

MEDFORD IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

September 11th, 2024 @ 1:30 pm

Present: Dennis O'Donoghue, Tom Brookins, Sean Naumes; Jack Friend: Manager/Secretary

Absent: Henry Vaninetti, Matt Borman

Call meeting to order: Vice Chair O'Donoghue called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

Minutes: The regular board meeting minutes on August 14th, 2024, were reviewed. Director Naumes had a couple revisions. The audit section with Director Naumes' question, the response is from Sandra. Also, the Chair was Vice Chair directing the meeting that day and not director Naumes. Vice Chair O'Donoghue asks if there are any comments or corrections to the minutes. Director Naumes motions to approve August 14th, 2024, minutes, Director Brookins seconds the motion, and the motion carries.

Financials: Manager Friend: Not a whole lot of changes. We will be transitioning into maintenance season which will be increasing in the expense accounts.

Delinquent Accounts: Director Brookins: My question is we haven't reduced any?

Flanakin: Interest was assessed which made the total increase and the two payment plans are creating a decrease. Another change would be the bankruptcy patron's bill is split into 2 because the bankruptcy payments continue without additional interest and the new charges are accruing interest, late fees and so on. Jeanie King is the only one left from the severely delinquent. In the front of your books is the budget paperwork for your review and we will be discussing that next meeting.

Administration: Manager Friend: I have attached graphs showing the combined northern supply (Fourmile/Fish) and southern supply (Howard/Hyatt/Emigrant). Both graphs show we are slightly higher than last year but well below the 20-year average. While we started the water year with more water than the previous year, with less precipitation and higher temperatures we had to utilize storage several weeks sooner. Nevertheless, we were able to keep flows consistent through the system and make it a successful season. Our Emigrant will be fully exhausted in the 16th. We made it to our target shutoff date of September 15th.

Jackson county is working on the final phase of the Foothill Rd. project. We have an old 12" concrete lateral that runs down Dry Creek Rd. and crosses Foothills at the location. The line conflicted with a short section, so the County planned to have it lowered as a part of the project. During road construction adjacent to this area, they started seeing a lot of water in their excavation sites. The lateral was on, and Patrons were irrigation at that time. The County had some inspections scheduled for the stormwater pipes they installed and offered to send a camera down our lateral to check on the condition before they pave the new road. The pipe was broken, and previous repairs were compromised in several spots. I have included a picture of the worst section. There were several offset joints, and it was obvious that the line was leaking. The contractor, Knife River Materials gave us a quote (\$20K) to replace the pipe with water-tight c900 at the same time as the work Jackson County's work to lower the upper section was taking place.

Director Brookins: During the preliminary stage of the project, did they consult with MID about this issue?

Manager Friend: They had a survey go out to all utilities to check for conflicts and there was this particular pipe that crossed the road they had concern. The utility relocation plan was in place to correct these types of problems. The cost to dig up the freshly paved project and repair any damage to the road from operating the pipe in the condition was in would be substantially higher. This was an out-of-budget expense, and the construction work exposed a necessary repair we weren't aware of beforehand. I consulted with legal counsel, and they provided a short Memorandum with guidance on emergency procurement rules. I reached out to Director Naumes to confirm the direction I was taking sounded like the most reasonable approach given the circumstances. Director Naumes agreed, and I moved forward. KRM was able to get the pipe replaced before they continued their work.

The joint system canal phase 1 project is closer to contract with DOWL. Our legal finished their revisions last week and we sent them to DOWL for their review. Hopefully, we can have a signed contract and begin survey work ASAP.

We are still waiting to hear back from Pacific Power regarding completion of the facilities study. We have a few issues with Department of Energy funding regarding the BABA that we are trying to sort out for the floating solar project. They responded with October 30th as a confirmed date.

The Watershed EIS is still moving along. We were able to get some water loss measurements a few weeks ago and I am waiting for the data from FCA and the Watermaster office. I will share that information with the Board as it comes in. Flows were very consistent, and we were able to shut off all the Patrons in that stretch to provide accurate water loss data.

Crews are putting together work lists and starting next week we will begin the winterization process. That involves ramping down the diversion flows, pulling down the checks, shutting down laterals, and pulling the dams out.

We have our first of two budget meetings following the next Board Meeting in October.

Director Brookins: Where is the money coming from for the pipe from Knife River?

Manager Friend: It will come out of our reserves account.

Transfers: Manager Friend: Daniel & Michelle Chancellor for a transfer off and Thomas Frutchey Trust for a transfer off, Vice Chair O'Donoghue: Does anyone have any questions or comments? Do I hear a motion to accept the on/off water rights.

Director Brookins: I motion to accept the transfers on/off, Director Naumes seconds, motion carries.

Old Business: Flanakin: Here is a sample of the booklet containing the responsibilities of the district and the landowners to be sent out to our patrons shortly. Pronto Print was the lowest bid for the job of printing them. We also have to vote on the Procurement Policy. I received everyone's edits, and it is ready for approval.

Vice Chair O'Donoghue: Do I have a motion to approve?

Director Naumes: I motion to approve the New Procurement Policy, Direct Brookins seconds the motion, and motion carries.

Flanakin: I have the last of the policies to be reviewed upon approval from our counsel. As soon as I receive it, I will send it to all of you for your review. It is quite lengthy but it's the last of the updated policies for MID.

New Business: **Manager Friend:** This is a letter from a landowner complaining about a leak running through her property and damaging the driveway. Foreman Gene and Manager Friend went to investigate the issue. When the water is shut down, we will be checking again. There is a private road, and we need to determine who needs to fix it. Charlie phoned for water earlier in the season.

Adjourn: 2:27 pm

Vice Chair Dennis O'Donoghue

Jack Friend – District Manager/Secretary