



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Farmers Irrigation District met on Wednesday, May 20, 2020, conducting its regular monthly business via teleconferencing. Those in attendance were directors Erick von Lubken, Tim Annala, Bill Munk and Pete Siragusa; District Manager, Les Perkins; Watershed Project Manager, Megan Saunders and Attorney, Don Hull.

Chairman Erick von Lubken called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

MONTHLY BUSINESS:

The minutes of the April 15, 2020 board meeting were presented and discussed. It was moved by Tim Annala and seconded by Pete Siragusa to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed with Erick, Tim, and Pete in favor (Bill not yet logged in).

The O&M bills for the months of May 2020 were presented and discussed. It was moved by Pete Siragusa and seconded by Tim Annala to approve the bills in the amount of \$508,920.90 for May. The motion passed with Erick, Tim, and Pete in favor (Bill not yet logged in).

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: None

CORRESPONDENCE:

The board discussed the letter from Rick Brock. The request is for Rick's health insurance to be covered in exchange for being available to answer water rights and infrastructure questions. This setup could be re-evaluated at the end of the year. This would cost \$9,800. It was moved by Pete Siragusa and seconded by Bill Munk to continue health insurance benefits for one year in exchange for assistance, to be re-evaluated at the end of the year. The motion passed with all in favor.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION:

a) COVID 19 Status – The crew has been continuing to operate under the new protocols, including wiping down surfaces, etc. The office is being professionally cleaned weekly

b) A/R Report – Les reported that the District has received over \$1 million to date, representing 96% of total 2020 assessments (versus 93% at the same time last year). Balance including reserves was \$1,449,598.14.



• 1985 Country Club Road, Hood River, OR 97031 Phone (541)-387-5261 Fax (541)-386-9103 www.fidhr.org •

c) Hydro Production – Hydro was at 86% of projected, producing 2,599,959 kWh with associated revenue of \$218,178.88 (projected was \$246,840.00). Les reported that May's hydro production would be lower than projected due to the current shutdowns.

d) Irrigation/Hydro Status – Les reported that the reservoirs are full and spilling. He hopes to keep them full for the next month or so. The Middle District is currently down due to the penstock leak. The Lower District was down this weekend due to the pump station outage.

System Repairs – A cast iron valve under Post Canyon Road was removed during an under-pavement repair last week. Les worked with the County on the ROW permit. The GC Systems bill is for PRV repairs. The crew has been working to replace PRV internals with stainless steel and anti-cavitation products to extend life. The PRV at Plant 3 and a few other locations handle so much pressure that the crew will now be proactively replacing gaskets and such annually, instead of waiting for breaks. Les is budgeting a bit more for this PRV maintenance.

The penstock leak has been welded. The welder came out from Portland and took about five hours to complete the work. The epoxy coat has been applied. It takes 24 hours to cure in 77°F weather. They have been letting it cure for longer to adjust for the cooler weather. The plan is to start filling the penstock Thursday morning and pressure test. As the penstock fills, water delivery can start again. FID will have to do some re-grouting within the penstock during this fall's shutdown. Les and co. inspected the welded thrust restraints around the leak and everything looked good. Both irrigation and power production have been interrupted due to this penstock leak. Any irrigation patrons off the penstock (or Lowline) have been without irrigation water. Pete asked about the valve at the beginning of the penstock. It has never been exercised and would require a large airvac. The pump station filters had to be pulled and cleaned due to a slug of water/debris from the penstock. The crew spent about eight hours manually cleaning the filters on Saturday and were able to get the pump station back online.

Mouse activity created an arc flash in the switchyard, which kicked Plant 2 offline last night. Plant 2 is currently offline for an indeterminate amount of time. There is a high-voltage electrician on-site right now. Waylon is looking at what will need to be done/tested before the plant can go back on-line.

e) Projects –

Reservoir Expansion – The borrow area has been stripped and organic material stockpiled. Crestline has been able to begin hauling sand again, as the Lyle pit has reopened. The rock pits are stripped. Rock is being pulled from one and drilling will occur at the other soon. The dam footprint has been stripped. The area is super wet, especially where the left abutment leaks. Crestline is figuring out a water management plan for the area. The inlet pipe has been ordered. FID will be able to re-use the existing concrete vault with some additional energy dissipation measures, which will save money. The logger has



completed about 25% of the work. Currently the saddle dam area and the NW corner have been logged. He will work through the rest of the east side over the next couple of weeks. The recent wet weather has been slowing down Crestline’s work this week.

A plan is in-development for the Gate and Cabin screen replacements, which will be required before the new storage right can be used. Les will be meeting a surveyor on site tomorrow. FID needs 30% design to get approval/permits from ODFW and USFS. Les has received a not-to-exceed budget from FCA and McMillen Jacobs. McMillen Jacobs will develop in-stream water surface elevation control at Gate Creek.

SCADA/Telemetry – Green Point and Gate creek instream measurement sites will be established this year. These sites need to be established as soon as possible to get data on instream flow levels, which will help prove/disprove the validity of OWRD’s models. The plan for the other sites is coming together. The goal is to measure inflow, outflow, and level at the upper reservoir and outflow from the lower reservoir. This will meet our new monitoring requirements but will also improve our water management. FID will be able to run these costs through the DEQ loan.

LEGAL: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

OTHER BUSINESS: Megan and Les reported that Rick is working with OWRD to update the District’s water right certificates.

Les reported that this season’s water status is difficult to determine at this point. Water demand is currently not high, because of the cool and wet weather. However, overall, precipitation is at 83%. The Green Point SNOTEL site is out of snow, but that is on par with an average year. Hood River flows are in the 25th percentile. Stanley-Smith flows have been dropping. They dropped 1 cfs in the last 2 days. Les has been talking with the other district managers about this summer and restrictions seem likely but will depend on demand.

Les reported that Weyerhaeuser replaced the Dead Point Creek bridge deck last week and their new road is cut in. They are being conservative along FID’s pipeline. Les asked Weyerhaeuser to cut the line of trees they were going to leave along the pipeline, so that the trees came down in a controlled manner, instead of as windfall. Weyerhaeuser has been good about communication around this cut.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

Signed: _____ Erick von Lubken, Chairman

Attest: _____ Bill Munk, Secretary



• 1985 Country Club Road, Hood River, OR 97031 Phone (541)-387-5261 Fax (541)-386-9103 www.fidhr.org •
