

# MEDFORD IRRIGATION DISTRICT

## Regular Board Meeting Minutes

### May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 1:30 pm

Present: Sean Naumes, Dennis O'Donoghue, Henry Vaninetti, Dave Urton, Jack Friend-Manager/Secretary

**Call meeting to order:** Chairman Naumes called the meeting to order at 1:39 pm.

**Minutes:** Chairman Naumes asks if there are any comments or corrections to the minutes. Chairman Naumes called for a motion to approve the regular board meeting minutes. Director O'Donoghue motions to approve the April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, minutes, Director Vaninetti seconds the motion, and the motion carries.

Chairman Naumes called for a motion to approve the special board meeting minutes. Director O'Donoghue motions to approve the May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, minutes, Director Urton seconds the motion, and the motion carries.

**Financials:** Friend: Change in the property's front entrance is new fencing and an access gate. This was 50% funded up to a \$5,000 grant by SDAO safety/security grant. This is reflected in the \$11,500.00 check paid in April. If we get the solar panels installed, we don't want strangers messing with them. We did have an \$18,000.00 payment for the new tractor down payment. We were able to get all the items financed through John Deere and were able to secure the rate that we were quoted. We will be able to use both mowers in the field and the small tractor can get into the areas too tight for the new larger tractor. The money for the watershed plan that we received and the funds that are spent on the expenses are reimbursed so we are just the pass-through. Chairman Naumes called for a motion to approve the financials. Director Urton motions to approve the April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, financials, Director O'Donoghue seconds the motion, and the motion carries.

**Delinquent Accounts:** Flanakin: It is a little different format but maybe just this month. This list is as of Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> of May. Regarding updates, the patron that filed for bankruptcy has sent in a couple of small payments so far. Stacey Lynn Jackson's home that was for sale is pending and has a closing date of the 19<sup>th</sup> of May. Hopefully, that will get paid in the next few weeks. Jeannie King's son is working on possible funding to pay this debt off while still sending in monthly payments. He didn't make a payment this last month but hopefully, this will be resolved soon. Taylor's account is still moving forward. They contacted us for a meeting to discuss a payment plan. I returned their call and left a message, but there hasn't been any response.

**Election:** Chairman Naumes recites: Upon the passing of our dedicated board member Angelo Grestoni, his seat on the Board of Directors of Medford Irrigation District has been vacant. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Angelo for his dedication to the district and he would want us to move forward to replace his seat, Division D, with a qualified candidate until the next election. We, the board would like to nominate Matthew Borman, Vice President of Orchard Operations at Harry & David's Bear Creek Orchards here in Medford. Matt, do you accept this nomination? Call for a Motion to appoint Matthew Borman as Division D Director until the next election. Chairman Naumes called for a motion to appoint Matthew Borman as Division D Director. Director O'Donoghue motions to nominate Matthew Borman as Division D Director, Director Vaninetti seconds the motion, and the motion carries. Please have a seat at the table if you would like to take the Oath of Office. Welcome to Medford Irrigation District Board of Directors, Division D. Friend: This appointment is good until this next election when you can run to be a seat for the 3-year term. Director Borman:

Under the penalty of perjury, I Matt Borman, 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.

**Administration:** Friend: OSU has data for us this year like last year regarding the soil saturation. Ricky Clark is the presenter. Clark: The data is based on the May 31<sup>st</sup> start day that has been historical for the past few years. With historical average conditions, this year is actually four days later (June 3<sup>rd</sup>). Regarding soil and moisture, we are better in this department at both sites. We have made 3 projections worst-case scenario, extreme heat, and best-case scenario a cool spring for the whole remainder of our spring. With that forecast, it puts us right on for average and best-case scenario 2 weeks to a month as far as soil and moisture go. With the 2 models that were created, the two reservoirs should be at a historical average with the melt-off of the snow and temperature conditions. With

50% of the snow melted off, for Howard Prairie and Hyatt, the numbers are 60 to 70% of normal. Only about 30% of the snow has melted off of Fourmile and Fish Lake so far. Friend: We have been keeping consistent flows through the system and we are cleaning and flushing laterals. The ditch riders have made coverage schedules starting May 15<sup>th</sup> and we anticipate demand to increase with the warm weather coming. We have had very few requests for water so far. We are currently diverting water from all three diversions and streamflow is holding above 300 cfs in Little Butte Creek and above 100 cfs in Bear Creek. These are very good numbers for this time of year, but we will want to keep an eye on the streamflow as this head wave moves through. Last year we cracked Fish Lake on June 20<sup>th</sup> and ramped flows up to our target in the first week of July. We have plowed into Fish Lake, and we are currently digging out the Fourmile access road. We will start cleaning out the Cascade Canal once we reach the Divide in anticipation of running water from Fourmile as soon as possible. There is currently 56: of snow at Fourmile, 41: at Billy Creek, 17” at Fish Lake, and 4-0” at Howard Prairie. Hyatt has a satellite transmission issue that will be resolved this week, so we are using the last known good number of 7,000 a/f from May 5<sup>th</sup>. Howard is 44% of capacity and 57% of the average. Emigrant is 71% of capacity and 78% of the average. Fish Lake is at 52% of capacity and 74% of the average. Fourmile is 40% of capacity and 64% of the average. We still have some filling to do before we get our totals for the season. So far, we have 3.560 a/f out of 8,000 in our southern supply allotment. That is substantially more than this time last year.

We received our new tractor and mowing has begun. Brian Hampson and I traveled to Salem last week for an OWRC board meeting. We went up the day before the meeting to stop at the Capital and meet with Legislators regarding our \$1 million request on the drought bill HB 3124. We also discussed the need for support in our valley for conservation projects. With the help of OWRC staff, we were able to hold 15–30-minute meetings with Rep. E Werner Reschke. Sen. Jeff Golden also followed up this week. I have included the one page we are using to highlight the Fourmile Lake water call from the Klamath Tribes for your review. RBWUC Inc. is meeting with Jackson County Commissioners tomorrow to update them on the status. We have submitted our request for judicial review and hope for a stay, which would be the best-case scenario. The amount of water that the tribes are asking for is about the same amount of water that is going down the Link River on a daily basis. I typically like to bring down water from Fourmile Lake in June. We’re not sure what the response time is for the OWRD in this matter. We should know what the future holds for this season very soon. This funding is likely going through NIMPA because of the forest service land. We hold a special use permit to be able to access our dam. If we were to change anything like dumping on the forest surface floor, that would take some time and delay due to our special use permit. We are just following a court order at this point.

We should set up a special meeting in a couple of weeks to discuss streamflow and the date of a possible release of our stored water. We need to discuss the need for water for the specific crops that need it sooner than later.

**New Business:** Transfer off of Jose Gonzales Ordonez, Chairman Naumes called for a motion to approve the transfer. Director O’Donoghue motions to approve the transfer for Ordonez, Director Urton seconds the motion, and the motion carries.

**RBWUCI:** April 2023 Bill: \$5.054.12. Chairman Naumes called for a motion to approve the RBWUI bill. Director O’Donoghue motions to approve the RBWUCI bill, Director Urton seconds the motion, and the motion carries.

**FYI:** Update FCA Watershed Planning monthly district update. This update is to be expected every other month.



We are currently in the scoping period. FCA is in charge of the scoping period and is preparing the documents that are required for this phase. There will be meetings with the public and mailers sent out to everyone in the district to be notified. Just the necessary step in the process. We will take the comments of these meetings to help with the draft plan stage. We do need to have several alternative options to line it, pipe it, or do nothing.

Regarding the solar project, it should be getting underway this fall. We just need to send a few more documents.

**Public Comment:** Tom Brookings: Better communication and should put updates in old business until those items are resolved. Michael Fowell. Carlene Larson: Thank you to the ditch riders for cleaning my ditch.

**Adjourn Regular Session:** Meeting adjourned at 2:59 pm