

# MEDFORD IRRIGATION DISTRICT

## Regular Board Meeting Minutes

### July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 1:30 pm

Present: Henry Vaninetti (Zoom), Matt Borman, Tom Brookins, Sean Naumes; Jack Friend: Manager/Secretary  
Absent: Dennis O'Donoghue

Call meeting to order: Per email from Vice Chair O'Donoghue: As vice-chairman of the board of directors, in consideration of the fact that both the chairman and vice-chairman will not be in attendance at today's monthly MID board meeting, I delegate the duties of running the meeting to Director Sean Naumes". (7/10/2024 @ 10:14am). Director Naumes called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

OSU Water Research Project: We hope to be working with Talent and Medford Irrigation District. This is ongoing work we have been conducting here in Central Oregon, North Irrigation District. My background: I am an environmental chemist. I have worked in many roles at OSU since 2016. My main focus is water quality. I am here to improve the quality of our water and the health of our crops, ponds, lakes, and rivers. Additionally, I have an interest in environmental health, and trying to preserve it by using techniques to find new compounds in the system that we haven't detected yet. Research tells us that water quality is important for our crops' health and aquatic organism's health and human health as well. We need to focus on quality rather than quantity. An example is water reuse. In Europe, many cities use almost 100% water reuse. An example is Berlin, which has a very sophisticated system for water reuse. Any questions at this time?

Director Borman: In the projects that you have worked on, where has that information gone and utilized? Whether it be in the district itself or other agencies that are focused on water quality.

Professor: The information has remained with the district, my department, and my laboratory. We work with you and provide the information firsthand. Most of the contaminants do not come from farmers.

Director Naumes: I know you have been working with others and have some tracking of movement of the water and water losses. Could we get a recap of that information?

Professor: We are also going to be working on water management as well, and that is from the quantity point of view. We want to understand how evaporation happens, in different sections of the district. (PowerPoint)

Director Borman: Do you have a lot of urban contributions to both of those systems or is it mostly agricultural?

Professor: There are about 3 to 5 breaches in the canal.

Manager Friend: Are there any piped areas of the canal or is it open?

Professor: The Deschutes were all open but in the North Unit it is piped and open. It takes approximately 3 years, but I would like to get you some data in the second year.

Director Brookins: Do you differentiate between evaporation and seepage?

Professor: Yes, I believe so.

Minutes: The regular board meeting minutes on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, were reviewed. Director Naumes asks if there are any comments or corrections to the minutes. Director Naumes called for a motion to approve the regular board meeting minutes presented for June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Director Brookins motions to approve June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, minutes, Director Borman seconds the motion, and the motion carries.

Financials: Friend: We will see an increase in revenue due to water rights sales at the next meeting. Do you all have any questions? Most of the notes we have addressed in prior meetings.

Director Brookins: My only concern is the 140K shortfall of those patrons who are still outstanding. We have 120K delinquency patrons who also are in the 2 to 5-year range still pending. Regardless, we do have a shortfall and what are we going to do about it?

Manager Friend: Our insurance is going up this month, that we did budget for. We should table the forecast until the next meeting because Vice Chair O'Donoghue wants to see a forecast.

Director Naumes called for a motion to approve the financials presented for June 2024. Director Borman motions to approve June 2024 Financials, Director Brookins seconds the motion, and the motion carries.

Delinquent Accounts: Flanakin: We have good news. The Garrett account that the county beat us during the foreclosure process is being sold to the daughter of the couple who are currently residing in the home. She is

refinancing and purchasing the home and paying off all debt that has been incurred. It is set to close next Wednesday 7-17-2024.

Director Brookins: We did get 3 more paid up.

Flanakin: Yes we did. The King account has made consistent monthly payments, even early. That one will take some time to pay off.

Director Brookins: Is he paying more than what it is accumulating?

Flanakin: Yes.

Director Borman: If he is paying are we still penalizing him as well?

Flanakin: We are only charging interest.

Director Brookins: The big one that is still out there is Cornocoppia.

Flanakin: Yes, however with the foreclosure changes that we made, those that will be 3 years or more overdue on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 will be receiving a foreclosure letter.

The second item is the Administration Fees schedule to increase fees accordingly. This would increase our revenue and doesn't affect those who pay on time.

Director Naumes: With the Pond Permit and the GIS fee, are we pretty close to what the other districts are charging?

Manager Friend: We can pull the OWRC manual for the districts all over the state and their fees to compare.

Flanakin: The increase in the late fee would bring in approximately 7K per year based on the number of late fees that are implemented each year.

Director Borman: With the folks that are late, how often is there a new owner and do we do it differently with a new owner versus someone who has paid on time?

Flanakin: We have a welcome packet that we send out to those new patrons.

Manager Friend: I would like to see a higher increase in the lien fee and a smaller increase in the late fee. You would be avoiding the ones who don't understand it. We would pick up more than the late fees.

Director Borman: I would like to see the late fee at \$50 and the lien fee at \$500. Then we can walk up the amount on the late fee down the road if we like.

Manager Friend: I would like to check on the GIS fee to see what the charge is that she charges us. It may be more than \$100.

**Administration:** Manager Friend: We have had an interesting season so far. I have provided the last 2 updates that were sent out regarding the irrigation since the last meeting. The demand skyrocketed after our June Board Meeting, and the stored water we ordered was insufficient to meet the entire system's demand. The most that we can receive from Emigrant is 8K a/f. This year we started with 3,149 a/f. In a normal year, I wouldn't be focusing on this spreadsheet as much but with the high demand of water, the major heat wave that doesn't seem to be letting up, I would have started at 20 cfs to keep the system level. We are focusing on the Scott lateral which was an add on to our system that the canal hits Old Military and crosses over to the Scott lateral and serves roughly 12 customers and 35-40 acres and is at the very end of the system. It's a very delicate balance to keep everyone with available water in this difficult heat with the small amount of water that we have for the season. The moss in the canal was a major issue at the same time and caught us off guard. We were able to keep water in the canal to Ross Lane, but it was difficult to get it to Old Military Road and the Scott Lateral. We were finally able to get the canals de-mossed and the flow through to the end of the Scott lateral on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. I have attached a map showing the Scott lateral and a blowup of the west side. I have attached a graph of the west main canal at Jacksonville showing the effects of the high demand and how small of a margin impacts the Scott lateral. The third attachment is our water supply and order from Emigrant. We use the spreadsheet to help forecast how long our supply will last. With the limited supply we have, it is difficult to not have disruptions in deliveries to the very end of the system. That being said, on the other rides, we have users on laterals that are on rotations. 7-10 days between the sprinkler and 14-21 days between flood irrigation. This is standard across the district except for the lower end of ride 4 since it is known to have shortages. We try to keep as much water as possible heading down to the end of this reason but at peak demand, it makes it very difficult to keep it through the Scott lateral daily. We have also noted that we should be demossing on June 1 regardless of how heavy the growth appears to be. Things are running smoothly now and reviewing the Emigrant supply/releases we would get to September 25<sup>th</sup> with no adjustments to our current order.

Director Borman: If you were to compare prior seasons, how far back would that go?

Manager Friend: We have them, TID has them for all three districts. We have ours and RRVID's as well. The other factor also depends on how RRVID operates its system at that time. The heat wave may require us to order more for a while, but we can likely reduce the order as demand lowers later in the season.

**Transfer:** Manager Friend: Kaufman and a current customer would like to add an additional 15+ acres to their water rights. I recommend that we approve the transfer. It will not impact anyone on that line with this addition. We do have a few small acre inquiries as well but haven't heard yet on those.

Director Borman: You're looking for a motion to approve the transfer-on for this customer?

Manager Friend: Yes

Director Borman: So motion.

Director Brookins: I second the motion.

Director Naumes: All in favor, motion carries.

**Old Business:** Landowner water management and delivery policy. Director Naumes: I just had a couple of things to modify the stock grazing to eliminate that due to no allowing of stock grazing. For the gates and infrastructure change stock damage. Make those changes and vote at the next meeting.

**New Business:** Michael Fowell letter. This letter is for communications between the patrons and the district.

**Adjourn:** 3:55 pm

---

Director Sean Naumes – Vice Chair

---

Jack Friend – District Manager/Secretary