



• 1985 Country Club Road, Hood River, OR 97031 Phone (541)-387-5261 Fax (541)-386-9103 www.fidhr.org •

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2018

The Board of Directors of the Farmers Irrigation District met on Wednesday, December 19, 2018, at the district office for the purpose of conducting its regular monthly business. Those in attendance were directors Erick von Lubken, Tim Annala, Don Chandler, Bill Munk, and Pete Siragusa, District Manager: Les Perkins, Office Manager: June Brock, and Attorney: Don Hull. Also in attendance was Insurance Broker: Julie Hammond.

Chairman Erick von Lubken called the meeting to order at 11:55 a.m.

MONTHLY BUSINESS:

The minutes of the October 17, 2018 board meeting were presented and discussed. (There was NO November board meeting). It was moved by Pete Siragusa and seconded by Bill Munk to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed with all in favor.

The O&M bills for the months of November and December 2018 were presented and discussed. It was moved by Tim Annala and seconded by Pete Siragusa to approve the bills in the amount of \$443,281.22 and \$215,307.39. The motion passed with all in favor.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: 2019 Insurance Renewal – Insurance Broker, Julie Hammond of Brown and Brown presented the board with Starr’s Hydro Property and SDIS insurance proposals for 2019 (see attached). Much discussion ensued regarding deductibles, liabilities, premiums, exclusions, dams, etc, and rate increases of approximately 13% on Special Districts Insurance Services (SDIS) which covers the District’s general property and auto coverage, due to national auto experience (payouts have exceeded revenue) and the large property damage claims due to natural disasters. The board asked Julie if it was possible to receive the policy in advance, rather than 12 days before year end. Julie said she could provide the Hydro policy from Starr as early as September/October, but SDIS apparently could not provide quotes until the first week of December. Much discussion ensued regarding broker’s fees and commissions. Julie thanked the board. Les informed the board that the District would be receiving ~\$30,000 subrogation from QCube for the 2015 Lowline loggers claim. On December 5th Insurance Brokers, James Lombardo of USI and Scott Reynier of Columbia River Insurance gave presentations to the board at a work session.

CORRESPONDENCE: None



REPORTS AND DISCUSSION:

a) A/R Report – To date, the district has received \$349,438.04 in payments towards the 2019 irrigation season representing 33% of collections vs 32% last year. EOM balance as of December 13th was \$1,261,488.04.

b) Hydro Production – November's production was projected at 2,200,000 kWh. Actual production was 2,036,284 kWh (see attached). Hydro revenue for November was projected at \$162,074.00. Actual revenue was \$152,125.45. The District's trending percentage of actual to projected kWh for the year currently sits at 89.37 considering November's river flows were below normal. Hopefully we can make up the shortfall in December.

c) Manager's Report –

Annual Shutdown – From October 22nd through 26th, the Farmers Canal and forebay 2 were cleaned out, forebay 3 was inspected and deemed no need for clean out. The Penstock was drained and a valve was replaced at Plant 3, along with a new steel plated cover for the flume. The headgate tunnel was inundated with masses of silt, rocks and debris, so a mini-loader was hired which saved much back breaking shovel work. It was found that by flushing the tunnel and releasing the water at the spill gate, much sediment/debris could be removed, this action will be performed several times a year as needed.

Projects – Les received an email from OWRD late Friday afternoon requesting verification that the screens on Rainy, Cabin and Gate creeks met ODF&W criteria. Les is working with Rod French, ODF&W's fish biologist to resolve any of OWRD's requests.

The permitting process is still on-going with DSL and the ACOE (permits were rejected, claiming they were incomplete) Les has had several conference calls with DSL and ACOE to provide them with clarification for wetland delineation and mitigation. The Removal Fill and Wetland Mitigation Plans will be re-submitted as soon as the comments from DSL are addressed.

DEQ requested an Environmental Assessment which was sent in for review.

Timber Sales/Fish Logs – Logs are currently being removed and transported to WKO for processing. These logs were originally designated for the CTWS for fish stream habitation, but due to time constraints by the CTWS the agreement could not be met. The standing timber in the inundation zone will be put out to public bid early in 2019 with a scheduled harvest completion of June of 2019.

Pump Station Controls – The week of December 10th, Sierra Controls had three employees working on replacing the PLC's at the pump station. Firewalls were installed and Plant information was migrated to Clear SCADA. Testing was performed on one of the pumps and went well, the programmers will perform remaining programming remotely. A new alarm platform will be active once the programming is complete. Alarms will be sent out via text and in emergency cases via phone calls. Sierra Controls will return prior to the irrigation start-up to complete final testing. A new Air Fiber connection was made available to the office location providing excellent internet service.



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SCADA /Telemetry System – We are working on upgrading the system for next year. The Bureau of Reclamation will fund the Davenport screen with the retrofit taking place spring of 2019, this will also include new telemetry upgrades. Les is working with the Hood River Electric Coop to provide communication to the headgates and eradicate the T-1 line that is currently in place.

Hydro Policy/Legislation – On December 12th Les went to Salem to meet with legislators regarding the Small Scale Hydro Bill. Pacific Power is already making waves to kill the bill. Stay tuned.

LEGAL: Les and Don are working on the Timber Sale Contract.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

OTHER BUSINESS: The District received \$889.00 from SDAO's safety matching grant program for handrails, ladders and walkways installed throughout the district's infrastructure for the safety of the crew.

Les received an email from Red Barn Orchards requesting an agreement/right-of-way regarding access limitations on and through their property on Copper Dam Road. The agreement was denied due to existing easements.

Insurance Broker – It was moved by Don Chandler and seconded by Bill Munk to accept Scott Reynier of Columbia River Insurance to be the District's new Insurance Broker of Record. The motion passed with all in favor. Chairman Erick von Lubken abstained.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Signed: _____ Bill Munk, Secretary

Attest: _____ Erick von Lubken, Chairman