

Monday, February 22, 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 February 22, 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
Viera Ducky – Office Manager

Discussion and Acceptance of January 18, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes

Craig B. Smith MOVED to accept the January 18, 2021 Minutes; SECONDED by Nick Barfuss.

...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of February 3, 2021, Special Meeting Minutes

Nick Barfuss MOVED to accept the February 3, 2021 Minutes; SECONDED by Duane Nelson.

...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the January 2021 Payroll

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to accept the January 2021 Payroll; SECONDED by Craig B. Smith.

...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of February 22, 2021 Accounts Payable

Nicholas Barfuss MOVED to accept the February 22, 2021 Accounts Payable; SECONDED by Duane Nelson.

...CARRIED

The Board was questioning the invoice from RID for AIDA meeting expenses if we are getting any information from those meetings. So far we didn't get any and we will contact the Executive Committee, John McKee.

Discussion and Acceptance of the Financial Statement to February 22, 2021

Jim Woolf MOVED to accept February 22, 2021 Financial Statement; SECONDED by Craig B. Smith.

...CARRIED

Audit 2020 – Auditor's report

Our Auditor Hakon Skoien from Skoien Professional Corporation reviewed the audit with the Board of Directors. Mr. Skoien noted that it was a clean audit, books were done well and from the audit view, balances are reported correctly. Few weaknesses were pointed out to be improved. The statements were discussed and some differences between 2019 and 2020 were explained.

The UID is showing a surplus for the fiscal year 2020. The Board decided to transfer \$39,000 into restricted funds at the beginning of 2020 and now we need to transfer \$25,000 back to be sure Fund Balance doesn't show a negative number on the Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balance.

The big difference between 2019 and 2020 is shown on the Schedule of Irrigation Works Expenditures, both external and internal goods and services which means our district did a lot of work on IRP # 2298,- Lateral B8, IRP# 2340 - Lateral F7, Modernization projects, and Capital Project Lateral C 2020.

Noticeable is a high amount of internally generated revenues – equipment pool recoveries and a high amount of custom work.

On the Statement of Financial Position auditor pointed out the loan on equipment that will be paid out in 2022, the equipment book value, and how much the district has on the internally restricted fund.

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to accept the audit as presented, SECONDED by Jim Woolf. ...CARRIED

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Moving funds from restricted fund

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to transfer \$25,000 from restricted funds to general account, SECONDED by Craig B.Smith. ...CARRIED

A presentation about pressure charges and capital cost discussion

Alan Harold, District Manager of LNID came to make a presentation about pressure charges in their district and how their district handles construction fees for ratepayers on IRP projects. The Board found the presentation very informative.

UID’s Annual Meeting on March 17, 2021

The Board discussed how to proceed with our Annual meeting planned for March 17, 2021. The Covid-19 restrictions still don’t allow us to rent a community hall, however, the Board Members are not in favor of zoom/conference call meeting and decide to continue planning with an in-person meeting.

Fred pointed out our internet connection which was very troubled the last couple of weeks and we wouldn’t be able to host such as meeting. We will contact the internet provider Xplornet and most likely upgrade the internet to a higher speed level for \$85/month.

Election 2021

Two of our Board Members are up for election – Duane Nelson and Daniel Hunsperger. They are planning to run again. The nomination needs to be submitted by 4:00 pm on March 17, 2021.

Emergency overflow washout on Lateral F

Mike from Riverside Colony found a large washout, about 12 feet wide in a coulee. Jared checked it out and there are no rocks left. We need to reshape the overflow with rocks again and we can do it this spring even after irrigation season starts.

Lynn Bishop – seepage on Lateral D

Lynn pointed out the bad seepage on Lateral D and asked for suggestions to solve this issue. It’s about 136 meters along our canal. We can use cut-off curtains to line the banks or weeping tiles but Fred would rather use clay and was asking the Board for suggestion where to find clay. Fred will discuss the options with Mr. Bishop again.

Budget 2021

The budget was briefly discussed, a 3% all rates increase was applied except for Bylaw No.5-2021 section (e)and (f), and a 1.5% wage increase for full-time employees and seasonal full-time workers.

Jim Woolf MOVED to accept Budget 2021; SECONDED by Nicholas Barfuss. ...CARRIED

United Irrigation District Bylaw 2021

a. Bylaw No. 1-2021 – Remuneration

The Bylaw was read for the first time by Daniel Hunsperger. Duane Nelson MOVED to read the second time. Craig Smith SECONDED. ...CARRIED

Read the second time by Duane Nelson. Craig Smith MOVED to read the third time. Jim Woolf SECONDED. ...CARRIED

Read the third time by Nicholas Barfuss. ...PASSED

b. Bylaw No. 2-2021 – Rate Bylaw

The Bylaw was read for the first time by Duane Nelson. Nicholas Barfuss MOVED to read the second time. Craig Smith SECONDED. ...CARRIED

Read the second time by Nicholas Barfuss. Duane Nelson MOVED to read the third time. Daniel Hunsperger SECONDED. ...CARRIED

Read the third time by Jim Woolf. One opposed ...PASSED

- c. **Bylaw No. 3-2021 – Water Conveyance Fee Bylaw**
 The Bylaw was read for the first time by Jim Woolf. Nicholas Barfuss MOVED to read the second time. Duane Nelson SECONDED. ...CARRIED
 Read the second time by Duane Nelson. Nicholas Barfuss MOVED to read the third time. Craig Smith SECONDED. ...CARRIED
 Read the third time by Daniel Hunsperger. ...PASSED
- d. **Bylaw No. 4-2021 – Household Purpose Fee Bylaw**
 The Bylaw was read for the first time by Nicholas Barfuss. Duane Nelson MOVED to read the second time. Jim Woolf SECONDED. ...CARRIED
 Read the second time by Craig Smith. Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to read the third time. Jim Woolf SECONDED. ...CARRIED
 Read the third time by Duane Nelson. ...PASSED
- e. **Bylaw No. 5-2021 – Water Conveyance Fee to Users without a Water License and Rural Water Use Fee Bylaw**
 The Bylaw was read for the first time by Duane Nelson. Nicholas Barfuss MOVED to read the second time. Craig Smith SECONDED. ...CARRIED
 Read the second time by Craig Smith. Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to read the third time. Jim Woolf SECONDED. ...CARRIED
 Read the third time by Daniel Hunsperger. ...PASSED
- f. **Bylaw No. 6-2021 – RV Campgrounds**
 The Bylaw was read for the first time by Duane Nelson. Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to read the second time. Nicholas Barfuss SECONDED. ...CARRIED
 Read the second time by Daniel Hunsperger. Jim Woolf MOVED to read the third time. Duane Nelson SECONDED. ...CARRIED
 Read the third time by Craig Smith. ...PASSED
- g. **Bylaw No. 7-2021 – Capital Assets Charge Bylaw**
 The Bylaw was read for the first time by Daniel Hunsperger. Nicholas Barfuss MOVED to read the second time. Duane Nelson SECONDED. ...CARRIED
 Read the second time by Duane Nelson. Jim Woolf MOVED to read the third time. Craig B. Smith SECONDED. ...CARRIED
 Read the third time by Craig B. Smith. ...PASSED

All rates were increased by exactly 3% for all categories for the fiscal year 2021 except Bylaw No. 5-2021 Section(e) and (f).

Jim Woolf MOVED that the UID is offering to buy assessed acres for \$900/acre on Small Acre Parcels but would consider others; SECONDED by Nicholas Barfuss. ...CARRIED

McNally bill for irrigation water used last fall

McNally Contractors (2011) Ltd. was using irrigation water while working on their project. They used a lot of water and at that time we realized how extremely cheap we sold the water to them and that we need to change our bylaw for Water Use for Commercial/Industrial purposes.

Solar panels for the UID

The application for the grant was submitted but haven't received any approval yet. We also gave Solar Seekers Ltd. permission to start with work on a project.

New printer/scanner

We still haven't found the right printer/scanner for the office, will continue looking for the most suitable for us.

Accounts Receivable

Water rates for 2019 for \$714.09 are still not paid by two ratepayers – Dan Fox and James. If the rates are not paid by March 1st, they will be subject to Rate Enforcement. Duane was speaking with ratepayers and will contact them again.

Environment canal by B Lateral inverted siphon slough

Fred was looking at the slough and found another one 200 meters upstream. It looks like grass is holding water but at this time it's hard to say exactly as the canal is full of snow. To Craig, it seems suspicious that it is so close to siphon. Craig is thinking it is coming from our ditch. We need to wait until snow melts.

Ditch north of Darcy Barfuss field where corn was last year

Cattle were in the ditch where a fence was damaged. Nick said it is not a problem to fix the fence and they will do it.

CIB Loan

More documents were signed. The CenralCollab.com website was created where we need to submit required documents regularly in accordance with the calendar and forms from CIB.

AIDA water samplings in 2021

The Board suggests we are willing to help. Jim's suggestion is to do only two days of sampling instead of four this summer.

AIDA Board of Directors meeting

The date for the meeting was changed and now the virtual meeting is planned for Wednesday, April 1, 2021.

New Deputy Minister in Agriculture and Forestry

AIDA informed us that effective January 21, 2021, Andre Tremblay is moving his position as Deputy Minister in Agriculture to the Ministry of Education. Shannon Marchand will be moving into the role of Deputy Minister in Agriculture and Forestry from her current position with Community and Social Services.

Structure engineering on the flume

The environment might want us to do structure engineering on the flume that crossed the environment canal. Darin Wilde is not a structural engineer so we would need to find another engineer to do engineering. Darin is going to write a letter to the environment to clarify the situation. If we need to do it, it would be an additional charge to modernization projects.

Letter from Honourable Devin Dreeshen, Minister, Agriculture and Forestry

The Minister sent a letter to all irrigation districts addressed to all Alberta Irrigators where he is emphasizing the recently announced historic \$815-million irrigation infrastructure investment.

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED that the meeting be adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, March 17, 2021, at 10:00 A.M



Chairman – Duane Nelson


District Manager – Fred Rice