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FARMERS IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2026

The Farmers Irrigation District Board of Directors met on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at the district office and via Zoom to conduct its regular monthly business. Those in attendance were Directors Pete Siragusa, Don Chandler, Bernard Yoo, Erick von Lubken, and Dani Annala; District Manager Alexis Vaivoda; Watershed Project Manager Megan Saunders; and Office Manager Erika Guth.

Chairman Pete Siragusa called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: Pete Siragusa welcomed one audience member in person and three attendees via Zoom. The floor was open for public comment.

Christine Walls, an FID patron, spoke regarding a leak impacting her shared private system and the challenges it has presented. She stated that she disagreed that responsibility for the leak rests with her, based on historic FID assistance and the location of the leak. She also requested consideration of a credit toward her landscape contractor bill, repair expenses, and/or potential water-right removal fees.

A discussion followed regarding public access to information concerning shared private systems. FID does not maintain comprehensive information regarding the location of private lines but can provide limited information upon request. No formal Board action was taken following the discussion.

Alexis Vaivoda requested that the discussion and approval of the July 15, 2026, minutes and the correspondence section be moved to the end of the agenda. Bernard Yoo made a motion to amend the agenda as requested. Erick von Lubken seconded the motion. Dani Annala, Pete Siragusa, Don Chandler, Erick von Lubken, and Bernard Yoo voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF BILLS PAYABLE:

The O&M bills for the month of July were presented and discussed. It was moved by Erick von Lubken and seconded by Don Chandler to approve the bills in the amount of \$48,164.76. Pete Siragusa, Bernard Yoo, Erick von Lubken, Dani Annala, and Don Chandler voted in favor. The motion passed.

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION:

Financial Status Report

Accounts Receivable Report – Alexis reported that the District has received \$2,325,037 to date, representing 96% of the assessments charged, versus 94% last year at this time. As of August 12th, the balance, including reserves, was \$1,643,192.

Hydropower Production – July production was projected at 700,000 kWh. Actual production was 246,071 kWh (see attached). Hydro revenue was projected to be \$34,216. Actual revenue was \$11,462. Year-to-date production is trending at 97.9%. Plant 3 was offline for the entire month of July, and Plant 2 was offline intermittently, resulting in below-average production.

2027 Budget Development – Alexis reported that the majority of the 2027 budget has been completed. She will be drafting a letter or postcard to patrons regarding updates for the 2027 season.

Irrigation/Hydro Status Report

Hydro Status – Plant 3 remains offline, and Plant 2 has been offline intermittently as a result of low river flows. Plant 3 will likely remain offline until more consistent rainfall begins in the fall. Plant 2 production will largely depend on irrigation use.

A follow-up test was completed on the transformer oil in the switchyard. Alexis hopes to have the results before the next board meeting.

System Maintenance –

- The crew is beginning to plan the annual shutdown and the maintenance projects to be completed during that time.
- Hood River County completed a salvage logging project along Lowline.
- Alexis has been working with Hood River Country regarding logging plans in the Parkertown area.
- The pump station motor was successfully repaired by Kearns Brothers.
- The crew continues routine maintenance.

Reservoir and Drought Status – Megan showed a graph of reservoir use trends, and provided an update on water supply and usage. Upper and Middle District patrons remain restricted to ¾ of their water right to maintain water supplies through the end of the season. At this time, provided no substantial changes in streamflows or water use, no further restrictions or advancement into the drought plan are anticipated. Hood River County approved a drought declaration involving other Districts and Basin partners.

Projects

Cabin Creek Fish Screen update – The Cabin Creek project has been completed. Alexis showed two photos of the completed project and has notified the U.S. Forest Service. She will notify the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Environmental Quality.

Gate Creek Fish Screen update – Following the pre-application meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), the Forest Service confirmed they can secure ACOE approval. A fill-removal permit is still needed from the Division of State Lands.

Farmers Canal Piping Project update FID received notice that two additional approvals are needed from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service before the Congressionally Directed Spending funding can be authorized. Alexis has reached out to contacts at the Farmers Conservation Alliance and Oregon Water Resources Congress for guidance on obtaining the required signatures.

WATER RIGHTS: None

MISCELLANEOUS:

Online Payment Option – Erika has been researching options for implementing an online payment platform for the 2027 season.

Office Cleaning Change – Monthly office cleaning is currently being completed by staff while options for a new cleaning service are considered.

Hood River Watershed Group Brochure – Alexis and Megan are assisting with revisions to an informational residential irrigation brochure being created by an intern with the Hood River Watershed Group.

Oregon Water Resources Congress Meeting – Alexis attended the OWRC July Board Meeting in Pendleton.

General Manager Performance Review Process – Alexis revisited the topic of the General Manager performance review process. Alexis recommended an annual summary in January highlighting the prior year's accomplishments and District milestones. The General Manager could then meet with Board members for feedback and direction for the coming year.

Bernard Yoo made a motion to implement a written, formalized performance review process consisting of three goals established at the start of the year, a mid-year update, and an end-of-year report. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Tour – Alexis provided a tour of the Davenport fish screen for the NOAA Fisheries engineering group.

Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) Grant Application – Alexis reported that she is working on a grant application for the Business Oregon Regional Infrastructure Fund. As part of the application process, the Board considered “Resolution No. 06-2026: A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Farmers Irrigation District Authorizing Application for 2026 Regional Infrastructure Fund Grant Funds from Business Oregon.”

Erick von Lubken made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 06-2026. Don Chandler seconded the motion. Dani Annala, Pete Siragusa, Erick von Lubken, and Don Chandler voted in favor. Bernard Yoo abstained. The motion passed.

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the July 15, 2026 Board meeting were presented and discussed. Additionally, two letters from Bernard Yoo regarding the July 2026 minutes were presented: an August 15, 2026, letter titled “Proposed Amendments to July 15, 2026 Minutes” and an August 18, 2026, letter titled “Original Purpose of Inviting Robert Wood to July 15 Meeting.” Bernard Yoo made a motion to amend the July 15, 2026, minutes with the first boxed additions in his August 15 letter. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Alexis, in reference to Bernard Yoo’s August 18 letter, acknowledged the error she made regarding the purpose of Bob Wood’s invitation to the June 17, 2026 meeting.

Bernard Yoo requested a clarification from Megan regarding the graphs presented at the July 15, 2026 meeting and an appropriate description of what was being displayed. Bernard Yoo made a motion to postpone the review of the July 15, 2026 minutes to allow Megan time to provide suitable clarification of the graphs. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Erick von Lubken made a motion to approve the July 15, 2026 minutes as written. Dani Annala seconded the motion. Don Chandler, Pete Siragusa, Dani Annala, and Erick von Lubken voted in favor. Bernard Yoo voted against. The motion passed.

LEGAL: None

OTHER BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 pm.

Signed: _____ Pete Siragusa

Attest: _____ Bernard Yoo