

**Tuesday, Sept 17, 2018 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 September 17, 2018, commencing at 10:00 A.M.

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

**Discussion and Acceptance of the July 16, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to accept the July 16, 2018 minutes; SECONDED by Jim Woolf.  
...CARRIED

**Discussion and Acceptance of the July 2018 Payroll**

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

**Discussion and Acceptance of the August 2018 Payroll**

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

**Discussion and Acceptance of August 31, 2018 Accounts Payable**

Brandon Gibb MOVED to accept August 31, 2018 Accounts Payable; SECONDED by Jim Woolf.  
...CARRIED

**Discussion and Acceptance of September 17, 2018 Accounts Payable**

Brandon Gibb MOVED to accept September 17, 2018 Accounts Payable; SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger.  
...CARRIED

**Discussion and Acceptance of the Financial Statement to September 17, 2018**

Brandon Gibb MOVED to accept September 17, 2018 Financial Statement; SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger.  
... CARRIED

**Dave Layton – Whisper Valley Campground**

Dave Layton - our ratepayer and the owner of the Whisper Valley Campground attended the meeting intending to discuss how the UID can justify the irrigation rate for campgrounds. People's perception is that campgrounds are rolling in big money and some of the ratepayers would like to charge them more. Dave is very thankful for irrigation water as this water is needed for fire protection as well as to water some trees in the campground although he thinks he is not using very much water comparing to feedlots or Canadian Barn Dance and questioning why the Spring Glen Park has free irrigation water. He quoted Water Act which states 'charges for water must be established fair and equitable'. Dave was not particularly complaining about high rate for campgrounds however he thinks campgrounds are easy target to rise rates which is not fair and he is more worried about rising rates in the future.

Brandon answered that the UID is trying to do the best to be fair to all ratepayers and the Board's goal is to keep rates as low as possible and as long as we can. We can't compare campgrounds to Spring Glen Park, this park is a non-profit organization and is serving Glenwood and Hill Spring communities. Their profit is used to beautify and maintain the park.

Jim noted, rates are about rights to have irrigation water not about usage. Daniel remarked reduction in government funding. The rates are going to rise up and up and every ratepayer needs to pay rates to keep the UID working.

#### **Buying Irrigation Assessed Acres other than Small Parcel Acres**

- A) Fred's suggestion is to make a limit for the year to buy Irrigation assessed acres back to the UID. The Board agreed to state limit at 160 irrigation assessed acres per year with special decision after that amount. The By-Law will be prepared to read it at the next meeting. The UID's first intention was to buy only small parcel acres, however every request will be discussed and considered before approving.
- B) Brandon read the letter from the ratepayer Marjorie Ryan where she express gratitude to the UID for all hard work. She is also offering to sell 22 irrigation assessed acres on NW36-4-28-4. As this is a Small Parcel and recently not irrigated the Board agreed to buy those irrigation acres.
- C) Daniel Henrie would like to sell 53.34 irrigation assessed acres on SW 4-5-27-W4. Apparently the land has some issue and a problem with the irrigation. The UID will wait with buying these irrigation acres. As the UID already reached the limit for buying irrigation acres, the request will be discussed and considered again in 2019.
- D) Richard Rutherford offered to sell 2.08 irrigation assessed acres on NE 6-5-27-W4. The UID agrees with the purchase as the land is a Small Parcel.
- E) Claude Taylor is asking for permission to sell 1.0 irrigation acre on SW 8-5-27-W4 to David Hunsperger. As per Daniel's information, David will most likely sell the acre to Perry Hunsperger. Daniel will discuss it with David and Perry. Duane's question was how to decide to which farmer to sell irrigation acres and at what price? Fred will ask other districts who have already experience with buying and selling irrigation assessed acres.
- F) Vaughn Smith is planning to open a campground on SW 25-4-28-W4 with 65.77 irrigation assessed acres on it. Irrigation acres need to be removed from the land and irrigation water can be provided to the campground like other campgrounds. This topic will be discussed in the future as the UID hasn't receive any official decision.

#### **Selling Irrigation Assessed Acres to the Small Parcel owners**

Fred's question was what the Board thinks about selling irrigation assessed acres to the small parcel owners. The Board has no objections, the request is again the subject of approval by the Board.

#### **AIPA Meeting - September 10, 2018**

- Special AIPA meeting will be held on September 27, 2018 at Convention Centre in Taber followed by Regular Board of Directors meeting. AGM is still planned for November 2018 and AIPA Conference was moved to February 2019.
- The name Alberta Irrigation Project Association (AIPA) will be changed to the Alberta Irrigation District Association (AIDA) which better indicates representing districts.

#### **Eastern Irrigation District concerns**

The EID has concerns about one person with many numbered companies purchasing land for \$1, following concerns about his voting and getting irrigation rights through expansion. Daniel read the letter from EID which explains the problem with the farmer mentioned above.

The EID is asking for the letter of support for amendments the Irrigation Districts Act towards a clear definition of an Owner of an Irrigated parcel.  
Duane prepared the Letter of support and all Board Directors agreed to support the EID and on sending the letter.

### **Managers Meeting**

Managers Meetings became very informative to Fred. During last Managers meeting Fred brought up rationing water in our district and other districts didn't know anything about it. He is disappointed though as nothing is mentioned about it in Minutes.

Payne Lake is 90% full, Lee Nelson from the Alberta Environment seems to be satisfied with the way we handled the rationing this year.

Most of the districts are trying to have their regular board meetings in the fourth week of the month. The UID will try it next month and will schedule the meeting for October 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **Thoughts about the Tour for Irrigation Council and Irrigation Secretariat on July 25, 2018**

All Board Members agreed the tour was successful and the UID was pleased to have that opportunity. The Board of Directors have a feeling that districts would benefit from having more farmers or irrigation people in the Irrigation Council.

### **Irrigation District Rates for all districts**

During last Managers meeting Fred was approached with the opinion that the UID should charge ratepayers for the pressure which we don't do at the moment. Some districts also apply the pipeline charge.


There was no more discussion about the rates.

### **Christmas Party 2018**

The party is planned for December 7 at the Community Hall in Hill Spring. Viera will make a booking and invitations.

Brandon Gibb MOVED that the meeting be adjourned at 12:20 P.M.

Next Meeting: Monday, October 29, 2018 at 10:00 A.M.

  
Chairman - Duane Nelson

  
District Manager - Fred Rice