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BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES WEDNESDAY APRIL 22, 2026

The Farmers Irrigation District Budget Committee held a work session on Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at the district office. Budget Committee members in attendance included: Randy Franz, Jason Sandahl, Steve Chance, Bob Benton, and Andy Von Flotow. Also in attendance were District Manager Alexis Vaivoda, Watershed Project Manager Megan Saunders, and Office Manager Erika Guth.

Andy called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Alexis introduced the primary goal of the meeting: to gather feedback from the budget committee regarding the special assessment in the context of FID's current financial status, debt load, and future budget forecast and reach a consensus on how to proceed in developing the 2027 budget.

Alexis presented an overview of FID's current financial status. With the majority of the 2026 irrigation assessments collected to date, the balance will take a downward trend over the next six to seven months.

Since implementation in 2022, the rate increase in account fees and special assessment funds have been allocated toward early debt retirement. The District retired three loans early, saving approximately \$190,000 in interest. Currently, three loans remain active, with one additional loan expected to begin payments upon completion of the Gate and Cabin Creek projects

Alexis summarized upcoming financial stressors. The new power purchase agreement (PPA) with PacifiCorp has significantly reduced hydropower revenue. In addition, forecasted drought conditions are expected to reduce hydropower production and Renewable Energy Credit (REC) revenue. Looking ahead, the District anticipates continued volatility in the REC market, temporary reductions in hydropower production during the Farmers Canal piping project (2027–2028) and increasing operational costs.

The committee discussed the special assessment that is scheduled to sunset after the 2026 irrigation season. A consensus was reached to reallocate the \$40/WRA special assessment into the per-acre fee for future irrigation assessments. The budget committee emphasized the importance of clear communication with patrons regarding the District's financial outlook. Andy and Randy recommended providing written communication that more clearly outlines outstanding debt and the impacts of the PPA. Bob requested a balanced budget at the October 2026 meeting, which Alexis will prepare for review.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.