**MEDFORD IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

**November 9th, 2022 @ 1:30 pm**

Present: Dennis O’Donoghue, Sean Naumes, Dave Urton; Henry O’Donoghue; Jack Friend-Manager/Secretary

Absent: Angelo Grestoni

**Call meeting to order:** Chairman O’Donoghue called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the regular Board meeting on October 12th were reviewed. Chairman O’Donoghue asks if there are any comments or corrections to the minutes. Motion: Chairman O’Donoghue called for a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented for October 12th, 2022. Director Vaninetti Motions to approve the October 12th, 2022, Minutes, Director Urton seconds the motion, motion carries.

**Financials:** Manager Friend presents the October 12th, 2022, financial reports. Note: US Cellular bill was 1700 due to not receiving the bill for a few months and we caught up on that but other than that, everything else is pretty slow. Motion: Chairman O’Donoghue called for a motion to approve the Financials for October 2022. Director Naumes Motions to approve the financials for October 2022 Financials, Director Urton seconds the motion, motion carries.

**Delinquent Accounts:** We went ahead and sent out the liens this week because we postponed it until November 1st. We’ve had a couple of people call and pay their bills. The only question is foreclosures and how are we going to handle them. We can have scheduled, Shultz here next meeting for that conversation if you guys would like. All agreed. Summary Sheets for October 2022, Patron Shilo Schalk paid her bill in full. She will be looking at the water for next year. She didn’t want to transfer off, so she intended to pay and receive water.

Naumes: Do we have a policy for foreclosures in place now? What is our policy?

O’Donoghue: We follow Jackson County’s policy.

Naumes: Do we know what is Jackson County’s policy?

O’Donoghue: They foreclose.

Naumes: What is the usual timeframe for that? Do we know?

O’Donoghue: No but it would be a good thing to talk to the attorney about.

Flanakin: I will get a hold of the attorney and schedule that to discuss at the next meeting.

Del Rosa: Can I comment, or do I have to wait til the end?

O’Donoghue: We usually wait for public comment at the end of the meeting.

Del Rosa: How far past due does an account have to be before it officially goes to a lien? When you send out lien notices, how far past due at that point?

Flanakin: The bill is due on March 1st. If not paid by March 1st, a late fee is assessed, and interest. The next process is the lien process in about a month or two.

Del Rosa: So, 30 to 60 days?

Flanakin: Correct

Del Rosa: So, the bill goes out March 1st, that’s based on the current year?

Flanakin: The bill goes out on January 1st. Due on March 1st.

Del Rosa: So, the bill that went out in January 2022 is for the water for 2022? So, theoretically, you are liening a bill for water that the customer technically hasn’t’ received yet?

Flanakin: It’s not for the water, it’s for the operation and maintenance of the infrastructure of MID.

Friend: In the past, we would always lien on your second year but that has got us in this position where we have very high past-due balances for small parcels. Most other districts have liened the same year. Last year we chose not to lien with everything going on with Covid. Everybody was having unrelated issues. The board motioned to postpone liens last year and this year we postponed liens until November. So, people who would have been 2 years delinquent still got a little more break this year. So, they didn’t have a lien for a year and 8 months.

Del Rosa: So, there isn’t any portion of the bill that is directly related to water usage or how much water you receive?

Friend: No

O’Donoghue: You are paying for a water right.

Del Rosa: Take this year for instance and you had a large number of customers that received no water. Their bill will be the same.

All: Correct.

**Legal:** We signed an engagement letter with Anderson Shultz and Tammi was able to send the policies and handbooks for them to review and they are looking at them right now. We also sent him a draft of the minutes and Tammi had a phone call with them regarding the election from the last meeting. This memorandum is what they have given us as a recommendation for the district on behalf of that. It is for your review.

O’Donoghue: Do you need approval, Jack?

Friend: We can just discuss it. We would like to have it approved or have a discussion before we would provide it to Sara (Del Rosa).

O’Donoghue: Has anyone had any thoughts or has anyone had a chance to read it?

Urton: No

O’Donoghue: Do you want to just skim over it real quick? Or Jack do you want to summarize it for us?

Friend: It might be quicker to skim through it. I can read it out loud if you like.

O’Donoghue: I thought it was well written. It answered all the questions.

Friend: I think Angelo summarized it last time.

Urton: Does this require action on our part?

Friend: No, I just didn’t want to proceed with these recommendations without your review and if you had any questions. They asked for our feedback and for any questions we may have we can reach back out to them. Otherwise, we can follow this guidance letter.

Urton: I should abstain due to the subject being my position as director.

O’Donoghue: I believe that the letter states the answers. We can go ahead and send it out. It still raises the question of this whole election process for board members. It’s a bit arduous to the point that nobody wants to deal with it. We need to think about an easier way to solicit nominations to vote on board members for each precinct.

Friend: That might be the feedback that we give to counsel.

Urton: You’re going to have him here for the next meeting?

Friend: Yes, but I would like to have him prepared for the next meeting. I’ll just have it a secondary thing to talk about.

Urton: Just to check state law and make sure.

O’Donoghue: If we had some form of an electronic system to do it.

Vaninetti: You are going to get counsel here for the next meeting? That will be good.

O’Donoghue: Let’s put that on the agenda. I think we are good with the letter.

**Transfers:** **None**

**Administrative:** The reservoirs are off to a little better start this year with the wet weather we have been seeing. We are already seeing 8-11 inches of snow at Fish and Fourmile.

Wanda at TID informed me of an issue with the Greensprings power plant. BOR has a contractor working on the guard gate valve and they are anticipating a delay in completing that work. Apparently, there is no way to bring Howard Prairie water down to Emigrant without this work being completed. Wanda has meetings with BOR to discuss what they are going to do about it. I will keep the board updated as I learn more.

We should be able to have a bypass running by January. If we couldn’t get a way to get that operation running, we should look at legal action, otherwise, our growers are going to do it.

Urton: So, what is the consequence of that? Lack of inflow until February?

Friend: The BOR says it may not get completed until February, which means it might not get done until June. You cannot start bringing down the water late, you’ll never catch up when you need it. The water flowing through the winter months keeps icing up and needs additional maintenance to break it up. With the icing, up and water going through it will turn into overflow into Keene creek and Jenny creek. We may need to have an emergency meeting with all three districts.

Naumes: Do you think we need to get ahold of our representatives for that or should we hold off?

Friend: I will find out more tomorrow. The BOR has moved it up the chain of command to the commissioner. If their response isn’t beneficial, we will need to get counsel involved.

We have a new hire named Diego Potterton. The new hires are jumping right into projects on the work list and teaming up with different people to start learning about the district and our operations.

Dave Urton and I met with Debby and neighbors on Sunnyvale in October to review some water delivery issues. After that meeting, it has become obvious that prioritizing some of the laterals on ride 4 for modernization may provide the most immediate remedy to water delivery issues. Some of these laterals are a mix of MID and private systems and are not designed well for mainlining control while delivering to the smaller parcels. Open of map and discussion regarding the many lots and areas that need piping to correct one large orchard parcel to several parcels with the original direction of water delivery. We need to develop a project, create a grant, and find funding through the federal government.

I plan on bringing Dan back on light duty in the coming weeks. During this time, we want to go over the ride 4 laterals with his knowledge of the way they operate and identify and prioritize projects. Dave Urton has helped provide maps of these areas utilizing our GIS data. Once we prioritize a project we want to move forward with design, cost estimates, and funding. Get together a joint meeting in December.

Our floating solar project did not get funded. I have a meeting tomorrow regarding how we would like to move forward. The district has priorities much higher than this project so I will not be utilizing our resources to pursue this project over any of our modernization projects.

**Old Business:** **None**

**New Business: None**

**RBWUC, Inc:** Bill is $22.50 for October 2022. Motion: Chairman O’Donoghue called for a motion to approve the Financials for October 2022. Director Naumes Motions to approve the RBWUC Bill for October 2022 Financials, Director Vaninetti seconds the motion, motion carries.

**FYI:**  FCA Update to take with you.

**Public Comment:** Sara Del Rosa: Can you change the meeting time to the evening so more patrons can attend? We can discuss any changes at the January organizational meeting.

Sara: At what point are the by-laws going to be cleaned up? Providing adequate staff, time, and visibility on all of it.

Friend: The letter from the attorney answers a few of those questions. It all will be set in stone when we talk at the next meeting. We can get that to you before you leave. (Attorney memorandum)

Sara: We are looking to pipe our property for our water to our property. Can we do that?

Friend: If you were to improve infrastructure on your property, and you weren’t injuring anyone downstream, keeping water that has traditionally been served, there wouldn’t be an issue with that.

Urton: How do you get the water to that property?

Friend: There is a check in Daisy creek between the baseball fields and Angelo’s, a small piece that goes straight through his vineyard to the pond and they pump out of the pond to a creek downstream. We would need the approval to make sure it doesn’t affect negatively on the patrons downstream.

Sara: Can I get a list of the grants and funding projects?

Friend: We have a 500K watershed plan, the large piping project we were granted 5 million coming through EPA, and we qualified for a clean water revolving fund through DEQ for a design only, there is information on our website for the different grants and funds we have had in the past and/or currently. You would need to FOIA the information.

Sara: Do all the grants and funds that are awarded and received, do they have their own income and expenditures recorded?

Friend: Yes, we are required to complete paperwork stating where and how the funds are being spent. Any funds that exceed 750K are required for a single audit as well.

O’Donoghue: Does anyone else have comments?

Gail Gubser: I just wanted to thank Jack and Dave for coming out to hear us and explain the irrigation system in our area.

Urton: Dan will be mapping out the system in your area to fix this problem.

O’Donoghue: Anyone else on the floor for comment? No, Call for adjournment.

**Adjourn:** Chairman O’Donoghue adjourned the Regular Board meeting at 2:52 p.m.

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Dennis O’Donoghue – Chairman Jack Friend – District Manager/Secretary