**MEDFORD IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

**January 10th, 2024 @ 1:30 pm**

Present: Sean Naumes, Dennis O’Donoghue, Matt Borman, Tom Brookins, Jack Friend: Manager/Secretary

Absent: Henry Vaninetti, Dave Urton

**Call meeting to order:** Chairman Naumes called the meeting to order at 1:56 p.m.

**Minutes:** The regular board meeting minutes on December 13th, 2023, were reviewed. Chairman Naumes asks if there are any comments or corrections to the minutes. Motion: Chairman Naumes called for a motion to approve the regular board meeting minutes presented for December 13th, 2023. Director O’Donoghue motions to approve the December 13th, 2023, minutes, Director Borman seconds the motion, and the motion carries.

**Financials:** The financial reports for November and December 2023 were reviewed. Chairman Naumes asks if there are any comments or corrections to the minutes. Motion: Chairman Naumes called for a motion to approve the financial reports presented for November and December 2023. Director O’Donoghue motions to approve the November and December 2023 financials, Director Borman seconds the motion, and the motion carries.

**Delinquent Accounts:** Flanakin: We haven’t had a lot of activity this month. The payment plan accounts are paying on time.

Friend: The one on the 2-year past due, I contacted Dennis about it this morning. Last year we had a call from Mr. Hovelman. His bill is approximately $1,400 currently. Apparently, he works for the United States Government overseas. Last year he was here, he didn’t like the lien on his property, he doesn’t want the water and we’re the most difficult entity he has ever worked with. We informed him that state regulations require a notarized quit claim document to move that water elsewhere. It can’t sit there and not be used and not be charged. He was leaving town in 5 days, and we had those documents expedited. Dusk spent the time creating those documents and he ended up leaving 2 days early without any communication to our office. We didn’t hear anything from him until this week. He is letting us know that there is no way he can get a notarized signature because he is in Lithuania. He was calling us from his Oregon cell phone. He mentioned that Dennis is military and wanted to talk with him because he would understand that we should make some kind of exception in his case because he cannot sign the documents. He said he would be here in a few months. I mentioned that we could have the paperwork ready for him again when he returns, and we would be able to get the task accomplished. Mr. Hovelman said that would be impossible. He wants some sort of break. Realistically the state needs the document, and we must follow protocol. I mentioned to him that if he could come into the office when he is in town, we would waive the assessment fees and complete the transfer process. I offered to send the documents to him to complete and get notarized there but he said that there is not a notary here.

Director O’Donoghue: If he was in the military, he would be able to get it notarized on base. He can also go to the embassy as well. Lithuania is not that big of a country. It’s as big as Medford.

Friend: He also said, to be mindful of the hours, you can google it and see the time difference. If he was there he could have just told me what time it was.

**Administration:** Friend: The snowpack we rely on was off to a decent start. We had a pretty significant delay in snowfall and lost a lot of traction. This week’s storms have helped us catch back up. Fourmile snotel is showing 37”, 80% of the average. Billy Creek is showing 41”, 114% of the average. Fish Lake snotel is showing 13”, 61% of the average. Fourmile Lake Reservoir is at 18% capacity, which is 46% of the average for this time of the year. Fish is at 53% which is 96% of the average. Howard Prairie is at 36% which is 63% of the average. Hyatt is at 45% which is 79% of the average, and Emigrant is at 14% which is 32% of the average. The northern supply levels combined are similar to this time last year. It looks like we may get back on track with our snowpack in the next few weeks based on what the forecasters are showing. I have included the DEQ CWSRF Loan agreement for the Solar project in the new business for review and approval of my signature. This is a 2,700,000 loan for 30 years at 1.51% with 50% principal forgiveness up to 1,350,000. Signing the agreement will give us access to the dollars if needed but is not a resolution to request disbursements at this time. I have included an email from Pacific Northwest National Laboratories for your review. Jed Jorgensen has reached out with an opportunity for the District to participate in a study. It looks like the District would be reimbursed $25,000 a year for two years for providing publicly available data and feedback about the floating solar project. I wanted to run this by the Board to confirm our interest in participating. I want to thank Dennis for getting Jackson County Commissioner Dave Dotterrer’s and Congressman Cliff Bentz’s Letter of Support for the Joint System Canal Phase 1 project. These letters will be very helpful as a part of our OWRD grant package that is due next week.

**New Business:** Friend: CWSRF Agreement: DEQ sent the final contract agreement. After reviewing the email regarding the tax credit, I will advise the board of that portion of the contract agreement. This resolution is just for me to sign the agreement to keep the project moving.

**Adjourn:** 2:41 pm

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Sean Naumes – Chairman Jack Friend – District Manager/Secretary