



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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY APRIL 16, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Farmers Irrigation District met on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at the district office and via zoom for the purpose of conducting its regular monthly business. Directors in attendance included: Bill Munk, Dani Annala, Don Chandler, Pete Siragusa and Erick von Lubken. Also in attendance were District Manager, Alexis Vaivoda; Watershed Project Manager, Megan Saunders; and Office Manager, Cassy Stintzi.

Chairman Pete Siragusa called the regular meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Pete Siragusa welcomed the single patron that arrived shortly after the meeting was called to order. Two other patrons arrived via zoom. The floor was opened for discussion. The patrons stated that they were at the meeting to listen.

MONTHLY BUSINESS:

The minutes of the March 19, 2025 board meeting were presented and discussed. It was moved by Erick von Lubken and seconded by Don Chandler to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed with all in favor.

The O&M bills for the month of April were presented and discussed. It was moved by Bill Munk and seconded by Erick von Lubken to approve the updated bills in the amount of \$59,059.28. The motion passed with all in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence was presented. The correspondence received at the district has been verbal. There has been a lot of thoughtful questions which have shifted in a positive way. Many patrons have been supportive and thankful to the staff at Farmers Irrigation District.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION:

FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT

- a. **A/R Report** – Alexis reported that the district has received \$1,800,579.15 as of April 10, 2025 which represents 74% of the 2025 assessments charged, versus 85% at the same time last year. The amount received was updated, the current amount to date received is \$2,004,285.37 which represents 83% collected. The EOM balance, including reserves as of April 10, 2025 was \$1,599,136.80 (see attached).

- b. **Hydro Production** – March’s production was projected at 2,900,000 kWh. Actual production was 3,169,541 kWh (see attached). Hydro revenue for March was projected at \$238,612.00. Actual revenue was \$264,912.93. Actual trending kWh for the year is 38.09% of predicted production for the year.

IRRIGATION & HYDRO STATUS REPORT:

- a. **Hydro status:** March is the highest projected hydropower generation month of the year at 2,900,000 kWh. March was an outstanding month. Operation was at full flow with no shutdowns or interruptions. This is essentially what it looks like to run the plants at full flow per the water rights for a full month, which was \$26,300.00 extra in revenue.

The cranes at both plants were inspected by US Crane & Hoist Inc. The crane at Plant 2 is good and passed inspection. The crane at Plant 3 has two minor issues that will need to be fixed to be OSHA compliant. The two issues include lack of a grounding bar and inconsistent joint connections. FID is waiting to receive an estimate for these repairs. These amounts will be included in the 2026 Budget.

- b. **Reservoir status:** The upper reservoir is currently 1.3’ below spill and the lower reservoir is currently at 3.5’ below spill. We have been actively filling the lower reservoir and expect both reservoirs to be full by the end of April.

c. **System Maintenance:**

- 1) Maintenance to remove down trees along the Lowline pipe alignment continued through March and early April. There will be more to do at a later date.
- 2) Another tree was blown down along Lowline in the parcel adjacent to Hood River County’s Queen’s Cup logging operation. Alexis will be reaching out to Doug at the County to discuss how to handle other trees that could potentially be a problem.
- 3) The crew was working hard to address any issues prior to start up. Irrigation season started April 15, and so far, everything is running smoothly even with the district being down two crew members.

PROJECTS:

- The connection for Luke Sloan is all complete. George finished up this project in early April before the start of irrigation season.
- The district is currently working on the separation of services between Kathy Guthrie and Sheri Jenkins. This will likely take place in a couple months.
- Watershed Plan – Nothing has changed. We are waiting for final authorization.
- Gate/Cabin Creek fish screens – Megan and Alexis met with Sara Schmitt, one of Merkley’s staffers and gave her a general tour of the District. We discussed some of the challenges we have been facing with these projects.
- The crew planted more willows in the wetlands at Kingsley Reservoir.

WATER RIGHTS:

Megan presented a pre-season update to the Board. The crew has been updating flow regulators as a result of land use changes and transfers. There have been five patrons who have signed off water rights since November 2025. Most of these sign offs have been on smaller parcels (less than 0.25 acres). There are seven accounts that are two years past due and pre-capping letters to these patrons will be going out in the next few weeks.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Operation & Maintenance Technician position – The district received seven applications for the position. Alexis and George interviewed four solid candidates, and decision was made to hire Tom Springer and Adan Beltran. Tom and Adan will start employment at Farmers Irrigation District on May 5, 2025. This is a huge relief to the district since Sal's position has been vacant since 2024 and we are temporarily missing a crew member due to medical reasons. It will take several months before adding the new employees to the on-call rotation schedule. Alexis will be stepping into George's on-call weeks for the time being.
- All of the settlement agreement site work has been completed at the Murphy/Mills and Sager properties. Alexis presented a recommendation to the board to forgive \$5,090.00 to Murphy/Mills in acknowledgement for the installation of the 2" line that delivers water across the property and in appreciation for easement for the Highline pipe and 2" line. After some discussion, a motion was made by Erick von Lubken to forgive Murphy/Mills in the amount of \$3,701.00, for the 2025 Irrigation Invoice, and require the remaining balance from the 2024 irrigation season in the amount of \$1,389.34 to still be paid by Murphy/Mills. This motion was seconded by Don Chandler and passed with all in favor. Alexis will draft a letter to this extent and send it to Murphy/Mills.

LEGAL: None

OTHER BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Signed: _____ Pete Siragusa

Attest: _____ Bill Munk