

# MEDFORD IRRIGATION DISTRICT

## Regular Board Meeting Minutes

### May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 1:30 pm

Present: Dennis O'Donoghue, Matt Borman, Tom Brookins, Sean Naumes; Jack Friend: Manager/Secretary  
Absent: Henry Vaninetti

**Call meeting to order:** Vice Chair O'Donoghue called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**Minutes:** The regular board meeting minutes on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, were reviewed. Vice Chair O'Donoghue asks if there are any comments or corrections to the minutes. Vice Chair O'Donoghue called for a motion to approve the regular board meeting minutes presented for April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Director Brookins motions to approve April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, minutes, Director Naumes seconds the motion, and the motion carries.

**Financials:** Friend: Not much of a change from last month. Just like last month the canal lining expenses are a little higher due to repairing canals with shotcrete. For the shotcrete job that we were trying to fit in last month, we used a company that was the only one available. This is the first time in many years that we have required their services. It turned out to be a complete failure. Their shotcrete doesn't run through the pump. Our pumpers pump without plugging it up. During the first truck, we had 3 plug-ups. We let the company know that their shotcrete is no good with whatever the mix is that they use. They in turn brought their shotcrete pump. Not sure why they did that since we had a pumper already that we hired. They barely used the first half of the first truck and their pump clogged as well. We had a full staff and rented an air compressor on site all day. It was planned for a 3-truck job, however we had to send the second truck away because we couldn't get through the first truck without plug-ups. We didn't call for the second truck, but the operator did. We are now going through discussions with the owner of the company that wants to charge us for both trucks and their pumping costs and we didn't even get one truck pumped out. I have not contacted our attorney yet. All the work we did might have corrected the issue for the time being. The owner was present to witness the entire situation and understood the dilemma we were dealing with. We will likely have to go back in the fall to complete the job that was originally planned.

Director Brookins: What was the new pipe for?

Friend: I know that we bought some pipe for a problem lateral. It was for the WJ lateral. There are also auger rods that we purchase every year which is a one-time-per-year expense. Typically, that is why we budget for 1K in that category.

Director Brookins: On the overages compared to the budget we approved, do you use monies that are in that category to compensate for the overages or the overall budget itself?

Friend: It is taken from the overall budget itself.

Director Brookins: My other question is about the small tools. What kind of small tools are we talking about?

Friend: It is what we mostly have in the shop or in the trucks for our crew to have the tools they need to complete the operation and maintenance of the district. We have several new staff, and they need to have the tools to do their job.

Vice Chair O'Donoghue asks if there are any comments or corrections to the financials. Vice Chair O'Donoghue called for a motion to approve the financials presented for April 2024. Director Naumes motions to approve April 2024 financials, Director Brookins seconds the motion, and the motion carries.

**Delinquent Accounts:** Flanakin: We had some success with the pre-lien letters sent out on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April. Joseph Hovelman has sold his property. The liens were at 19 this year and 22 last year. Hopefully, that number will continue to drop. There is one particular landowner for whom we held her lien back due to issues with access to her water.

Friend: Landowner Geise has 0.3 acres and hasn't paid since 2020. In the section off of Columbus, a subdivision was built, and they had installed a private irrigation system called the Walker Subdivision. There was a person in charge of the system, however, he has since passed away and no one has taken that task over. When I took over as manager, we made an offer to those landowners to transfer off and waive the transfer fees. Several of the owners transferred off, and a few continued to pay and didn't want to relinquish their writes. One of them hasn't paid their bill and doesn't want to transfer and one of them is in foreclosure with us. Ms. Geise said she was told that she

could come to the board meeting, or I would mention at this meeting that she wants the water but there isn't a way for us to get it to her. We can get the water to So. Columbus however we do not know what their system is like or even a map of the system. It would be nice if the last of the parcels that still pay for the rights were transferred off so the balances don't keep accruing.

Vice Chairman O'Donoghue: How many people are we talking about?

Friend: I will have to check and get back to you. What I have told Ms. Geise is that we would hold her lien until we addressed the situation to the board. We need to find out about a payment agreement or how she will be taking care of her account.

Flanakin: I completed a resolution to modify the current foreclosure policy. The change would be to modify the 5 years to the 3 years delinquent. We would send out a notice to those who will be moving to that category to give them the chance to bring their account current. The reason behind the change is to keep our Accounts Receivables to a minimum.

Vice Chair O'Donoghue called for a motion to approve the resolution to the foreclosure policy. Director Brookins motions to approve the resolution to the foreclosure policy, Director Naumes seconds the motion, and the motion carries.

Flanakin: Lastly, we discussed raising our administrative rate schedule. These rates have not changed in many years and with the economy as high as it is, we will need to raise ours as well to keep up with the higher pricing of other vendors that we use. For example, the late fee can be raised, and it would only affect those who decide not to pay their bill on time. I have created a sheet with suggested price changes. Feel free to take that with you and we can discuss it at the next meeting.

Director Brookins: I have a couple of questions, the transfer off and on fees are different. Is there a reason for that?

Friend: There is more paperwork involved with a transfer on than a transfer off. You have the GIS mapping fee was \$95 and you suggested \$100, is that for both transfers on and off?

Flanakin: Yes.

Director Brookins: What is GIS mapping?

Friend: We outsource our mapping due to special requirements from OWRD.

Director Brookins: Is the \$2K per acre or turnout?

Friend: It is per acre. The turnout is specific to what their needs are. They bear the burden for that. If they have a pump, it can be installed, and they could use it but that would be their responsibility. If they need a headgate for a new delivery, we will charge them for the headgate and install it.

**Administration:** Friend: The southern combined supply is at 71,769 a/f. That is 76% of the average and 62% of Full pool. Last year at this time they were at 61,370 a/f. The MID allotment is currently at 3,379 a/f. The reservoirs are still gaining but that will be short-lived on the southern side since the snow melt is about finished. Last year we started the season with 4,113 a/f in the southern allotment so hopefully we can get closer to that number for the season. While there is more water in the southern system than this time last season, TID had more carryover storage than the previous year. Last season, the system gained 63,254 a/f after the shutdown. This season we gained 39,241 a/f. The rest of the stored water is roughly 43,000 a/f of TID carryover from 2023. TID anticipates starting to flush canals next week and begin deliveries on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May. Stream flows are still strong and meeting our needs and we anticipate that to remain the case as TID begins to come online and we start seeing return flows.

The northern system is looking pretty good and starting to see gains from the snow melt. Fourmile SNOTEL is showing 54" with a 21.8" SWE. That is 135% of the average for this date. Billy Creek is showing 29" with a 13.4 SWE. That is 496% of the average for this date as that site tends to melt out quickly by this date. Fish Lake SNOTEL is at zero. We are digging snow out of the cascade canal to begin bringing water down to Fish Lake as soon as we can.

Fish and Fourmile combined are at 12,181 a/f. That is 78% of the average and 51% of Full-Pool. Last year we were at 10,195 a/f. Upper Klamath Lake is above 4143ft and satisfies the KA-622 senior determined claim for the Klamath Tribes. A call was validated by OWRD and delivered to MID and RRVID on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Since the lake has risen to the required lake level.

The Oregon Water Resource Congress Board meeting was in Klamath Falls last Friday. Thursday Klamath Irrigation District hosted a tour of the basin that Brian and I attended. It was a great tour of District infrastructure and it helped to see the project in person to appreciate the size and unique challenges they face.

SDAO sent out a notice regarding our insurance rates for the next year. Projected liability and property insurance contribution increases of 120% are anticipated for the 2025 coverage year, beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>. The combined increase from claims and reinsurance rates have been absorbed by the SDAO trust over the last five years and the forecasted hurricane season is causing reinsurance rates to increase to a level that can't continue to be covered by SDAO. Our health coverage is not seeing this increase and will be renewed in July.

Vice Chair O'Donoghue asks if there are any comments or corrections to the financials. Vice Chair O'Donoghue called for a motion to approve the financials presented for April 2024. Director Naumes motions to approve April 2024 financials, Director Brookins seconds the motion, and the motion carries.

The FCA\_MID Portal has updates on our projects. We are currently submitting our community renewable energy program grant for a hydropower study at the end of the Joint System Canal.

**Old Business:** Friend: Rules and Regulations Vice Chair O'Donoghue asks if there are any comments or corrections to the Rules and Regulations Policy. Vice Chair O'Donoghue called for a motion to approve the Rules and Regulations policy. Director Brookins motions to approve the Rules & Regulations revisions as changed, Director Naumes seconds, and the motion carries.

**RBWUCI:** \$1,452.53 (April Services) billed in May.

**FYI:** OWRD sent Oregon Water Resource Questions. We need to discuss. FCA is informing us what agencies they are coordinating with and the OWRD wants to know who and where the water is going. Assumptions made by the OWRD for measurement of the system state it is 9 cfs is leaking 4.4 we gained from uphill runoff from the siphon, down. Something is happening if the siphon is leaking it would be noticeable. 9 cfs was more than the FCA calculated for the whole system canal. This document should not be entered into the EIS minutes because it is incorrect data. We have the watermaster's office doing some measuring this season to get a more accurate figure. There are losses, however, that are being calculated incorrectly. Answer the questions of how we operate, the flexibility of how we operate, and what potential tools to put the water in instream.

**Adjourn:** 2:21 pm

**Executive Session:** Call to order: 2:45 pm

**Adjourn:** 2:56 pm

**Call Regular Meeting to Order:** Director Naumes motions to authorize Jack Friend to use the district's gas or company credit card for fuel when traveling for MID business/conference meetings. Director Brookins seconds the motion and motion carries.

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Dennis O'Donoghue – Vice Chair

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Jack Friend – District Manager/Secretary