

**Monday, March 20, 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 March 20, 2019, commencing at 10:00 A.M.

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

**Discussion and Acceptance of the February 25, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Brandon Gibb MOVED to accept the February 25, 2019 minutes; SECONDED by Jim Woolf.

...CARRIED

**Discussion and Acceptance of the February 2019 Payroll**

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to accept the February 2019 Payroll; SECONDED by Brandon Gibb.

...CARRIED

**Discussion and Acceptance of March 20, 2019 Accounts Payable**

Brandon Gibb MOVED to accept March 20, 2019 Accounts Payable; SECONDED by Jim Woolf.

...CARRIED

**Discussion and Acceptance of the Financial Statement to March 20, 2019**

Brandon Gibb MOVED to accept March 20, 2019 Financial Statement; SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger.

... CARRIED

**2019 Annual Rolling Three-Year Plan and Application for Funding**

The UID has received the letter from the Irrigation Secretariat informing us that Irrigation Council reviewed the above mentioned documents and approved both of them.

**Budget 2019**

Jim Woolf MOVED to accept Budget 2019; SEDONDED by Brandon Gibb.

...CARRIED

In prepared Budget 2019, rates from 167.77 irrigation assessed acres offered for sale are not included. Expenses for buying new small parcel acres are not in the budget neither as currently there were no new offers except one which is not a small parcel. Irrigation works provision is included in the budget at the same rate as last year even though the IRP funding is not guaranteed at this time.

**Applications to buy irrigation assessed acres**

The UID is offering 167.77 irrigation assessed acres for sale.

Three Applications have been delivered to the UID's office so far from:

- A) Blue Ridge Colony – asking for 130 acres which is for one pivot, but willing to buy all 167.77 acres; irrigation water would be pumped from the main canal where their garden pump is at the moment which shouldn't be any problem; land has already been reclassified for irrigation; if they will not be chosen to buy those acres, they are interested in Annual Acre Agreement for this land.

- B) Bar Double M Ranching – asking to buy 130 acres for one pivot, but also willing to buy all acres for sale and use them in the future; reclassification of the land is in process, no issue there, just waiting for documents; not sure where he wants to pump water from yet; also interested in Annual Acre Agreement if he can't buy new acres.
- C) Riverside Colony – asking for 160 acres where Annual Acre Agreement has been in 2018; no need for reclassification as the land has been irrigated before; the irrigation water would come from D Lateral.

Larry Gibb is also interested in 125 acres and was speaking with Fred; he would like to replace existing Alternate Acres, especially those from Robert Wynder.

The deadline to submit application to buy irrigation assessed acres was set by the Board: Friday March 29, 2019 at 4.30pm. Special meeting is planned for April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 to discuss and decide who will buy the acres so the farmer has enough time to set it up before the irrigation season.

#### **Audit – 3 year proposal**

Fred asked Hakon Skoien for a proposal for audit services from Skoien Professional Corporation to the UID. Hakon submitted the proposal and is not planning to increase a cost for services for another 3 years.

Jim suggested to propose to Hakon same price for next 10 years as we assume there will be less funding, less work, less documents and transactions in the future. Fred will speak with Hakon.

#### **Inter-District Allocation Formula**

Fred read the letter from the Irrigation Secretariat which is an answer to the letter about our concerns with the BRID expansion acres. Irrigation Council reviewed our letter and agreed to bring our concerns forward for consideration when discussing the Allocation Formula in the future.

Craig asked if they have a water storage to irrigate all those acres. The Bow River Irrigation District is planning to build a new water storage called Deadhorse Coulee. Their irrigation water is coming from resources other than ours.

#### **Alberta Environment and Parks**

Dennis Matis, Operation & Infrastructure Manager of Oldman River Basin was asking Fred for an agreement made between P.F.R.A and the UID. The agreement should state who is responsible for the environment canal crossing. We were looking through all minutes since 1919 and in all boxes but without success.

#### **Dam safety meeting**

Fred is planning to attend Alberta Dam safety meeting scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the LNID office. After meeting we will find out if some parts of our canal are considered as a dam.

#### **Infrastructure study about the life expected for the infrastructure**

Fred contacted our Engineer Darin Wilde as suggested at the last meeting and asked him for collaboration. Darren is interested in doing it along with Fred. For now we need to wait and see if programs will be open.

#### **Bylaw about % of penalties**

According to Irrigation Water Act, the district can pass a bylaw for any % of penalties if irrigation rates are not paid. Jim suggested to raise penalties from current 8% to 12% to stimulate ratepayers to pay rates on time. This topic will be discussed further during next regular meeting.

#### **Election called**

Fred informed the Board that if people from Irrigation Council, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry or Alberta Environment & Park will attend our Annual General Meeting, they are not allowed to answer questions publicly at public meeting because Election has been called. However they can discuss those topics individually.

**Meeting with the Lethbridge County**

Meeting for Irrigation Districts & Municipal representatives with the Lethbridge County is scheduled for March 27, 2019 at 10:00 AM at the CASA Centre. They are asking for chairman involvement.

**AIDA Board meeting**

The meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2019 in Lethbridge Lodge Hotel. Fred will attend the meeting and some Board members possibly.

**Electronic Funds Transfer**

Viera contacted ATB Financial and asked to decrease fees or not to be charged for at all for electronic fund transfer each month for payroll. Their answer was that they can dismiss Implementation fee which is \$125 at the beginning, but can't change monthly fees which will be approximately \$28.

Brandon Gibb MOVED to set up and use Electronic Funds Transfer for payroll; SEDONDED by Craig B. Smith. ...CARRIED

**Restricted Fund**

Based on the motion made during last meeting to transfer \$72,000 into restricted funds, Fred just pointed out that we have currently \$170,000 in restricted fund which is part of the High Interest account with ATB Financial. Above mentioned \$72K will be moved into this account.

**Irrigation Water Allocation Forecast**

Basin Water Management Section of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry prepared a document called: 2019 Irrigation Season Farm Gate Allocation Forecast. This forecast provides forecasted amounts of the net water volume that would be available at the farm gate for the irrigation districts and irrigation projects receiving water from the southern tributaries-Belly, St.Mary and Waterton rivers. The UID is included in these tributaries. The forecast was first developed for use in the 2001 water sharing agreement to help manage the water shortage conditions. If water sharing agreement will be in place this year, it should be better this time for the UID because agreement will be based on all our assessed acres.


The questions how to manage irrigation water or what is the solution for scheduling. One Board members advice is to soak land up when there is enough water.

**Council meeting at the Village of Hill Spring**

Fred was invited to the Council meeting on March 19, 2019 to explain how will water sharing agreement work if in place this year. He also explained that the village has their own Water License and they pay only a conveyance fee to the UID.

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED that the meeting be adjourned at 12:05 P.M.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 15, 2019 at 10:00 A.M.

  
Chairman - Duane Nelson

  
District Manager - Fred Rice