

FARMERS IRRIGATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2012

The Board of Directors of the Farmers Irrigation District met on Wednesday, May 16, 2012, at the District office for the purpose of conducting its regular monthly business. Those in attendance were directors Don Chandler, Tim Annala, Steve Benton, Allan Henderson and Bob Nickelsen; District Manager, Jer Camarata ; Financial Administrator, Cathy Roberts; Administrative Assistant, June Brock and Attorney Jeff Baker. Budget Committee member Randy Franz was also present.

Chairman Steve Benton called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

MONTHLY BUSINESS:

The minutes of the April 18, 2012 board meeting were presented and discussed. It was moved by Bob Nickelsen and seconded by Don Chandler to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed with all in favor.

The O&M bills for the month of May 2012 were presented and discussed. It was moved by Don Chandler and seconded by Bob Nickelsen to approve the bills in the amount of \$84,230.15. The motion passed with all in favor.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: None

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Board of Directors reviewed a request for donations from the Hood River Valley High School 2012 Project Graduation (see attached). On behalf of the District, The Board declined making a donation. It was preferred that board members individually make donations at their own discretion.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION:

- a) A/R report – Cathy Roberts reported that the District has received \$50,381.53 in payments since the April board meeting. Accounts receivable stands at 90% this year versus 93% last year. Jer Camarata informed the Board that Accounts Payable Fees are down 283.2% and Professional Service Fees are down 381.5%.

Hydro production for the month of April was projected at 2.5 million kWh, with an actual production of 3,092,998 kWh. Hydro revenue was projected at \$162,500.00

with actual revenue of 200,263.63. The District's end of month balance for April was projected at \$1,071,420.92 with an actual balance of \$887,168.45.

- b) Manager's report – Jer Camarata reported that the reservoirs are full and spilling. The Low Line canal blowout #4 has been substantially repaired and the canal is back up and running at maximum capacity. There are still many leaks, small cracks, and low and vulnerable spots in the ditch, which will be watched closely by the crew.

Hydro Report- As of May 15th the district has produced approximately 11.8 million kWh and has reached approximately 102% of our projected trending annual hydro revenue (see attached).

SDAO Insurance/FEMA Status Update – Jer reported that FEMA has processed many of the Ice Storm repair reports and is nearing completion. SDAO has been slow in processing our submitted reimbursement requests (now totaling \$225k), but has made \$100k worth of uncategorized advancements. Jer and staff have maintained contact with SDAO's senior claims consultant, Mike Hackbart trying to get our claim resolved as soon as possible so that the insurance side of things does not hinder potential relief from FEMA. Jer said that SDAO agreed yesterday to send another \$30k advance, and that they promised that they were working on our claim and hoped to have resolution soon. The District has had zero input from our Agent of Record, Rodney Lewis recently and has still not received a response from Chairman Benton's letter of 3/30/12. Much discussion ensued. Jer was asked to begin compiling a list of alternative insurance brokers.

BETC – Jer informed the Board that he has sold the District's entire BETC to Andy Von Flotow for \$170,327.00, naming Mr. Von Flotow as the District's 2012 Pass-Through Partner. The credit was sold five months ahead of projected budget schedule.

ETO – Jer informed the Board that staff are working on a Renewable Energy Project Incentive application for the Lowline Canal project for 2013. The process is competitive, but if successful, could possibly bring in as much as \$150,000.

LPFP – Large Pipe Facilities Project Status. Staff have completed a high percentage of the paper work needed to get the project rolling; Project schedule, document requirements, resolutions, RFP language, etc. (see attached). An inspection of the Lowline canal will take place on Tuesday May 22, by District staff and Engineers of Record, Anderson-Perry. Attorney Jeff Baker informed the Board that new legislative rules have not affected the RFP process, but that District CRB rules will be updated per the latest several rounds of legislative changes. Staff will be informing the public of the project via website and handouts.

LEGAL:

MRPS Building and Easement – Attorney Jeff Baker informed the Board that he met with Mr. Trammel to discuss concerns over the MRPS building and easement(s). Mr. Trammel feels that some compensation, beyond the existing agreement, should be made for the District building being on his property. Much discussion ensued. It was moved by Don Chandler and seconded by Tim Annala that the MRPS building and associated easement are viewed as District assets and should be held onto. Director Tim Annala requested a roll call vote. Don Chandler, Tim Annala and Allan Henderson voted Aye, Steve Benton and Bob Nickelsen voted Nay. The motion carried. Randy Franz had some questions regarding the easement(s). Mr. Baker showed a map of the easement(s) on Mr. Trammel’s property, defining the boundaries, and specifying the location of the building. Mr. Baker will follow up with Mr. Trammel on the motion and keep the Board apprised of his findings.

Mr. Dennis Williams of the EPA Inspector General’s office visited the District on Tuesday, April 24th. The purpose of his visit was to investigate the purchase and implementation of the Amiad filters that were used in the F2RP ARRA project. After much discussion with staff, board members, legal council, District Engineers, and DEQ, Mr. Williams said that he would write up his findings and inform the District in the very near future.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Director Allan Henderson inquired if it was possible to provide water to the Hood River Golf Course from the Highline conveyance system. District staff will research and provide a response by the next board meeting in June.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

Signed: _____
Tim Annala, Secretary

Attest: _____
Steve Benton, Chairman