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**BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026**

The Board of Directors of the Farmers Irrigation District met on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 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, Bernie Yoo, Pete Siragusa and Erick von Lubken; District Manager Alexis Vaivoda; and Office Manager Erika Guth.

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

**BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Business from the floor was moved to the front of the agenda. Pete Siragusa welcomed four patrons in attendance and one via Zoom. The floor was opened for discussion. The patrons stated that they were at the meeting to listen.

**MONTHLY BUSINESS:**

The minutes of the December 17, 2025 board meeting were presented and discussed. Bernie Yoo requested it be noted that he was in attendance for the December board meeting. It was moved by Erick Von Lubken and seconded by Don Chandler to approve the minutes with this addition. The motion passed with all in favor.

The O&M bills for the month of December were presented and discussed. It was moved by Don Chandler and seconded by Erick von Lubken to approve the updated bills in the amount of \$431,704.02. The motion passed with all in favor.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Alexis presented a letter from Bernie Yoo and Jan Cameron regarding suggested features for the new FID website. The suggestions included webpages that clearly outlined important dates and events, making the information accessible for visitors.

**ANNUAL BUSINESS:**

Directors Dani Annala, Don Chandler, Bernie Yoo, Pete Siragusa and Erick von Lubken took official oaths of office.

Pete Siragusa opened the nominations for Chairman.

A motion was made by Erick von Lubken to nominate Pete Siragusa as Chairman, it was seconded by Don Chandler. A motion was made by Erick von Lubken to nominate Dani Annala as Vice-Chairwoman, it was seconded by Don Chandler. A motion was made by Erick von Lubken to nominate Bernie Yoo as Secretary-

Treasurer, it was seconded by Don Chandler. The vote was unanimous in favor of all three motions.

**Budget Committee:**

A motion was made by Erick von Lubken and seconded by Don Chandler to retain the budget committee members as is, those budget members being Steve Chance, Bob Benton, Randy Franz, Andy von Flotow and Jason Sandahl. The motion passed with all in favor.

**Resolutions:**

The directors considered the four resolutions together: Depository of District Funds (Resolution 01-26), Schedule Monthly Board Meetings (Resolution 02-26), Schedule 2027 Annual Board Meeting (Resolution 03-26), and Billing and Collection of Charges (Resolution 04-26). A motion was made by Erick von Lubken to approve Resolutions 01-26, 02-26, 03-26, and 04-26, Don Chandler seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**Contractors of Record:**

The directors considered the four contractors of record: SDIS Registered Agent of Designation, Auditor of Record, Attorney of Record, and Engineer of Record. A motion was made by Erick von Lubken to approve Scott Reynier as SDIS Registered Agent of Designation, Accuity, LLC as the Auditor of Record, the Local Government Law Group as Attorney of Record, and Niklas Christensen as Engineer of Record. Don Chandler seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

**MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION:**

**A/R Report** – Alexis reported that the district has received \$1,214,025 in payments to date representing 51% in accounts receivable, versus 52% at the same time last year. The end of month balance, including reserves as of January 12, 2026 was \$1,545,463.63. (see attached).

**Hydro Production** – December’s production was projected at 2,700,000 kWh. Actual production was 2,183,260 kWh (see attached). Hydro revenue for December was projected at \$222,156.00. Actual revenue was \$182,625.70. FID ended the year at 95.18% of predicted for the annual hydro production. Alexis noted that December hydro revenue was not deposited on time from PacificCorp. This incident was rectified and will be closely monitored moving forward.

**IRRIGATION & HYDRO STATUS REPORT:**

**Hydro status:** December 2025 proved to be a challenging month with a windstorm that resulted in many downed trees and a power outage that switched the power plants offline. This was followed by a rainstorm that resulted in high flows with an estimated peak flow of 30,000 CFS in the mainstem. The USGS river gauge at Tucker Bridge was not functioning properly, so we only have an estimation based on the gauge on the West Fork Hood River. Fortunately, the crew took precautions ahead of the flood. Alexis outlined the major areas of concerns from this flood, the measures taken to prevent and repair damages, and the actions taken to restore plant function.

**Reservoir & Irrigation Status:** The Lower Reservoir is currently empty with water passing through. The Upper Reservoir is approximately 3’ below spill.

**SCADA/Telemetry Updates:** Zach set up a new PLC at the Deep Cut telemetry site, restoring that Farmers Canal site to functionality. Following the flood, Zach performed some reconfigurations with the motor, hydraulics, and power supply at the headgate.

**General Winter Maintenance:** Elias and Adan installed safety handrails at Forebay 3. Vertical screens at Forebay 3 were retrofitted and improved.

**Bilson Pump Update:** Alexis reported that a VFD (Variable Frequency Drive) and individual regulators are being considered for the Bilson pump system.

**Bradley Drive:** After a site visit and ongoing communication, a patron without a current hook-up will likely be connected to the Bradley Drive shared private system.

**PROJECTS:**

**Gate Creek Fish Screen:** The revised wetland delineation is in review with the Department of State Lands and Megan began revising the environmental assessment in December.

**Farmers Canal:** The designs for the Farmers Canal piping project were approved and the request for funding letter was drafted. Alexis noted that a new agreement with Watershed Professionals Network is needed. The board discussed contract terms and conditions. Don Chandler motioned to reaffirm and sign the current contract with WPN, Erick von Lubken seconded this motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

**Jeff Cook's Retirement:** Jeff is planning on retiring June 19, 2026. He will be kept on in a limited capacity for contracting work following retirement to help while Zach is on paternity leave. Alexis noted that Jeff is working with our new crew members to relay his extensive knowledge and expertise prior to his end date.

**City of Hood River Contract:** A contract with the City of Hood River has been signed and is moving forward. Zach will be assisting the City with commissioning, training, and operational support for a new micro hydro facility located in Dee.

**Mini Excavator Purchase:** The district is purchasing a used mini excavator AGT H12R. This will be greatly helpful for a variety of small jobs.

**LEGAL:** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**OTHER BUSINESS:** James Michael Murphy showed up to the meeting around 12:45 p.m. Pete Siragusa opened the floor for his comments. Murphy voiced a request for FID to integrate a communication policy with private property owners before working on FID infrastructure that may cross a private property line, despite any easements that FID may possess.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Pete Siragusa

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Bernie Yoo