

# MEDFORD IRRIGATION DISTRICT

## Regular Board Meeting Minutes

### March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 1:30 pm

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

**Call meeting to order:** Vice Chair O'Donoghue called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

**Minutes:** The regular board meeting minutes on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, were reviewed. Vice Chair O'Donoghue asks if there are any comments or corrections to the minutes. Director Naumes mentioned that Director Borman was elected to run the last meeting instead of Vice Chair O'Donoghue due to being virtual. Vice Chair O'Donoghue called for a motion to approve the regular board meeting minutes presented for February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Director Brookins motions to approve the amended February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, minutes, Director Borman seconds the motion, and the motion carries.

**Financials:** Friend: We have received 81% of the revenue for this year so far. Some patrons are upset over the steep late fee, but that policy has been in place for over 10 years to prevent shortages when we have legal expenses we need to pay.

Director Borman: Was there any feedback on the changes?

Friend: No, not really, until March when the late fees and interest hit. There is also a change in the postal service. All mail goes through Portland now so it may take longer. Computer services were over budget with our new server and 3 updated computers. We did have a grant of \$5K to offset that. Under repair equipment, we were high for this time of year, but it was a large fix that was needed for some time. It was the 2014 track hoe bucket pin and rebuilt boom.

Director Naumes: What are the Government Ethics Charges for?

Friend: This is an annual charge that was at a set rate of \$548 and was increased to \$945. We didn't get notice of this increase.

The financial reports for February 2024 were reviewed. Vice Chair O'Donoghue asks if there are any comments or corrections to the finances. Motion: Vice Chair O'Donoghue called for a motion to approve the financial reports presented for February 2024. Director Borman motions to approve the February 2024 financials, Director Naumes seconds the motion, and the motion carries.

**Delinquent Accounts:** Flanakin: We have had a few new patrons move to the 2-year plus and 3-year plus. Eight accounts are at the 4-plus year and will be entering into the foreclosure process next year providing that they do not bring their account current. Revisit the policy of delinquency at the next meeting. Add an exit strategy to the next meeting as well. The Taylor account has been making on-time payments, however, did not follow the plan of paying the current year's assessment on time by the end of February. There is a letter going out from our attorney to address this issue. Total to date is approximately \$111K in 2,3, and 4+ delinquent and current year assessments still owing is approximately \$135K.

**Administration:** Friend: I have included a graph showing the northern reservoirs combined with the average and the last five seasons included. Fourmile is at 33% capacity and 61% of the average. Fish is at 58% of capacity and 91% of the average. I have also included one showing the three southern reservoirs combined at 44% of capacity and 68% of the average. While we are still below the 20-year average, we are significantly higher than in the past 4 years. February precipitation was 129% of the average and we are at 99% of the average since the start of the October 1 water year. The snowpack is above average and is holding strong. Fourmile has 99" at 129% of the average. Billy Creek has 82" at 146% of the average. Fish Lake has 40" at 112% of the average. Howard Prairie SNOTEL shows 9". The drought monitor shows the majority of Jackson County is at a D0 "abnormally dry". Stream flows are up and forecasted to continue. We are starting frost protection out of South Fork this week. It will take a few weeks to get it through the system at a minimum. My recommendation to the Board is to continue to charge the system during the beginning of April and utilize the stream flow in anticipation that we will have a

normal transition to stored water this season. My recommendation to the board based on these conditions for a start day, is to continue charging the system into April.

Director Borman: As we come out of the shortage, how does that change MID's ability to conserve or hold back water that's not needed?

Friend: The board can base their decision on the current drought monitor and water availability to the district each year.

Director Borman: I guess we take what we learn in conversations each year based on current and past water years and take into consideration storing and conserving as much as possible. Need to put out there on the website or a newsletter of the upcoming water year the many factors that we work with to begin water and end as well. Streamflow is the way to go for charging the canals and patrons' storage units to fill up helps immensely with those who need to prime pumps and possibly use some of that water before going to storage.

Director Brookins: Some of the things that Dennis and I spoke about many months ago were to think outside the box. One idea was for those patrons on the lower end who only see under the full allotment of water for their flowers, trees or gardens can get a storage tank on their property to capture the water for their property if when they need it, it would be available. Maybe MID can get a deal on purchasing tanks and resell them for the cost to the district. This would help the orchards and other crops that would need it at that time or save for the off time. We have three different types of customers out there. The individuals, orchards, and vineyards, and the farmers with their hay and grain and cattle raising.

Director Naumes: We should put it out there that we have ideas for small water users to conserve water for their availability when water is not available. (Seasonal Availability)

Director Brookins: I was speaking with Jack about putting a newsletter out once or twice a year letting our patrons know the upcoming season issues, the end of the season, and what we have learned from the current season.

Friend: We have a lot of things going on with the Watershed Plan, the survey crew for the environmental and endangered species is going to be in the next month or so. Regarding the Solar System Project, we went out to bid and received four proposals. The only one that had floating solar experience out of Florida didn't follow directions and didn't add the prevailing wage. It is funded by DEQ and requires a prevailing wage. The RFP was approved by DEQ and needed the prevailing wage portion of the document and the fee schedule for that as well. Their proposal was submitted on the last day. DEQ advised that we could reach out to them regarding the missing wage portion, or you can disqualify them. After speaking with FCA through the process I thought there was less liability to disqualify them versus the other three following directions, I was worried the other three would see that as a favor. Realistically they could have come in the highest cost-wise, they came in the lowest and the only ones with the experience for floating solar. They could have come in the highest and still won the bid because they are the only ones with the experience. They were quite upset. I had the intent to award up to seven days and on the last day, we received an email with a letter attached from their attorney protesting the intent to award. The bottom line is the company that is protesting the award verbalized that the ones who received the award had unprofessional conduct. MID is caught in the crosshairs here and this has nothing to do with MID. It is between the two companies. Imagine Energy had been working with D3Energy and planned on doing the work together. They had received valuable information from their experience. At the last minute decided not to partner up together. D3Energy is requesting all documents regarding the RFP process. MID took the right steps for the RFP and was very specific regarding the steps to follow for the RFP. They admitted that they didn't do the bid correctly, and if they had completed the document correctly, they might have been able to acquire the other floating solar jobs that FCA is working on with other companies. This letter is being reviewed by our attorney.

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

**FYI**: Friend: Just a quick note on the lawsuit with the tribes, we seem to be agreeing with the tribes. We have informed them about the headgate and the process in which it is installed and the time, permits, and assessments from the various entities. We didn't want them to think that we were holding anything up. Their tribal governments are going to be changing soon.

**Old Business:** Friend: The Policy and Procedures were edited by Matt and Dennis. Tom wasn't a part of this originally. We can send you a copy to review and let us know if you have any questions or changes.

Director Naumes: I think I want to review it again.

Friend: We will send a clean updated copy for all your reviews.

**Adjourn:** 2:40 pm

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Dennis O'Donoghue – Vice Chair

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Jack Friend – District Manager/Secretary