



• 1985 Country Club Road, Hood River, OR 97031 Phone (541)-387-5261 www.fidhr.org •

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Farmers Irrigation District met on Wednesday, September 15, 2021, at the district office for the purpose of conducting its regular monthly business. Those in attendance were directors Tim Annala, Don Chandler, Bill Munk and Pete Siragusa; District Manager, Les Perkins; Office Manager, June Brock; Attorney, Jeremy Hull and patrons Dean Lewis and Mike Jones.

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

MONTHLY BUSINESS:

The minutes of the July 21, 2021, board meeting were presented and discussed. It was moved by Don Chandler and seconded by Tim Annala to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed with all in favor. There was NO August board meeting.

The O&M bills for the month of August and September 2021 were presented and discussed. It was moved by Don Chandler and seconded by Tim Annala to approve the bills in the amount of \$417,763.51 for August and \$245,480.63 for September. (Tower for Reservoir telemetry, fuel and air-compressor were additional costs-prior to the original AP list that accompanied the board packet). The motion passed with all in favor.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: Mr. Lewis was not happy with the cost of his irrigation bill of \$318.00 and a notice of lien claim for any unpaid irrigation assessments (see attached). Mr. Lewis claimed he was paying for the 2 properties to the east of him, which is not the case. An irrigation line does run through his property and feeds the 2 properties to the east. (Formerly all 1 property, but a major partition was filed September 2019 by the previous property owner). He also did not understand why he was being billed \$360.00 for the transfer off of water rights on his property, as he was building a covered lean-to sized 40' x 14' (see attached). After much discussion and explanation regarding liens, water rights etc. Mr. Lewis paid his 2021 irrigation assessment in full and the cost of transferring off water rights due to his lean-to.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION:

a) A/R Report – Les reported that the district has received \$1,201,621.70 representing 99% of total 2021 assessments charged versus 99% last year. The EOM balance, including reserves as of September 9, 2021 was \$1,331,295.99 (see attached).

b) Hydro Production – August’s production was projected at 500,000 kWh. Actual production was 496,144 kWh (see attached). Hydro revenue for June was projected at \$41,140.00. Actual revenue was \$41,354.67. Actual trending kWh for the year is at 64.89%.

c) Manager’s Report – Les reported that the auditors were wrapping up the 2020 audit which should be available at the November board meeting.

There is approximately 120 acre feet left in the reservoir for the remainder of the irrigation season, releasing at a steady rate and both reservoirs should be at zero by October 1st in order to access the valves this year.

As of August 15, we have been curtailing hydro rights on the Farmers Canal due to minimum flow agreements with ODFW and DEQ as part of our LIHI certification.

Plant 2 tailrace – Over the past 10 years, the channel below the tailrace has evolved and now functions as habitat that fish like to hold in. We can end up with hundreds of fish stranded when we go off line. This issue needs to be addressed and we are working with ODFW on a long-term fix.

Irrigation Status – We actually did pretty well this year. Water quality has given us some issues (excessive silt in the Hood River).

October Shutdown – We will be doing a major canal cleanout. George True has already done quite a bit on the Farmers Canal below Stewarts orchards. We will be removing sediment in the upper sections and doing some serious brushing in the lower stretches. Forebay cleanout will be larger than normal and done by Mitch McCafferty.

Reservoir Expansion: The dam raise is complete and now rock will be placed on top along with the valve shaft extension. We are still working on the spillway’s control section and bridge. As with everything right now, attaining the bridge components has been slower than anticipated. Contech should be delivering the structure for installation in late October or early November. The wetland construction has been completed and we will plant live stakes in October depending on precipitation. Crestline Construction will be working on the campground over the next month. The Boat ramp completion is dependent on Schuepbach’s schedule for the concrete. Rock crushing, working with Crestline and potentially another contractor to finalize crushing rock for IGA with Hood River County. Final site cleanup will be last on the list and should not take too long. Fish Screens – Continually working with permitting and working through SHPO. Reservoir Water Rights – will be tabled to later in the fall.

Watershed Plan – NRCS PL 566 – Les informed the board that we are continuing to work with FCA on developing the plan, currently working through economic analysis, the loss assessment was completed and looks favorable.

Water Rights Mapping – Megan continues to work to correct our maps which is very time consuming and needs some larger blocks of time to accomplish this. We may have Parametrix come out to help. Les showed the indiscrepancies to the board members on the big screen of the water right layers on our GIS mapping program.

LEGAL: Attorney, Jeremy Hull has reviewed the new draft personnel policy and on-call requirements. The board would like to review the policy before adoption.

Resolution 06-21 (Mail-in vote) It was moved by Don Chandler and seconded by Bill Munk to adopt the Resolution as presented. The motion passed with all in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

OTHER BUSINESS: Our new employee George True is a shining light and works well with the whole crew, brings with him a wealth of knowledge.

New Subdivision/Annexation on Summitview (see attached). The board agreed to allow the new subdivision.

Cabin Criteria – we were wondering if the board was interested in renting the cabin – subject tabled to a later date. Need to develop a set of criteria and legal protections before renting to a non-employee.

Policy Update – Les has been working on updating the personnel policy (specifically the on-call policy and vacation allocations) the board allowed Les to allow overtime for the on-call personnel. The policy will be presented by November for the board’s adoption.

Cyber Security – Social media, personal devices, SCADA etc we are working the SDAO on their recommendations and mandated updates.

The budget meeting and November board meeting will be on November 10th due to scheduling conflicts.

Dee Irrigation District – Les discussed the billing and O&M of Dee Irrigation District. After much discussion it was decided that a contract or IGA between the two irrigation districts would be the best plan of action.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

Signed: _____ Erick von Lubken, Chairman

Attest: _____ Bill Munk, Secretary