

Monday, April 16, 2018 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 April 16, 2018, commencing at 10:00 A.M.

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

Congratulation to new elected Board Members

Fred Rice, District Manager congratulated Duane Nelson and Daniel Hunsperger as Board Members elected by acclamation.

Call for nominations for Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Fred called for nomination for Chairman of the Board. Jim Woolf NOMINATED Duane Nelson. SECONDED by Brandon Gibb. Daniel Hunsperger Moved that Nominations cease. Duane Nelson elected Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Duane Nelson called for nominations for Vice-Chairman.

Craig Smith NOMINATED Daniel Hunsperger. SECONDED by Jim Woolf. Brandon Gibb Moved that Nominations cease. Daniel Hunsperger elected Vice-Chairman.

Discussion and Acceptance of the March 21, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes

Craig Smith MOVED to accept the March 21, 2018 minutes; SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger.

...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the March 2018 Payroll

Brandon Gibb MOVED to accept the March 2018 Payroll; SECONDED by Craig Smith.

...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of April 16, 2018 Accounts Payable

Craig Smith MOVED to accept April 16, 2018 Accounts Payable; SECONDED by Brandon Gibb.

...CARRIED

Jim Woolf suggested to use just one line for office phone and fax to save money, so Viera will contact TELUS for more information. Brandon Gibb was asked to prepare a list of the direct impact of carbon tax on our utilities, fuel and other expenses.

Discussion and Acceptance of April 16, 2018 Petty Cash

Brandon Gibb MOVED to accept April 16, 2018 Petty Cash; SECONDED by Jim Woolf.

...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the Financial Statement to April 16, 2018

Jim Woolf MOVED to accept April 16, 2018 Financial Statement; SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger.

... CARRIED

Tour of the UID for Irrigation Council

After the Annual meeting, Mrs. Rufa Doria from the Irrigation Council was asking if the UID is willing to implement a tour for the members of the Irrigation Council. The Board of Directors absolutely agrees with the tour, we should use any opportunity to show our district. The tour is planned for June, exact day is not set yet.

Auditor's questions

Fred brought up some discussion about insurance coverage, liability insurance and was asking about any frauds and concerns.

Recommendation from Brandon was to hold the safety meetings every morning with all employees prior to start of the work. Also if contractors are working on our site, we will make sure and prepare and sign the documents that they are the prime contractor, as each company may have different safety rules.

The Board went over liability insurance and Jim suggested we should ask for a quote from other insurance companies.

Budget day call

March 22nd, 2018 was set as a Budget day conference call with the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Oneil Carlier regarding funding for Irrigation Rehabilitation Projects. Fred Rice and Duane Nelson were on the call. The funding for all Irrigation Districts will be reduced from 19 mil to 14 mil in 2018 and 2019 and in 2020 the budget will be just 10mil. The UID is not happy with the news because our planned projects for 2 years will now need to be extended. We might postpone some projects until enough funds are saved to complete the projects in short period. On other hand, projects might be more expensive in the future due to increased prices for pipe and other material. Decisions will be made prior to each planned project.

One time operational funding

The UID and other districts will receive one time operational funding from the government. The documents were signed before end of March and funds should be transferred to the account very soon. Funds are 100%, not matching required, important condition is to use the fund for the operation of the district as salaries, contracted services and professional fees within the term from March 1, 2018 up to February 15, 2018.

Maturing funds

Dennis Chinner from the Wealth Management Dominion Security recommended to transfer \$92,000 from maturing fund into GIC at 2.25% interest for one year or until market is stabilized. Funds were moved on April 4, 2018. As Brandon pointed interest is not high but still positive.

Dam Safety information session in Lethbridge

Fred attended the Dam Safety Information Session in Lethbridge on April 9, 2018. Cochrane Lake is considered as a dam of high consequences which means somebody could lose their life if there is a dam failure. The Environment and Parks of Alberta will review with Fred for the dam's rating. The UID may need to work on a preparedness for emergency down to the river.

Water sharing meeting

The Water sharing meeting planned for April 17th, 2018 has been postponed until summer sometime. Most of the districts are now dealing with the high moisture or even with flooding so all staff are concentrating their efforts on dealing with emergent situation.

Annual General Meeting 2018 thoughts and concerns

No concerns were raised from our annual meeting. The Board thinks the meeting was pretty good, almost same number of people usually attend the meeting every year.

AIPA Meeting – Daniel Hunsperger report

On April 3rd, 2018 Daniel attended an AIPA teleconference and mostly these topics were discussed:

- MLA Meet and Greet – May 8th, 2018 in Edmonton 6:00-8:00 P.M. – some of the attendees opinion was to cancel the event to save money after budget cut, but as per Daniel we need this meeting more than ever
- Ranking criteria for water storage – direct and indirect benefits of the water storage were explained better
Mr. Philips highlighted the UID for investing own money in a preliminary study for Upper Belly River storage proposal
- Inter District tours

Email of the UID

The email of the UID has been hacked few times and fake messages have been sent most probably with some virus to various addresses from our address. It happened few times even with the changed password. The Board suggested to contact professionals to fix the problem.

Southern Drip Irrigation Systems & Supplies

The Southern Drip Irrigation Systems & Supplies from Lethbridge is offering to meet with the Board of Directors and farmers from our district for demonstration of the new sub-drip irrigation system which is a pressure irrigated system. Brandon think it will be awesome to have that opportunity and his suggestion is to organize the meeting sometimes in the summer. Jim would prefer the winter time when people are not so busy. He was also asking if someone is interested in a demonstration for drainage.

Folsom Dairy Ltd.

During checking the infrastructure of the UID last week, our crew noticed a lot of loose insulation in the main canal. The insulation had blown out of the pile of material piled up from the collapsed barn which belongs to the Folsom Dairy. Fred was speaking with one of their employee, however the cleaning was not done as of today.

The UID is also concerned about the wrecked barn material that is piled west of the canal. Our concerns are that more insulation could be blown into the canal, will make problems with the environment and will probably show up on the banks of Cochrane Lake.

The other issue is about the canal bank. We have observed that heavy equipment belonging to Folsom Dairy Farm is using the UID's canal bank and causing significant damage to it. The UID is planning to repair the road and will request reimbursement for the all work done.

The Board suggested to write a letter to Mr. Folsom.

Policy about removing snow in the ditches

As Fred was reporting about current situation in UID's canals with lots of water, snow and ice in them, he was asking if the Board wants to make a policy about removing snow in the ditches. The UID will clean snow out of canals only if someone's house is in jeopardy.

Radio in JD 210 G


A radio was installed in JD 210 G and in Jared's new pickup. All other radios were serviced.

Small parcel acres

Fred asked if we should send a letter to all Small Parcel land owners together with the invoices on July 1st asking if they want to sell assessed irrigation acres back to the UID for \$750/acre. They still can have an access to irrigation water through different agreements. The Board agreed to do this.

Brandon Gibb MOVED that the meeting be adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 14, 2018 at 10:00 A.M.



Chairman - Duane Nelson



District Manager - Fred Rice