SINCE 1874
FARMERS IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Farmers Irrigation District met on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at the district office and via zoom for the purpose of conducting its regular monthly business. Those in attendance were Directors Dani Annala, Don Chandler, Bill Munk and Pete Siragusa, and District Manager Alexis Vaivoda, Watershed Project Manager Megan Saunders, and Office Manager Cassy Stintzi. Erick von Lubken was not in attendance.

Chairman Pete Siragusa called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:
The Board entered executive session at 12:01 p.m. To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed (ORS 192.660(2)(h)). The Board ended the executive session at 12:47 p.m. and reopened the public meeting.

MONTHLY BUSINESS:
The minutes of the August 21, 2024 board meeting were presented and discussed. It was moved by Don Chandler and seconded by Bill Munk to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed with all in favor.

The O&M bills for the month of September were presented and discussed. It was moved by Don Chandler and seconded by Dani Annala to approve the bills in the amount of $282,877.90. The motion passed with all in favor.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION:

A/R Report – Alexis reported that the district has received $1,606,231.89 to date which represents 97% of the 2024 assessments charged, versus 100% at the same time last year. The EOM balance, including reserves as of September 12, 2024 was $1,342,965.95 (see attached).

Hydro Production – August's production was projected at 500,000 kWh. Actual production was 612,655 kWh (see attached). Hydro revenue for August was projected at $41,140.00. Actual revenue was $51,466.07. Actual trending kWh for the year is 72.68% of predicted production for the year.

Hydro status: August was another positive month with hydro trending above the projected production. September is also looking to be at or above the projected production. Plant 2 has been generating consistently all summer. Plant 3 was shut down at the end of June for the generator rewind project.

Reservoir status: The Lower Reservoir is currently empty, and the Upper Reservoir is at -10 feet. The Forest Service is continuing to utilize water from the Upper Reservoir for the Whisky Creek fire as they clean up and demobilize from the area.

Irrigation status: The District is steadily using water as we approach the end of irrigation season. As typical, we will be ending the irrigation season on September 30.

System Maintenance: The crew has been attending to issues as needed with many questions regarding private systems.

PROJECTS:

Watershed Plan: We are waiting to receive the letter of concurrence from NMFS for the Watershed Plan-EA. There was some confusion about some SHPO comments that looks like it was a matter of misunderstanding.

Plant 2 Tailrace: We are currently lined up to have Crestline start on October 2 at the Plant 2 tailrace. We plan to move boulders out of the tailrace to make it easier for salvage opportunities and safer for fish when the tailrace is de-watered, for emergencies or annual maintenance. We have been working closely with ODFW.

Plant 3 Rewind: H&N continues to be on schedule for the rewind of the generator. On September 24, 2024, H&N Electric will begin delivering the equipment back to Hood River. The re-install process is expected to take 3-5 days. Zach will be working with the H&N crew to re-install the generator and put the unit back together. Commissioning of the unit is expected when we are ready to turn water back into the system after annual shutdown.

Kingsley Reservoir Work: We have been finishing up the Kingsley Reservoir project work. We have finished the boat ramp extension, completed and stockpiled the additional rock, and have coordinated with Corey Level about the road work that needs to be finished. We are still working with the Forest Service on the Gate and Cabin Creeks project.

WATER RIGHTS:

Megan presented a draft policy for new water right applications and provided Bill's suggested edits. When this was discussed a few years ago, the main debate was about what the minimum water right acreage should be. Megan didn't have an objective/quantitative way to determine the best number, but would suggest at least 0.25 water right acres, based on the complications FID has been having with small acreage properties. Pete asked to see a copy of the existing policy to compare to. Megan will provide that and the updated draft for next meeting.

Megan also updated on the subdivision policy discussion, which will be brought back in November. The crew has been tracking customer service calls to provide the Board with more information.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Personnel Handbook

Farmers Irrigation District Personnel Policies and Procedures handbook was discussed by the board of directors. It was moved by Don Chandler and seconded by Bill Munk to approve the Personnel Policies and Procedures Handbook (07/22/2024 Revision Date). The motion was passed with all in favor.

LEGAL:

Resolution 07-24 (Mail in Vote) was moved by Don Chandler and seconded by Bill Munk to adopt the Resolution as presented. The motion was passed with all in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Loan Repayment – At July's Board Meeting on July 24, 2024 Bill requested a monthly tracking sheet of loan balances/payments and requested that loans stay on the tracking sheet as they are paid off, so that the Board can see the full progress. Don wanted to ensure that the highest interest rate loans were being paid off first. Alexis presented a spreadsheet showing all the data requested and will continue to keep this information updated in the future.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

Signed:_____ Pete Siragusa

Attest:_____ Bill Munk