas Barfuss.
...CARRIED

Larry Gibb's concerns

As mentioned in previous minutes, the Board of the UID decided to replace terminable acres with permanent assessed acres or with the Annual Acre Agreement.

Larry Gibb was the most affected ratepayer affected by the change. He came with Mike Nish to address his concerns. As he mentioned, he was unpleasantly surprised by the cost to switch from terminable acres to permanent acres and he does not like that it came so suddenly. In the past, he tried multiple times to change terminable acres into permanent acres. His request was always denied because the Board was unsure if the UID will be able to supply water to those lands. Larry was able to prove that it is not an issue and he would rather have permanent assessed acres than Annual Acre Agreement. He is also concerned about how the Annual Acre Agreements might be affected in the future with a new UID Board.

Fred and the Board understand Larry's concerns. However, while deciding to dissolve terminable acres in the district, the Board was almost sure Larry will be satisfied with Annual Acre Agreement and that permanent acres can be sold and used where they are needed.

Larry and Mike will discuss it again and inform the UID about their decision and proposal.

Using restricted funds for general use

The transfer of funds from the general account into the restricted fund at the end of the last year highly affected the general account which is used for operating purposes.

Nicholas Barfuss MOVED to use money from the restricted fund as needed for operating purposes; SECONDED by Jim Woolf.
...CARRIED

IRP # 2378 - F Lateral Project

The plan for this year was to not proceed with much work on the project, but rather to save funding money for next year. The situation has changed and Fred had a meeting with the engineer. Therefore, Fred is

planning to start work on the project in the fall and make work worth around \$490,000. The situation might be even more complicated with a higher cost of structures.

Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District – 100th Anniversary

The LNID invited us to celebrate their 100th anniversary on Friday, June 16th, 2023 at Coyote Flats Pioneer Village.

AIDA Board of Directors meeting

The meeting is planned for March 31st, 2023 at 10:00 AM at the Lodge Hotel Lethbridge. Fred will attend the meeting and some of the Board members might attend as well.

Lynn Bishop bought Jerry Reed's land

Jerry Reed is subdividing his acreage. He sold around 17 acres of land without irrigation assessed acres to Lynn Bishop. Lynn wanted to remove the turnout which was supplying the land in the past. However, Dough Smith with his daughter Tracey came to the office to discuss the line to supply her acreage, which use to be Burke and Freda Thomas' property with 1.9 assessed acres. Tracey requested that line be extended and she offered to cover the cost of the pipe. They asked the UID to install the pipe. There will be not many expenses to the UID.

Nicholas Barfuss MOVED that the UID will install the extension of pipe to supply acreage on N1/2 SW 1-5-27-W4; SECONDED by Duane Nelson. ...CARRIED

Scholarship 2023

Duane Nelson MOVED to sponsor a greenhouse project at the Spring Glen Junior High School in the amount of \$1,500; SECONDED by Craig Smith. ...CARRIED

Provincial budget for 2023

The provincial budget was released on March 31st, 2023. The AIDA had a meeting with the minister and informed us about funding for IRP. The budget continues funding for IRP which is slightly increased over the next three years. 2023 estimate of \$13.5M and projection for 2024 of \$13.5M and 2025 of \$15.5M for all irrigation districts. \$5M in funding is also dedicated within the budget to a feasibility study for the Eyremore Dam proposal.

Election 2023

Two Board Members' positions are up for election and the deadline for nominations for the Board of Directors is today at 4:00 PM. We have received two nominations so far.

CIB loan


We have not received an explanation on the repayment of the loan yet. Fred just pointed out that if we keep the loan another ten years and increase the rates by 3% each year, we are looking into a 30% increase in rates in ten years.

Eastern Irrigation District starts to collect

EID starts to collect rates at \$5/acre from their ratepayers.

Jim Woolf MOVED that the meeting be adjourned at 11:55 A.M.

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, April 24, 2023, at 10:00 A.M


Chairman – Duane Nelson


District Manager – Fred Rice