

Thursday, October 15, 2015 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 October 15, 2015, 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 September 23, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

David Layton MOVED to accept the September 23, 2015 minutes. SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger.
...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the September 2015 Payroll

David Layton MOVED to accept the September 2015 payroll, SECONDED by Brandon Gibb.
...CARRIED

Reading, Discussion and Acceptance of October 15, 2015 Accounts Payable

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to accept October 15, 2015 Accounts Payable; SECONDED by Jim Woolf.
...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the Financial Statement to October 15, 2015

The financial statements were not available due to connection problems with Price & Comin for the Quick Books program. Some concerns about the downturn in the markets and the possible oversubscription of UID investments in mutual funds. A review of investments will be made at the November meeting.

Cameras for the Leveling Pond and Cochrane Lake

Fred purchased a camera lately for \$539, the box for \$40 and a cell phone package with email for \$10 per month. Dave will continue to look into a deal for the UID by the next meeting.

AIPA Convention in November

All directors will attend the convention in Lethbridge on November 23 – 25.

UID Representative on AIPA Executive Board of Directors

The seven small districts rotate representation on the board. Andy Strang of the Aetna Board has represented the districts for the past 2 years. The other small Districts have asked the UID to take a turn on the board. Fred asked Daniel if he would be willing to take this assignment for the next 2 years and he has agreed. The AIPA and small districts will be advised of the change.

AIPA Meeting with Alberta Environment and Parks Minister in Edmonton

The Minister is wanting to recognize the Irrigation Districts for their proactive support of the programs to prevent the introduction of invasive species into Alberta waters. The meeting will be at the Legislature October 26, 2015. Duane asked Fred to represent the UID and he will attend this meeting in Edmonton.

Mitch Merrill Request to Have an Annual Agreement for Irrigation on NE 8-4-27-W4

Mitch has discussed the potential of putting a pivot on this parcel of land. There are presently no irrigation acres on this land. Mitch had wanted to transfer some acres from some of his father's land but that is not going to work out. Mitch may have some other acres that could be transferred to this property or there is potential to use an Annual Agreement under the terms of the Irrigation Act. The owner is at risk with this type of arrangement in that it must be reviewed and put in place annually. Some of the discussion was about the location and supply availability; some discussion on limiting the dates of water use. More work will be done on the request for discussion at the November meeting.

Three Year Rolling Plan

The financial summary of the proposed 3 year rolling plan was reviewed by the board. At the present time there are 3 new Year One projects but nothing proposed for the two or three year projects. One area of possible rehabilitation was noted by Daniel on Lateral B by the David/Angela Mcleod property. No other significant projects were forthcoming from the Board members. Fred will be giving consideration to other needed projects in the District before the November meeting. David suggested that the District could delay some of the work in one year to build enough reserve to not be working ahead on projects in times of budget uncertainties. This could possibly mitigate some of the UID risk. Part of Fred's concern is if we do this it will be hard to keep a pool of labour available for when we do our projects in this area.

Solar Optix Meeting

A meeting was held at the UID office with some rate payers and board members and officials of Enmax. Enmax is promoting the idea of solar panels/farms to provide electricity for irrigators with the possibility of selling power back to the grid when not being used by the farmers. David was involved in looking at the possibility and wants to defer more discussion until the November meeting when more information will be available.

Hockey Game for Employees

Duane felt like it was a good gesture last year for the UID to take the employees to Calgary for a hockey game. He asked the Board if they would be supportive of doing it again this season. The Board agreed and suggested that some of the UID suppliers may have tickets that they could offer for this activity.

Christmas Supper and Party for 2015

November 27, 2015 at the Hill Spring community center was the date and place decided upon. Craig will look into a caterer for the event.

Contingency Plan for Low Snow Pack and Water Flows in 2016

2015 was a dry year and with El Nino entrenched into the weather pattern for the coming year there was discussion about the UID's options should rationing become necessary. The UID is in a use it when it is available situation without any significant water storage. The last agreement for rationing with other Districts was not very fair being based on projected flows rather than the actual flows that occurred. Duane would like to be directly involved in the agreement if it becomes a necessity.

Water Licence Transfer to the South East Water Co-Op

The approval from Alberta Environment and Parks has been received. The Public Notice will be in the Temple City Star and Bow Island Commentator for the week of October 19. Once the timelines are met for comment it will be turned over to the lawyers to put the paper work in place and take care of the money transfer.

Signing Authorities at the ATB

Craig asked who still needed to sign at the Bank. Dave and possibly Jim still need to sign. They were encouraged to visit the ATB this month to get it in place.

Albert Environment and Parks

Fred met with the inspector of dams for this region yesterday. Cochrane Lake has been designated a dam. As such, a yearly record of inspection must be kept with the UID being responsible for due diligence in its inspection and safety. For now, Environment expects improved signage on the lake including no swimming signs facing the lake at the outlet.

Fred's Agenda:

1. Bruce Wynder has extended his appreciation to the UID for allowing use of the small fenced property along the main canal for the use of cattle drives.
2. Lateral E construction is progressing well. Another week should see most of the pipe installed.
3. The fuel tank motor/pump has quit and will need to be replaced. The present one will be repaired for a standby.

Next Meeting: November 16, 2015 at 10:00 A.M.

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED that the meeting be adjourned at 12:10 P.M. SECONDED by Brandon Gibb.

Chairman – Duane Nelson

District Manager – Fred Rice