



**BUDGET COMMITTEE & BOARD MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 15, 2025**

The Farmers Irrigation District Budget Committee held a work session on Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at the district office. Budget Committee members in attendance included: Randy Franz, Jason Sandahl, Steve Chance, and Andy Von Flotow. Also in attendance were District Manager Alexis Vaivoda, Watershed Project Manager Megan Saunders, and Board members Erick Von Lubken, Don Chandler, Pete Siragusa, Dani Annala, and Bill Munk.

Steve called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.

Alexis read a note from Bob Benton, Budget Committee Member, who was unable to make the meeting.

BUDGET COMMITTEE WORK SESSION

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: Bernie Yoo was present and stated that he had no comment.

The budget committee had previously asked about potentially increasing insurance deductibles to reduce costs. Scott Reynier was available and the committee asked questions and discussed ideas. Scott will provide alternatives and options to FID in about a month.

Alexis reported on the DEQ re-amortization question. Sam Ferguson at DEQ said that re-amortizing a loan after an additional principal payment is an option. The budget committee discussed looking further into the pros and cons of this prior to taking action.

Alexis presented a summary of the current special assessment and what it has accomplished. The group discussed the potential for a new special assessment starting in 2027. Discussion included: if the special assessment should be focused on one loan, on capital debt recovery, or be more flexible; if the assessment should be \$20, \$30, or \$40 per acre; and how the assessment should be communicated to patrons.

Jason moved and Randy seconded to recommend that the Board of Directors accept the proposed budget, including a 2% increase in the base fee and a 2% increase in the per acre fee. All budget committee members in attendance voted in favor.

Andy suggested that the budget committee meet again in the spring to discuss a new special assessment. The group agreed. Alexis asked everyone to communicate with her about any information needs they have before that meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Chairman Pete Siragusa called the regular board meeting to order at 12:16 p.m.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: None

MONTHLY BUSINESS:

The minutes of the September 17, 2025 board meeting were presented and discussed. It was moved by Don Chandler and seconded by Erick Von Lubken to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed with all those present in favor.

The updated O&M bills for the month of October were presented and discussed. It was moved by Bill Munk and seconded by Dani Annala to approve the bills in the amount of \$57,960.27. The motion passed with all those present in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION:

Steve Chance, Chair of the Budget Committee, reported the Budget Committee's recommendation for the Board of Directors to approve the proposed 2026 budget, including a 2% increase to the base fee and a 2% increase to the per acre fee. It was moved by Erick Von Lubken and seconded by Bill Munk to adopt the recommended budget and fee increases. The motion passed with all those present in favor.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION:

FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT:

- a. **A/R Report** – Alexis reported that the District has received \$2,325,028.65 in 2025 so far, representing 96% of the 2025 assessments charged, versus 97% last year. The EOM balance, including reserves as of October 7, 2025 was \$941,498.76 (see attached).
- b. **Hydro Production** – September's production was projected at 1,000,000 kWh. Actual production was 561313 kWh (see attached). Hydro revenue for September was projected at \$82,280. Actual revenue was \$46,943. Actual trending kWh for the year is 70.22% of total production and is 96.8% of the predicted production for the year to date.
- c. **Lost Check Follow-up** – Columbia Bank determined that the issue was human error, not a stolen check or fraud, so they no longer recommend Positive Pay. Alexis will work with the new Office Manager to see where FID's payment process can be tightened up.

IRRIGATION & HYDRO STATUS REPORT:

- a. **Hydro Status:** Both plants are back online after the maintenance shutdown.

- b. **Reservoir Status:** FID just squeaked through the year, reaching our minimum reservoir level on the last day of the season.
- c. **System Maintenance:** FID staff completed a full tunnel cleanup, total cleanout of Forebays 2 and 3, vegetation maintenance on Farmers Canal, and routine screen maintenance during the annual shutdown.

PROJECTS:

Some of the **Forebay 3 vertical screens** were damaged and temporarily patched this spring, and the permanent fix was completed this shutdown. Once all the screens were inspected, it was determined that all the frames needed to be replaced. New screen frames were fabricated and the old screen material was salvaged since it was stainless steel and still in good condition.

Other shutdown projects included: The **Plant 2 tailrace** work was completed with ODFW's assistance. **Plant electrical testing** was completed in half the time they quoted. A **leak** in the Farmers Canal concrete wall was repaired. About a half-mile of **penstock** was inspected just upstream of both plants, and preliminary results looked okay. A **drain** below Forebay 3 was repaired.

WATER RIGHTS: None

MISCELLANEOUS:

Alexis hired the new Office Manager, Erika Guth. She starts Monday and we are excited to have her start in the office.

Both Bill Munk and Bernie Yoo submitted petitions for the Division 1 election. Bill withdrew his petition, so Bernie will be the new Division 1 Director starting in January 2026. Everyone thanked Bill for his years of service. Dani Annala was the sole petitioner for Division 4.

FID sold Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) the Farmers United States screen trademark in 2023. FCA reached out to FID about signing over the Australian trademark, which they believe was covered by the 2023 agreement. The Board stated that the 2023 agreement was only for the U.S. trademark, and FCA would need to negotiate the value of the Australian trademark with FID.

Alexis has transferred the January-July 2025 RECs for \$6.50 per REC. FID is locked in at that price through 2026. FID has been offered \$6.25 per REC for 2027 vintage. The market is getting more volatile and seems to be decreasing, so Alexis recommended accepting this offer. It was moved by Erick Von Lubken and seconded by Bill Munk to accept the \$6.25 per REC agreement. The motion passed with all those present in favor.

LEGAL: None

OTHER BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

Signed: _____ Pete Siragusa

Attest: _____ Bill Munk