

Monday, May 17, 2021, 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 May 17, 2021, 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

Covid-19 provincial health guidelines were followed during the meeting.

Discussion and Acceptance of April 19, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes

Nicholas Barfuss MOVED to accept the April 19, 2021 Minutes; SECONDED by Jim Woolf.

...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the April 2021 Payroll

Craig B. Smith MOVED to accept the April 2021 Payroll; SECONDED by Jim Woolf.

...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of May 17, 2021 Accounts Payable

Nicholas Barfuss MOVED to accept the May 17, 2021 Accounts Payable; SECONDED by Duane Nelson.

...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the Financial Statement to May 17, 2021

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to accept May 17, 2021, Financial Statement; SECONDED by Craig B. Smith.

...CARRIED

Zoom meeting with Jessica Joss, RBC Wealth, and ordering PVC pipes for Modernization Projects

The Board meeting started with video call with Jessica from Joss Wealth Advisory Group about UID's investments at RBC Wealth Management.

Investments are doing quite well to date, the return is 5.69% at this day just for the year 2021. Return on investments for the fiscal year 2020 was 5.42%.

One of our GIS just matured and Jessica was enquiring with Board what plans do they have with this cash. Her recommendation was a reinvestment into a global dividend fund. The return from the equivalent investment was 17.6% last year. The Board discussed investments and came to conclusion not to reinvest them now as we need cash for financing Modernization projects. Jim suggested to pre-order all PVC pipes for all three modernization projects to avoid price increase on PVC pipes and try not to exceed the estimated costs of the projects. The total amount would come to around \$700,000. Fred will contact IPEX and discuss preordering PVC pipes.

Jim Woolf MOVED to order all PVC pipes and fittings for all three Modernization projects: Lateral A1e, D1, and Lateral B; SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger.

...CARRIED

Otherwise, our portfolio with RBC Wealth Management serves the purpose exactly to which it was intended to do.

IRP Funding

IRP funding has not been received to this day for year 2021 and we don't have any estimated day. As discussed above, funds from investments need to be transferred to the general account for the rehabilitation project until the funding from the government will be received into UID's cost-share account.

Household Purpose Agreement for DJ Scott

DJ Scott approached the UID last year about the availability of irrigation water for his land. The property is currently on two lots east of Jim Layton and the land does not have any irrigation rights. The only possibility for Mr. Scott to have irrigation water is to have Household Purpose Agreement with the UID. Fred initiated a discussion with the Board whether DJ should be charged for two agreements or whether the Board agree to combine them if he wants to irrigate his land this year. Last year DJ found it too expensive to have two agreements. The Board feels that he needs two agreements if he wants to irrigate both pieces or just one if he chooses to irrigate just one. If he will decide to amalgamate the land and have just one land title, then he needs just one agreement with the UID.

Household Purpose Agreement for John Merrill

John Merrill contacted the UID because he wants to irrigate his land through Household Purpose Agreement. He has the pipe already installed and he just needs to sign the agreement. The Board agrees with the agreement.

Letter from Andy Caruso, CEO of Atrum Coal

The Atrum Coal company is seeking to develop the proposed Elan metallurgical coal project. Mr. Caruso, CEO would like to schedule an online meeting with our company. As all know, a great deal has been said on the recent development in topic around mining in Alberta. He would like to know about our concerns directly, to answer our questions, and tell us about the proposed Elan project. The Board of the UID doesn't feel that the meeting is necessary as this project will not affect our water users.

CIB Loan

The deal for CIB Loan for Modernization Projects has been finalized. Online banking with the CIB has not been set up yet as we are waiting for the CIB representative to contact us even though we have received the email informing us that 80% of the total amount of submitted Progress Certificates is already on our account. Tom MacLachlan sent out an informative email with some guidance about acquiring ROW for pipeline easements or acquiring ROW for canal widening. The UID has already registered Easements for Lateral A1e and Lateral D1 modernization projects and there was no resistance from any of the ratepayers, however, from previous experience landowners are not willing to sign ROW for projects.

Engineer Darin Wilde and

Darin is coming to the UID this week to discuss and go over all planned projects with Fred. He is very busy and trying to catch up on projects as his office was closed for a couple of weeks due to Covid-19.

IRP#2340 Lateral F7 – hauling in-fill for the ditch

Fred informed the Board that the crew of the UID will soon start with hauling in-fill for the ditch of Lateral F7 to be ready to work on this project this fall and hopefully substantially finish the project this year. The PVC pipeline was preordered last year.

The UID started the irrigation season on May 10th

The UID opened main canal on Monday, May 10th. The season started earlier as usual because of the deficiency of moisture this winter and some farmers were already asking for irrigation water. Ditch riders are still filling lines and Fred said the water is very clean this year.

Solar System

The post-project funding application is still not open. Fred showed the Board Fronius Solar. web where we can see the current production of our solar system.

Covid-19

Fred expressed his concerns about UID’s crew safety in case any of them will be infected with the Covid-19 virus. The Board members support the decision of each of the employee not to get vaccinated against the Covid-19 virus. If any of the employees gets sick from Covid-19 we have to deal with that at that time.

Dealing with Farm Credit Canada

A representative from Farm Credit Canada had questions on some of Larry Gibb’s land. They were asking about irrigation rights on his lands and delivery points to those lands. Based on this conversation, it looks like we need to make some Irrigable Units and we may have to go through the whole district. If one turnout is supplying more than one title piece of property we should have Easement in place. Another solution would be to discuss the situation with the farmer and he might be interested to amalgamate some of his parcels.

Gravel from Cardston County


Soon there will be a day for hauling gravel from the Cardston County gravel pit. The UID needs some gravel and the Board approved hauling gravel. The price increase to \$13/yard.

Request to schedule Regular Board meetings earlier

Nick requested to move Regular Board Meetings to 9 AM or even 8 AM whenever possible. The reason for the meeting being at 10 AM is that Craig is working as a school bus driver as well. We will try to work around everyon’s schedule once threere are no school days.

Duane Nelson MOVED that the meeting be adjourned at 12:50 A.M.

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, June 21, 2021, at 10:00 A.M


Chairman – Duane Nelson


District Manager – Fred Rice