

MEDFORD IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

June 12th, 2024 @ 12:00 pm

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

Call meeting to order: Vice Chair O'Donoghue called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

Minutes: The regular board meeting minutes on May 8th, 2024, were reviewed. Vice Chair O'Donoghue asks if there are any comments or corrections to the minutes. Vice Chair O'Donoghue called for a motion to approve the regular board meeting minutes presented for May 8th, 2024. Director Brookins motions to approve May 8th, 2024, minutes, Director Borman seconds the motion, and the motion carries.

Financials: Friend: We're close to the halfway mark. This is through May.

Director Borman: The \$140K that we're short, is that expected to be made up or close that gap?

Friend: There is quite a bit remaining in outstanding balances. We will continue to receive funds from assessment requests, and water rights sales will continue.

Flanakin: With delinquencies, still outstanding, it's approximately \$120K.

O'Donoghue: How hard would it be to add a forecast budget at the end?

Flanakin: We can do that.

O'Donoghue: It would give us a better look at where we are headed. Vice Chair O'Donoghue asks if there are any comments or corrections to the minutes.

Director Naumes: Were the shotcrete jobs unexpected because the figure is so high?

Friend: These were small and could have turned into lawsuits quickly if not addressed immediately.

Director Brookins: Were you able to handle the last job you were trying to finish but couldn't do due to inefficient concrete and pump service?

Friend: We paid for the one truck and the pump service, but not the rest of the second and third trucks. the motion carries.

Delinquent Accounts: Flanakin: The payment plans are current. It's been quiet and little bits are coming in.

Director Brookins: So, we had 3 people pay theirs off. For Henagin. So, is it also one that gets interest and fees attached?

Flanakin: Yes, she does accrue interest, however, I need to hand calculate and manually enter the figure for her each month. Regarding the fee schedule, we can table that until last month.

Administration: Friend: The inflows from snow melt have diminished. I have included two graphs showing the combined supply for the northern reservoirs and the southern reservoirs. The northern supply has started dropping below last year's numbers. We were still seeing good streamflow and inflows at the time last year. We have started releases from Fish Lake a few weeks earlier than last year. We shut off the lake in mid-September with around 4K a/f of carryover in 2023. Last year we had \$4,113 a/f. We made our first order on June 28th last year. Currently, we are seeing streamflow drop off in Bear Creek and if we want to make full deliveries, we will need to begin tapping into our supply two weeks earlier than the last season.

We are facing a lot of challenges at the same time with canal leaks, plugged lines, and pressure lines that have been made and aquatic moss has come on strong on the west side. We have two excavators ready to start demossing the west side so that we can put the stored water to good use and get it through the system.

We have made consistent deliveries up to this week so the impact on the patrons is not bad but with the heat wave we just had we are starting to get a lot of calls.

Director Borman: My take is that we need the water, and we need it now. Not the best time to create stress where there isn't any. When we're talking about conservation, that would be toward the end of the season and where do we go. I would rather look at the end than here in the middle. We have about 13-14 weeks left.

Director Brookins: Are there any other options other than what you have explained?

Friend: Not really. We need to have consistency. We had a little hiccup last week when we were at 30 cfs and dropped to 5. Reader Reservoir operations have made a huge impact on the levels so far. With the high turnover

at TID, no one has spoken with them in some time. We also have a draft newsletter that Tammi put together to send to the patrons. If you have any suggestions, please let her know. As we transition to stored water and have a better idea of our supply, the timing for the newsletter is good for conveying that information to the patrons.

Director Brookins: On the newsletter, if you haven't had an opportunity to go through it, I have learned more on this newsletter than I have in the last 2 years that I have been here. It's very informative, very good job. I think we need to push email requests more to be able to get as much information as possible out there.

Tammi was able to make it to the OWRC office staff workshop in Salem last week.

Flanakin: This was an informative workshop thus far. A lot of materials were given and detailed explanations of transfers and updates on the election procedures. Tumalo Irrigation District had a recall of their election, and it explained the issue. We were advised by the office manager there to explain the long and expensive process a recall can have on a district.

Director Borman: Were there any surprises?

Flanakin: No not really.

Friend: Tumalo has a couple of lawsuits going because of the piping project that they are installing. There is a lot of opposition because of the scenic waterway. The attorney that represents them, David Filippi is sharp with water law. The work he has done with elections is one to follow and is current.

Elections: Henry Vaninetti's oath of office.

Chairman Vaninetti: Under the penalty of perjury, I Henry Vaninetti, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the duties of the office of Director of the Medford Irrigation District, and will to the best of my ability, support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, of the State of Oregon and the rules and regulations of the District.

Old Business: The map of the subdivision is the one that is a private system, it is not maintained. They would like the water but wanted to update you on how many properties there are. South Columbus to Crooked Creek.

Tammi: I just wanted to check in on the emails I could set up for you and if you have any questions. Regarding the Water Management Policy, I wasn't sure if you wanted to discuss it today with changes or table until next month. Sean and Matt gave me some input and changes.

Director Borman: Water tracking will hopefully be put into place someday. It needs to be regulated but leave it out until needed. In that first section 2.1 – If the land itself is smaller than the water right, what are we going to do with those cases? Are water rights prioritized?

Friend: We do not prioritize water rights. If I have changes, I will get them to you.

New Business: Landowner Charles Smith 1800 Orchard Home Drive. Would like to see more communication between the district and its patrons.

Director Brookins: When you wanted water, how did you go about ordering water? Did you call the ditch rider or the office?

Smith: Generally, we get a schedule from the ditch rider. He would go around to let us know when it would be available. I rarely called for water.

O'Donoghue: First of all, get together with the ditch riders and reiterate that they need to communicate with their patrons. They need to understand that they are going to get phone calls and need to address them. If they cannot, to go up the chain of command to their supervisor. We need to survey all the subdivided properties to see if there needs to be changes in the delivery systems. This system is over 100+ years old and used to be large plots of land. Over many years those large plots have been subdivided into apartments, homes, townhouses, etc. This is not the responsibility of Medford Irrigation District. This valley is living on borrowed time when it comes to water.

RBWUCI: \$805.58 (April Services) billed in May. \$1,400.03 (May Services) billed in June. We will see those RBWUCI bills go up as we are doing more modeling of Fourmile and drainage. Vice Chair O'Donoghue called for a motion to approve the RBWUCI bills presented for April & May. Director Borman motions to approve the RBWUCI bills for April & May. Director Naumes seconds the motion, and the motion carries.

FYI: FCA gave us an action plan for you all to take home.

Adjourn: 1:27 pm

Dennis O'Donoghue – Vice Chair

Jack Friend – District Manager/Secretary