**MEDFORD IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

**February 14th, 2024 @ 1:30 pm**

Present: Dennis O’Donoghue (Zoom), Matt Borman, Tom Brookins, Jack Friend: Manager/Secretary

Absent: Henry Vaninetti, Sean Naumes

**Call meeting to order:** Director Borman called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**Minutes:** The regular board meeting minutes on January 10th, 2024, were reviewed. Director Borman asks if there are any comments or corrections to the minutes. Director Borman called for a motion to approve the regular board meeting minutes presented for January 10th, 2024. Director Brookins motions to approve the January 10th, 2024, minutes, Director O’Donoghue seconds the motion, and the motion carries. The organizational board meeting minutes on January 10th, 2024, were reviewed. Director Borman asks if there are any comments or corrections to the minutes. Director Borman called for a motion to approve the organizational board meeting minutes presented for January 10th, 2024. Director Brookins motions to approve the January 10th, 2024, organizational minutes, Director O’Donoghue seconds the motion, and the motion carries.

**Financials:** The financial reports for January 2024 were reviewed. Director Borman asks if there are any comments or corrections to the finances. Motion: Director Borman called for a motion to approve the financial reports presented for January 2024. Director O’Donoghue motions to approve the January 2024 financials, Director Brookins seconds the motion, and the motion carries.

**Delinquent Accounts:** Flanakin: The payment plan accounts are paying on time. Nothing new to report this time.

**Administration:** Friend: Fourmile is at 4K af. That is where it was last year in March, so we are a month ahead. March 13th when we received a call for water. We currently do not have a call for this year. All the water that is in the lake currently will be able to be moved downstream to Fish Lake. Fish Lake is sitting much higher at this time compared to last year. 3,145 af last year at this time and this year is at 4,437 af just a little below average for the normal year. Howard Prairie is at 48%, and Hyatt is also slightly below normal but higher than last year at this time. The snowpack on this side of the valley is almost nonexistent. We have a large pocket of snow on our primary reservoirs. Billie Creek, Fish Lake, and Fourmile Lake, locations, it is vastly improved with 106% of the average snowpack. Snow water equivalent at Fourmile Lake is 127% of the average.

Borman: Are there snow/moisture sensors up there?

Friend: I am not sure however, it’s heavily volcanic and possibly would not read correctly if there were sensors.

Borman: The sensors around the valley are showing an increase in the moisture content under the ground rising to a better level than in many years before.

Friend: We are in a better position this year than last year. We did what we could to make it work with what we had. I expect March to be a meeting to bring a lot to the table including the OSU office for soil content and define our water availability. The district has been grateful for their input regarding the moisture content for the valley.

**Transfers:**  Friend: There are a lot of new developments happening in the valley which has caused many to want to transfer off from the district. There is a large one on Oak Grove. It has been slated for a while and the city of Medford has changed the urban boundaries for the area to be included in city limits. We may need to look at our policy to change our rules and regulations regarding transferring off-property within MID. If the transfer documents were completed before the February board meeting, the current year's fees would be waived. When the amount of acreage is a large portion of MID, it affects our budget and needs to be paid, regardless.

Director Borman asks if there are any comments or corrections to the transfers off and on accounts. Motion: Director Borman called for a motion to approve the 8 transfers off and 2 transfers on accounts. Director O’Donoghue motions to approve the transfers off and on, Director Brookins seconds the motion, and the motion carries.

**Old Business:** Friend: CWSRF Agreement Contract: I put an RFP out on the 8th of February and the response has been overwhelming with one as far away as Jerusalem. I believe it is going to be the next micro/hydro type for people to put floating solar in all municipalities all over. Many are trying to get their foot in the door with this installation to be the first in Oregon. The selection begins on the 8th of March. We hope to have this project completed by the end of August to October this year. We will be having a ribbon-cutting ceremony as well. It’s a very exciting project that has many benefits for the community. The resolution once approved by a quorum of the board, will allow me to sign the loan agreement. We will be using the pay structure that was submitted to us as we go. The DOE funding, 2.6M, is the loan amount, 50% is principal forgiveness of 1.3M, CDS funding is 1,120M, and that is the DOE funding is ready to sign shortly. We want to pay for the SRF funding first so we will receive the principal forgiveness. The tax credit for the 108K, will fill in the rest. We will have our revenue begin next year.

O’Donoghue: Just from a cash flow perspective, are there any time issues that we will use funds from the district until we get the tax credit?

Friend: The tax credit will be on January 1st of 2025 when applying. We have a zero return so it would be a quick turnaround. The loan doesn’t need to be paid until the project is completed and 6 months from there.

Brookins: How much of this is going to put on our current staff?

Friend: Bonneville Power is handling most all the paperwork and sign-ups for the community. The cost is figured into that as well.

We are still working with the EPA negotiations to finalize that contract. There seem to always be delays. We are the first project for them, and it has been a trial-and-error phase. We had a meeting with Congressman Bentz last Saturday and asked him to help move some of these funds along faster. He agreed to sign a letter to expedite. We also asked for the Fourmile headgate to be expedited as well from the OWRD. It doesn’t look good to the tribes when there are these stalls. They may start to question why the headgate is not being installed. RRVID signed the agreement yesterday for the funds to order the headgate and construction, etc. Unfortunately, the state agency is not equipped to handle most of the steps needed to complete this process. We went to Salem and lobbied to receive these funds to complete this process of the Fourmile headgate for the tribes. We were awarded the funds but hit extremely extended stalls from the OWRD.

We do have a contract with DOWL that our attorney just completed his review today. There seems to be a contradictory section regarding the warranty and this needs to be addressed.

On the EIS PL566 project, Parametric’s will be in the field in April to begin their survey work for the environmental permitting work. This is for the species and habitat.

Brookins: Will that be in a report that we can review?

Friend: I believe it will be in the draft for public review.

Brookins: What kind of roadblocks has the EPA thrown at this?

Friend: They didn’t have a program for the 5M grant that we were awarded. It was put in the EPA’s lap. It originally was called STAG funding. They must go through all the reviews to make sure we are following the correct steps and following the rules as well. We would submit the documents requested and the EPA would review and make additional rules and changes. They would return to us for more corrections to the new rules and regulations. The letter will be drafted by FCA’s government official who can insert the correct language for us.

DEQ sent the final contract agreement. This resolution is just for me to sign the CWSRF agreement to keep the project moving. Motion: Director Borman called for a motion to approve the resolution for the manager to sign contract/loan agreement R64120. Director O’Donoghue motions to approve the resolution, Director Brookins seconds the motion, and the motion carries.

**New Business:** The resolution for the update of check signers was reviewed. Director Borman asks if there are any comments or corrections to the resolution. Motion: Director Borman called for a motion to approve the resolution presented. Director Brookins motions to approve the resolution for update of check signers, Director O’Donoghue seconds the motion, and the motion carries.

**R.B.W.U.C.I:** Director Borman asks if there are any comments or corrections to the RBWUCI bill for January 2024 for $5,167.94. Motion: Director Borman called for a motion to approve the RBWUCI bill presented for January 2024. Director Brookins motions to approve the January 2024 bill, Director O’Donoghue seconds the motion, and the motion carries.

**FYI:** Updated outline from FCA on all 3 projects.

**Adjourn:** 2:18 pm

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Matt Borman – Director Jack Friend – District Manager/Secretary