

**Thursday, August 27, 2020, at 9:00 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 August 27, 2020, commencing at 9:00 A.M

Present: Duane Nelson – Chairman  
Daniel Hunsperger – Vice-Chairman  
Jim Woolf – Board Member  
Nicholas Barfuss – Board Member  
Fred Rice – District Manager  
Viera Ducky – Office Manager  
Craig B. Smith – Board Member - Absent

**Discussion and Acceptance of July 24, 2020, Regular Meeting Minutes**

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to accept the July 24, 2020 Minutes; SECONDED by Jim Woolf.

...CARRIED

**Discussion and Acceptance of the July 2020 Payroll**

Jim Woolf MOVED to accept the July 2020 Payroll; SECONDED by Duane Nelson.

...CARRIED

**Discussion and Acceptance of August 27, 2020 Accounts Payable**

Nicholas Barfuss MOVED to accept the August 27, 2020 Accounts Payable; SECONDED by Jim Woolf.

...CARRIED

**Discussion and Acceptance of the Financial Statement to August 27, 2020**

Jim Woolf MOVED to accept August 27, 2020 Financial Statement; SECONDED by Nicholas Barfuss.

...CARRIED

**Meeting with the Minister and Joseph Schow, MLA**

Eight representatives from the United Irrigation District were invited by Honourable Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, and by Joseph Schow, MLA to the meeting. The Board Members, District Manager of the UID, and two farmers from our district- Darcy Barfuss and Larry Gibb attended the meeting on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in Cardston. Maintenance and Rehabilitation, Infrastructure Expansion, and Red Tape Reduction were the topics discussed. The Proposed Belly River Dam was mentioned during the discussion. Because of the interest from the Minister and MLA in this project, the preliminary study of the Flood Mitigation and Storage Proposal on the Belly River was forwarded to the Honourable Devin Dreeshen and Joseph Schow.

**Irrigation Infrastructure Accelerated Rehabilitation Projects**

Andre Tremblay, Deputy Minister, Agriculture, and Forestry invited all districts which submitted “shovel ready” projects to the Alberta Agriculture, for the Zoom meeting on August 7, 2020. These projects were discussed and are assigned as Accelerated Rehabilitation Projects and they will be separated from the Irrigation Rehabilitation Program Projects. The following in-person discussion was on August 13, 2020, at the Taber Heritage Inn. Fred and Duane attended both meetings.

The next in-person discussion on the working document of the Irrigation Infrastructure Potential Approach to Accelerating Investments was held in Strathmore Travelodge on August 21, 2020. Daniel and Fred attended this meeting.

The United Irrigation District submitted three “shovel ready” projects:

- Lateral A1e – Hill Spring location – cost estimate: \$238,249
- Lateral D1 - Glenwood location - cost estimate: \$265,100
- Lateral F Drain – Glenwood location – cost estimate: \$400,000

Total \$903,349

Our Engineer Darin Wilde did more engineering on these projects. The cost changed slightly and the new total cost estimate would be \$917,000.

Nicholas Barfuss MOVED to proceed with the Accelerated Rehabilitation Projects; SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger. ...CARRIED

### **Employee complains**

One of our occasional employees was complaining about Fred shortening his working hours and not being paid for lunch. He was hired to help with the custom work for one of our ratepayers. The employee is thinking we should charge the ratepayer for work once the workers leave the UID's yard. To keep the ratepayer's custom invoice as low as possible, we charge them when we start work on the project.

To avoid complications in the future, the crew will stop for the lunch break every time, but this time will not be charged to the customer. The time to get to and from the job site will be the UID's expense and the employee will be paid for this time.

### **Eastern Irrigation District**

EID earlier this year submitted a PDF drawing updating their conveyance and drainage works to the AEP approvals office in Calgary. This process they believed should be to simply provide them with updated information on their work and should require no approvals from AEP. AEP's interpretation is that any changes to the district's works require their approval first.

Ivan Friesen, General Manager at the EID forwarded these concerns to all districts and is planning to organize a conference call sometime next week if possible.

### **Belly River erosion**

OneStop application was submitted online. Fred was speaking with the Edward Evenson, Forest Officer at the Environment and Parks Agriculture Centre. We still haven't been able to complete the TFA application and haven't had direct contact from Joseph Schow, MLA, however, we are sure our concerns were forwarded to the Ministry.

The river flow is currently so low, that the eroded riverbank is completely dry. The Board suggested contacting Marlin Kennedy, Water Act Technologist, to explain to him the current situation and ask if there is any way to repair the riverbank when it is dry.

### **Owen Doherty runoff water from flood irrigation**

Owen Doherty's, our ratepayer's runoff water from the flood irrigation caused issues in Joachim Hengerer's land and he was not happy with the situation. Byran shut the water off. There is natural drainage through Hengerer Farms, but the irrigation water is not considered natural water. Each irrigator is responsible for the water when irrigating and cannot cause damage to someone else property.

### **Gordon ZoBell, District Manager from RID is retiring**

The letter informed us that Mr. ZoBell is retiring as of September 1, 2020. Fred was asking the Board if we want to do anything for him. Duane suggested that we should as Gordon was always friendly and ready to support the UID.

### **Irrigation District's rates and fees 2020**

Irrigation Secretariat sent us for our information tables summarizing the 2020 rates and fees in all irrigation districts as well as tables showing an overview of the grant funding provided under various programs by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. The Board Members reviewed tables and discussion started about charging ratepayers for pressure as currently, our district is not charging this fee. This topic will be discussed deeply in the future.

**Mountain View Irrigation District appreciate help with water samples**

Jared Nelson, Ditchrider was helping the MVID with water samples this irrigation season. Mr. Locke Marshall, who did water samples for them dropped them at our Headworks and Jared picked the water samples up and delivered them to Lethbridge. Both, Mr. Marshall and Jocelyn Wright, District Manager sent us emails to thank the UID for helping out.

**Insurance renewal**

September 1<sup>st</sup> is the day for Insurance Renewal each year since the UID is with the Western Financial Group. The annual premiums radically raised last year, so the Board decided we need to ask for a quote from other insurance.

RMA Insurance submitted the quote with significantly lower annual premiums and with the same or higher coverage. Daniel reminded us that we need to ask RMA Insurance if we need to recertify all vehicles and equipment. Viera will contact them.

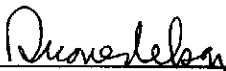
Duane Nelson MOVED to not renew Insurance with the Western Financial Group and proceed with the RMA Insurance as of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020; SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger. ...CARRIED

**Responsibility for cleaning screens**

The UID is responsible for cleaning trash racks, but if the farmer will install his own trash rack or ask the UID to install it, he is responsible for cleaning them. This matter needs to be discussed at the AGM next year.

Nicholas Barfuss MOVED that the meeting be adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, September 21, 2020, at 10:00 A.M

  
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Chairman – Duane Nelson

  
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District Manager – Fred Rice