

Monday, January 18, 2016 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 January 18, 2016, commencing at 10:00 A.M.

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

Discussion and Acceptance of the December 14, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

It was suggested that a letter be sent to David Jones acknowledging his suggestions about a pipeline from Payne Lake for UID water storage.

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to accept the December 14, 2015 minutes. SECONDED by David Layton.
...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the December 2015 Payroll

Jim Woolf MOVED to accept the December 2015 payroll, SECONDED by Brandon Gibb.
...CARRIED

Reading, Discussion and Acceptance of January 18, 2016 Accounts Payable

Noted that the Emco invoice had been included twice and it was changed.

David Layton MOVED to accept January 18, 2016 Accounts Payable; SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger.
...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the Financial Statement to December 31, 2015

Discussion of year end statements with a review of 2015 versus 2014 and actual revenue and expense versus the 2015 budget. David Layton MOVED to accept the financial statement.

SECONDED by Jim Woolf.
...CARRIED

Cameras for the Leveling Pond and Cochrane Lake

The cameras have been purchased along with the protection boxes. They will not be installed until 2016 water season begins.

Solar Optix

David indicated that the numbers are still not calculated. There could be some incentives included in the Growing Forward 2 program. David would like to see a working model developed to demonstrate the feasibility to the rate payers. He will keep working on it.

United Irrigation District Overtime Policy

After discussion of the alternatives the Board preferred to maintain the Irrigation District Act allowance under Employment Standards of the 9 hours per day and 54 hours per week option.

Brandon Gibb MOVED that the UID adopt the 9 and 54 overtime policy as allowed in Employment Standards and the Irrigation Act with the option allowed to employees of the time in lieu of pay.

SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger.
...CARRIED

Water Licence Transfer

Alberta Environment and Parks has indicated that the approval should be given by the end of January for the transfer of 222 acre feet of licence. Once approval is in place Fred will contact the lawyers to draft the agreement with the South East Water Coop.

The Coop has indicated they would be willing to pay the full amount at the time of sale and the Board agreed this would be the preferred arrangement.

Investments Review

A final decision was not made as to the disposition of some of the investment funds in the RBC portfolio – ie. placing some funds into GICs. Jim requested that we seek Dennis Chinner’s advice on new offerings of Bank stocks that guarantee a dividend for the first couple of years.

Alternate Acre/Transfer Parcel Resolutions for 2016

After some discussion it was decided to move the deadline application date to May 31 from March 31 on each resolution. David Layton MOVED to adopt the Resolution 1-2016 Alternate Parcel Irrigation Agreements, Section 25 of the Irrigation Act with the date change. SECONDED by Jim Woolf. ...CARRIED

David Layton MOVED to adopt the Resolution 2-2016 Transfer Parcel Irrigation Agreements, Section 26 of the Irrigation Act with the date change. SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger. ...CARRIED

United Irrigation District 2016 By-Laws

a. By-Law No. 1-2016 – Remuneration

The By-Law was read the First Time by Duane Nelson. Brandon Gibb Moved that Director Fees be raised to \$160 from \$140 per meeting. Seconded by Jim Woolf. Defeated 3 votes to 2. Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to read the second time. David Layton SECONDED. ...CARRIED

Read Second Time.

David Layton MOVED to read the third time. Brandon Gibb SECONDED. ...CARRIED

Read the Third Time. ...PASSED.

b. By-Law No. 2-2016 – Rates

The By-Law was read the First Time by Daniel Hunsperger. Discussion about benefit of incremental increases in rates. Decided to leave the same. David Layton MOVED to read the second time. Daniel Hunsperger SECONDED. ...CARRIED

Read the Second Time.

Brandon Gibb MOVED to read the third time. Jim Woolf SECONDED. ...CARRIED

Read the Third Time. ... PASSED.

c. By-Law No. 3-2016 – Water Conveyance Fees – to holders of Water Licence

The By-Law was read the First Time by Jim Woolf. There was discussion about increasing the rate by \$1 per acre foot but noted it was already being charged at \$12 per acre foot so it was left unchanged for the 2016 year.

David Layton MOVED to read the second time. Jim Woolf SECONDED....CARRIED
Read the Second Time.

Brandon Gibb MOVED to read the third time. David Layton SECONDED. ...CARRIED

Read the Third Time. ... PASSED.

d. By-Law No. 4-2016 – Household Purposes Agreements

The By-Law was read the First Time by Brandon Gibb.

Discussion about a delinquent household purpose agreement and the question about Glen Lateral being a natural waterway. Some investigation will be done on clarifying Glen Lateral classification.

David Layton MOVED to read the second time. Daniel Hunsperger SECONDED.

...CARRIED

Read Second Time.

Jim Woolf MOVED to read the third time. Brandon Gibb SECONDED.

...CARRIED

Read the Third Time.

...PASSED.

e. By-Law No. 5-2015 – Water Conveyance Fee to Users Without a Water Licence and Rural Water Use Fee Bylaw

The By-Law was read the First Time by David Layton. There was discussion about changing the amount charged for municipal/commercial use as well as the exclusion of the minimum fee for confined feeding operations if they were a rate payer. Jim Woolf Moved to delete the wording on section (d) that said if the parcel has irrigation acres the \$300 fee will be waived. Seconded by Brandon Gibb. ...CARRIED

Brandon Gibb MOVED to read the second time. Daniel Hunsperger SECONDED.

...CARRIED

Read the Second Time.

David Layton MOVED to read the third time. Duane Nelson SECONDED....CARRIED

Read the Third Time.

...PASSED.

Report on the 96 Ford Repair

Fred reported that Brad Archibald successfully welded the frame and that the box was back on and the truck is ready for service.

JD 555 Loader

Fred found a site that gave a selling price for a similar piece of equipment. The price was not disclosed as there were 3 Board members who might be interested in bidding on the loader. There was discussion on the best way to avoid conflict of interest and it was decided to set a minimum reserve bid and advise the rate payers in the notice of annual meeting mail out in late February. Duane Nelson MOVED that the loader be sold by sealed bid with a reserve minimum bid of \$8,000, a closing date of March 16, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. and rate payers being given the first option to purchase. SECONDED by Jim Woolf. ...Carried

Glenwood School Request

Kelly Thomas has requested that the UID donate equipment and an operator use for the construction of a new access road for the school buses at the school to make it safer for the students. The Board agreed that this would be a good use of UID resources for the community. They would like to see the UID get the stripped black topsoil and if possible some custom work for the balance of the job. Fred will talk to Kelly about it.

Mussel Training for Dogs

The Eastern Irrigation District sent a report on the work done in mussel detection by the dog units in 2015. They had planned to use the balance of funds to train another dog in 2016 but have decided it would be better to monitor the effectiveness of the present dog units in 2016 and then do more training in 2017 should they continue to be effective in the detection program. The Board agreed with the decision.

County of Cardston Proposed By-Law and Public Hearing – Subdivision of SE 1-5-27-W4

The County is proposing to change the land use designation for this property from “AG” to “Rural Recreation”. The UID has submitted a statement to the County for the hearing indicating that irrigation acres will be removed but that the “Other Purposes” designation of the water licence could allow for providing water to the parcel if it is desired.

Staff Attendance at the Lethbridge Hurricanes Game

The Board had approved an employee outing at the Calgary Flames game but with the difficulty of obtaining reasonably priced tickets the employees have arranged box seating at the Lethbridge Hurricanes game on February 10. There are some extra seats in the box. Jim and David will also attend the game. Daniel and Brandon are not able to attend.

Fred’s Agenda:

Cardston County By-Law 673-2015 has been passed and will affect the hauling of aggregate on county roads. The UID may be affected on some projects with this change.

The structure for IRP 2263 has been completed in Fort Macleod and will be delivered shortly. A price has not been provided yet.

Fortis has put an easement on UID property by the Waterton Dam for replacement of power line infrastructure.

Daniel’s Report from AIPA:

With the new government in place the focus of AIPA will be to encourage maintenance of access to water for agricultural use. This will include maintaining present water licences for agricultural projects. The AIPA will also encourage IRP funding remaining in place as well as increasing water storage. The next executive board meeting is on February 22, 2016.

Salary/Wage Review for 2016

The Board had asked for input from other Irrigation Districts on their wage policies. Information was obtained from RID and TID. They are larger than the UID but more similar than the other large Districts. Both of these Districts have an on-going policy that is based on the consumer price index for yearly increases. The Ditch Riders in these other Districts are paid significantly more than the UID Ditch Riders. To be more in line with the market place the Board decided to make a significant increase in the Ditch Rider salaries. Brandon Gibb MOVED to increase the Ditch Rider salaries for 2016 to be more in line with these other Districts and to increase other employee salaries and wages by 3%. SECONDED by Jim Woolf. ...CARRIED

Next Meeting: February 23, 2016 at 10:00 A.M.

Brandon Gibb MOVED that the meeting be adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

Chairman – Duane Nelson

District Manager – Fred Rice