

Monday, September 16, 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 September 16, 2019, commencing at 10:00 A.M.

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

Discussion and Acceptance of the July 22, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Jim Woolf MOVED to accept the July 22, 2019 Minutes; SECONDED by Craig Smith.

...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the August 12, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes

Jim Woolf MOVED to accept the August 12, 2019 Minutes; SECONDED by Duane Nelson.

...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the August 27, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes

Craig Woolf MOVED to accept the August 27, 2019 Minutes; SECONDED by Jim Woolf.

...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the July 2019 Payroll

Jim Woolf MOVED to accept the July 2019 Payroll; SECONDED by Craig Smith.

...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the August 2019 Payroll

Craig Smith MOVED to accept the August 2019 Payroll; SECONDED by Duane Nelson.

...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of September 16, 2019 Accounts Payable

Duane Nelson MOVED to accept September 16, 2019 Accounts Payable; SECONDED by Jim Woolf.

...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the Financial Statement to September 16, 2019

Jim Woolf MOVED to accept September 16, 2019 Financial Statement; SECONDED by Craig Smith.

... CARRIED

Lynn Bishop from L&S Enterprises at the meeting

Lynn Bishop came to the meeting to submit these requests:

- To ask for an approval to sell privately his irrigation assessed acres
- To combine small parcel acres into one unit in case the Board will not approve selling those acres: LSD 9&10 NE 1-5-27-4 (40.37 acres)&N1/2 NE 1-5-27-4 (18.8 acres)
Pt. SE 10-5-27-4 (101.03 acres) & Plan 0011818, Block 1, Lot 2 (9.1 acres)
- To ask the UID to install more culverts on F Lateral emergency drain along the Twp.Rd. 52.

Mr. Bishop pointed out that some acres are not being irrigated and he is not planning to do it in the future, yet still paying each year rates on those lands. His neighbor is interested in buying the assessed acres and Lynn feels that the price of \$750/acre which the UID offers is too low. If Mr. Merrill will buy those acres, it will be his responsibility to pay for infrastructure from the turnout. Fred's concern is that new PVC pipe was installed not long ago. At that time Mr. Bishop said he wants it because he wants to keep irrigation assessed acres on the land. Duane was asking if there will be enough water on A Lateral when Mr. Merrill wants to put 2 new pivots.

They are all supplied with water from the A Lateral. Fred reminded that we already approved

Annual Acre Agreement for this third pivot, however if there is not enough irrigation water, the acres supplied under Annual Acre Agreement can be shut off first.

Fred took Board members for a ride to see where Mr. Bishop would like to have the culvert lengthen. When Lateral F was rehabilitated, the pump well was installed and the emergency drain. Decisions were not made as yet and the Board members would like to discuss Mr. Bishop's requests again at the next meeting when all members are present.

Communication Group representative was invited to the meeting

Fred invited Dave from Communication Group to explain in details what kind of camera they can offer us so it will suit best to our needs. He was unfortunately not able to attend the meeting due to funeral in his family. He will be invited for the next meeting.

Appeal Hearing - September 11, 2019 at 10:00 AM at the Provincial Building in Lethbridge

Fred and all Board Directors attended Appeal Hearing related to Appeal to rates for campgrounds. The UID submitted all materials on September 5th to Irrigation Council and to Dave Layton, but we haven't receive any material from him. Mr. Layton hired lawyer for the Appeal Hearing. He also mentioned that the UID is charging double rates on one piece of land, where assessed acres rated are applied and he extended his campground on part of that land as well.

Craig mentioned that he regrets not asking question to Dave: When County raised their taxes from \$50 to \$10,000 what does he think was the reason? He is also concerned about appeals from other campgrounds in case Irrigation Council will decide against the UID.

The Board feels like we don't need to discuss it any more until decision from Irrigation Council has been made.

Ben Layton - Land Irrigability Classification

Mr. Layton submitted to the UID the Land Irrigability Classification on NE 35-04-27-W4. The land has 14.6 irrigable acres, however Ben owns just 5 irrigation acres and would like to purchase additional 9.6 irrigation acres from the UID. Currently 20.77 assessed acres are available for sale. Jim said that with sprinkler irrigation it should be fine without visible erosion. Decision will be made at next meeting.

Insurance increased

Fred informed the Board that Insurance fee from Western Financial Group significantly increased by \$6,574 for the period of September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020. The rates have increased this year mainly within the auto policy. We have one more vehicle this year -2011Ford Boom truck, but the main reason is that the insurance companies have increased their rates.

The WFG was able to have the increases on the other policies to a minimum but the auto policy company rates have increased so much, and for some reason last year, they just renewed the policy without any increases, so unfortunately this year we almost got twice as much of an increase as we should have.

We are not happy about it and might consider different Insurance Company in the future.

AEP Dam & Canal Safety Presentation

AIDA forwarded to the UID presentation from Jenna Montgomery, AEP: Dam and Canal Safety Regulatory Upgrades Information Session for AIDA. AEP supposed to contact individual districts for more information and canals that could be considered to be a dam.

We still don't know if any of our ditches will be considered as a dam. Some parts of our ditches have 2.5m deep banks, but not sure if it matters how much water is actually there. Fred will bring this problem for discussion during Manager's Meeting this Thursday.

ID Manager's Meeting

Manager's meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2019 at SMRID office. Fred will attend the meeting. Daniel suggested to bring for discussion our issues with Appeal.

AIDA Board Meeting

The meeting is scheduled for September 26th, 2019 at Taber Inn at 10:00 AM. Fred and Duane are planning to attend.

AIDA AGM

This meeting is scheduled for November 28th, 2019 at the Sandman Lethbridge Lodge Hotel at 10:00 AM. Fred will attend, Duane is not available and other Board Members haven't decided yet.

AIDA Conference

The conference will be held at the Sandman Lethbridge Lodge Hotel on February 3-5, 2020.

IRP Funding

Fred was contacting Irrigation Council, we still don't know if the UID will get any IRP Funding this year, therefore we need to decide if we will continue with work on IRP 2298 – Lateral B8 and use our savings. Most likely we will not know until the end of October. Around \$300,000 was already spent last year from this year's funding.

Fred's opinion is that it will not hurt us if we do not finish the project this year but wait until next year. It is also quite late to order fittings even if we are able to buy PVC pipe. This topic will be discussed again.

Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP)

CAP re-opened the Emergency Preparedness Program for which deadline is Oct.31, 2019 and the Risk Mitigation Program-50/50 share up to \$300,000 for which deadline is Oct.15, 2019. For the study prepared by Engineer and Fred we would pay probably around \$17,000. After discussion the Board decided not to apply for the Risk Mitigation program this year.

Duane's conversation with Bruce Wynder about fencing along the canal

Bruce Wynder want fence on both sides of our canal. Darcy Barfuss is receiving benefit by using our canal and don't have fence. The Board discussed this continuing problem again and read the Fencing Act as well. After discussion the Board decided to ask Darcy to build the fence because according to the Act, if the UID doesn't have livestock than doesn't have to build fence and we shouldn't be spending other ratepayer's money on this fence. Duane will speak with Darcy and Bruce.

Meeting with Cardston County

The Board of the UID went for the meeting with County. Overall it was good meeting, basically to agree to cooperate as much as possible and to make clear that irrigation water is UID's responsibility and drainage water is County's responsibility. Craig pointed out that Fred made a good comment that irrigation system is smaller further the source and drainage system in opposite is bigger and bigger from the main source.

100th year of the UID celebration

This celebration was a big success. We hosted more than 120 people and we have heard nothing but good comments on that event. Daniel did a fantastic job on speaking about history of the UID and many agreed, food was great too.


Town of Glenwood

The town of Glenwood asked the UID if they could use our ditch to handle flood in the village. Because ditch is not used and is full of Common Cattails, some questions raised from this request. Do we need to clean it? Is it our responsibility? Fred went with the Board Members to inspect that ditch so they can make the right decision. They have decided not to allow the town to use this ditch for flood.

Jim Woolf MOVED that the meeting be adjourned at 1:40 P.M.

Next Meeting: Monday, October 21, 2019 at 10:00 A.M.


Chairman – Duane Nelson


District Manager – Fred Rice