



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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Farmers Irrigation District met on Wednesday, February 17, 2021, at the district office and via zoom under COVID guidelines for the purpose of conducting its regular monthly business. Those in attendance were directors Erick von Lubken, Tim Annala, Don Chandler, Pete Siragusa and Bill Munk; District Manager, Les Perkins; Office Manager, June Brock; Watershed Manager, Megan Saunders and Attorney, Don Hull.

Chairman Erick von Lubken called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

MONTHLY BUSINESS:

The minutes of the January 20, 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.

The O&M bills for the month of February 2021 were presented and discussed. It was moved by Don Chandler and seconded by Pete Siragusa to approve the bills in the amount of \$1,055,445.39, (this included a payment to Crestline Construction in the amount of \$761,470.00). The motion passed with all in favor.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION:

a) A/R Report – Les reported that the district has received \$880,244.95 representing 73% of total 2021 assessments charged versus 69% last year. The EOM balance, including reserves as of February 11, 2021 was \$2,032,655.81 (see attached).

b) Hydro Production – January's production was projected at 2.7 million kWh. Actual production was 3,054,932 kWh (see attached). Hydro revenue for January was projected at \$222,156.00. Actual revenue was \$253,563.61. Actual trending kWh for the year is at 13.46%.

c) Manager's Report – Les reported that the upper reservoir is currently $\frac{3}{4}$ full and the lower reservoir is still empty. Ice build-up at the Headgates closed the Farmers Canal for 3 days and there was a large 3'x3' rock in the open stretch of the canal by Stewart's orchard. The air vac at the Stanley Smith pipeline has been repaired. On Monday, February 8th, a 3.6 magnitude earthquake shook just south of Parkdale, all



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district diversions, pipelines, and infrastructure were checked with no damage occurring. Due to recent snow fall throughout the district, frost/spray water is not available at this time.

Projects Update: Megan met with the Basin's Water Master; Bob Wood to measure the flows at Greenpoint using the District's new acoustic doppler flow meter. This new flow meter is the required method for meeting USGS standards for calibrating a rated cross section of Greenpoint Creek as agreed to in acquisition of the new storage right for the expanded reservoir. Megan has also been working on permitting for the fish screens at Gate and Cabin Creek (also as required by the new storage right), an archaeological survey, wetland delineation and design drawings should be completed by springtime.

The boat ramp at the upper reservoir will need to be replaced as described in the Intergovernmental Agreement with Hood River County. Cost for the boat ramp rebuild is approximately \$25K to \$35K depending on the final design. Hood River County has agreed to take responsibility for long term O&M of the boat ramp with FID solely responsible for construction as agreed to in the new IGA regarding the boat ramp.

Les, Niklas and Megan are working on a budget for the new DEQ loan at 1% interest rate to complete the reservoir project, additional funds are needed to complete the reservoir expansion. Items to be included in the new funding will be: project retainage, balance of the billing from 2020 that the existing loan won't cover, remaining work on the dam in 2021, remaining campground work, boat ramp replacement, wetland construction, fish screen replacements, SCADA/telemetry, permitting for fish screens and engineering - both for the fish screens and for the rest of the project (WPN, FCA, McMillen, Cornforth). Les will have this budget completed before the March board meeting for review and approve prior to filing the official loan application.

SCADA/Telemetry: Jeff, Zach, and Megan have been working on the new Greenpoint telemetry site which has been tricky due to its location. New solar panels are installed along with a new PLC and solar controller with battery bank. The bubbler for measuring depth has also been installed and is being calibrated now. Megan is working with Bob Wood to develop the rating for this section that will correlate depth with flow.

Megan provided a plat map on the big screen for review of the newly proposed Willow Ponds phases 4 and 5, which includes 33 lots and an open space. Much discussion ensued regarding billing, policies, and possible sub-districting of this area.

Les reported to the board that the employee evaluations are partially complete (4 of 7 done). Les has revised job descriptions to reflect current assignments and work loads. Les is working on revising the corresponding pay ranges for each position to reflect both job market realities and (in some cases) increased job responsibilities. Les will present the updated salary ranges for approval at the March



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meeting. Les is working on the updated accomplishments/activities list from 2020 as well as a self-review and will provide this for the March 2021 meeting.

LEGAL: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

OTHER BUSINESS:

2021 Legislation: Several bills relating to energy have been sent to the house. HB 3180 has been put forward by a solar developer and is titled a 100% renewables bill. This bill would directly impact the district in a positive way by increasing the value of renewable energy, addressing existing issues with PURPA, and generally addressing issues associated with selling energy in Oregon. HB 3180 is a market based solution using an existing pathway (RPS) and requires no spending by the state government. HB 2995 is a competing bill put forward by Verde (with heavy assistance from the IOU's and the Governor's office). This bill is also a 100% renewables bill but utilizes rulemaking at the PUC as well as regulation of carbon by DEQ. This would require creation of an entirely new program which would take years to develop and is ripe to be manipulated by the IOU's to ensure nothing happens for a decade. Les has been spending quite a bit of time in trying to assist in moving HB 3180. Soon to be announced HB 3221 is a bill being run by OWRC with support from FID, MFID, COID, NUID, Santiam WCD and other irrigation districts. This is the Oregon Renewables Option bill and creates a direct premium market for small power producers. FID and other districts will be heavily involved in attempting to get this bill passed.

There are many water related bills moving but none of them have significant impact on FID. Les is watching a bill related to moving storage rights which could be beneficial to FID, depending on what the final language is.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

Signed: _____ Erick von Lubken, Chairman

Attest: _____ Bill Munk, Secretary