

Wednesday, March 17, 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 March 17, 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 February 22, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes

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

...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the February 2021 Payroll

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to accept the February 2021 Payroll; SECONDED by Duane Nelson.

...CARRIED

The Board asked about Raymond Leek and his modified work. Ray was doing well while working at the shop during the winter, however, he was working in the field one day with the crew, and since March 4th, he hasn't come to work. He is not feeling good currently and is waiting for a doctor's recommendation.

Discussion and Acceptance of March 17, 2021 Accounts Payable

Nicholas Barfuss MOVED to accept the March 17, 2021 Accounts Payable; SECONDED by Craig B. Smith.

...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the Financial Statement to March 17, 2021

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to accept March 17, 2021 Financial Statement; SECONDED by Nicholas Barfuss.

...CARRIED

IPEX Inc. – immediate increase in their PVC pipe price

Email from March 2nd from Rick Lorincz, Sales Manager at IPEX Inc. informed us about the upcoming increase in price for their PVC pipes. The increase was 10% above the current price list dated June 15, 2020. To other customers outside the irrigation districts, the total increase is over 26%. However, Fred received a phone call from IPEX the same day announcing that the price increase is 11% effective immediately.

The UID preordered PVC pipe for IRP#2340 – Lateral F7 before last year's increase. Considering both price increase we saved 17% on PVC pipe price for this project.

Duane suggests that Irrigation Council should let the government know the impact of the irrigation infrastructure investment.

Letter from Mitch Merrill to buy assessed acres

Mitch Merrill, Bar Double M Ranching Ltd. would like to purchase all assessed acres available for sale. Currently, the UID has 19.2 assessed acres for sale. Mitch would move them on to SW 5-4-27-W4 where he already has 59.17 assessed acres. The land has been classified for irrigation before. These acres would be for a pivot in the future.

Nicholas Barfuss MOVED to sell Bar Double M Ranching 19.2 assessed acres at \$850/acre which cannot be used for flood irrigation; SECONDED by Duane Nelson.

...CARRIED

Mitch is requesting the Board for permission to transfer 123.17 assessed acres from L&S Bishop Enterprises Ltd. from SE 12-5-27-W4 and move them as follow:

32.17 acres to SE 5-4-27-W4

21.00 acres to SW 4-4-27-W4

70.00 acres to SE 17-4-27-W4

He would rotate the irrigation water around his own assessed acres and share irrigation water with other irrigators so it will not put any more pressure on Lateral A.

Board's concerns are with "sharing" and what Mitch means by that. It would not be a problem in the early season, it will be a problem especially after August 5th when river flow decreases rapidly most of the years. Fred will speak with Mitch about Board's concerns.

UID's Annual General Meeting on March 17, 2021

Our district has an Annual General Meeting today at 1:00 PM. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we were not able to have it in person, therefore we have a virtual zoom/conference call meeting. Margo Jarvis Redelback, Manager of AIDA was willing to organize and host the meeting for us. We upgraded our internet and replaced the router, hopefully, the connection will work as we have not had any issues with the internet in the last couple of weeks.

Election 2021

Two Board Members' positions are up for election and the deadline for nominations for the Board of Directors is today at 4:00 PM. We have received two nominations so far.

Lynn Bishop – Seepage on Lateral D1

Seepage on Lateral D1 on Lynn's land is significant lately, more precisely last year and it is about 100 meters long. Mr. Bishop is suggesting to solve this problem by installing a pipeline and he is offering to contribute \$30,000 towards the pipe. Fred contacted three vendors and we received quotes for PVC, poly-coated, and galvanized pipe. Prices range from \$40,000 to \$50,000. PVC pipe which would cost \$52,000 for 100 meters before the price increase. Fred's cost estimate for the whole project is \$72,000.

If the pipeline is installed, the structure would be necessary and the overall cost for the project would be even higher.

There are two turnouts leaking that might cause some of the seepages. The Board discussed the situation and suggested pulling out turnouts first and see if it helps with the seepage. A point was made that Mr. Bishop should pay the full amount for pipe, so all ratepayers are treated the same by the UID. The UID would agree with the pipeline if Mr. Bishop will pay the full cost of the pipe or we will use clay for the ditch to eliminate the seepage. Fred will speak with Mr. Bishop and discuss the options.

Solar panels for the UID

Work on the project is in the process, all poles are in the ground, just waiting for solar panels. Email from Energy Savings for Businesses congratulated and informed us that we were preapproved for a grant for this project for \$17,850. The completion deadline is 09/08/2021 and once the project is completed, we need to submit the post-project application and apply for our incentive payment.

Accounts Receivable

Water rates for 2019 were fully paid, therefore there is no need for the Rate Enforcement process this year. Dan Fox paid his rates on February 22nd and James & Lisa Welch on March 8th. Welch might consider installments in the future.

Rate Enforcement Procedure

Joyce Liam from SMRID informed all districts about the correct day for Rate Enforcement Hearing Date.

She shared with us their Rate Enforcement Procedure and the UID is going to prepare a similar document for our district. Duane's suggested to send a copy of the procedure to ratepayers who still owe rates to the UID once the procedure is approved by the board.

CIB Loan

More documents were signed and the CenralCollab.com website was created where we submitted the required documents for March 2021. We will not submit any progress certificates until all easements for the projects are signed.

Amendments to Irrigation District Act

Tom MacLachlan, MMH Lawyers LLP forwarded the email about proposed amendment to Irrigation Act. If passed, Bill 54, the *Irrigation Districts Amendment Act*, will allow irrigation districts to borrow funds for large-scale expansions of their irrigation works, increase confidence for financial lenders, and lead to more consistent, secure access to funding for irrigation districts.

AIDA Board of Directors meeting

The virtual meeting is still planned for Wednesday, April 1, 2021. Those board members who can participate will do it from home.

Discussion with John McKee about AIDA's meeting

John McKee is a representative for all small districts at AIDA's meetings, which means for the UID as well. Fred was speaking with John and asked him for reports from meetings. He promised to send some.

Fred's discussion with Alan Harold, LNIID


Following up on Alan's visit and presentation in our district, Fred was speaking with Alan about the situation if a ratepayer participates for a pipeline by increasing the size of pipe and the district will start to charge farmers for pressure. The Board discussed briefly the option because some of our Board members would be in that situation and they feel it would be not fair to them.

Annual Three-Year Plan

Irrigation Council reviewed and approved the 2021 Annual Rolling Three-Year Plan for the district at its February 17, 2021 meeting. As part of its review, Irrigation Council approved the New One Project - Emergency Drain on Lateral F for funding under the IRP at an estimated cost of \$370,000.

Nicholas Barfuss MOVED that the meeting be adjourned at 12:15 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, April 19, 2021, at 10:00 A.M


Chairman – Duane Nelson


District Manager – Fred Rice