



• 1985 Country Club Road, Hood River, OR 97031 Phone (541)-386-3115 Fax (541)-386-9103 www.fidhr.org •

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## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2015**

The Board of Directors of the Farmers Irrigation District met on Wednesday, May 20, 2015, at the district office for the purpose of conducting its regular monthly business. Those in attendance were directors Erick von Lubken, Tim Annala, Don Chandler, Bill Munk and Pete Siragusa; District Manager, Jer Camarata; Water Right Specialist, Rick Brock; Office Manager, June Brock; and Attorney, Jeff Baker.

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

### **MONTHLY BUSINESS:**

The minutes of the April 15, 2015 board meeting were presented and discussed. It was moved by Don Chandler and seconded by Bill Munk to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed with all in favor.

The O&M bills for the month of May 2015 were presented and discussed. It was moved by Bill Munk and seconded by Tim Annala to approve the bills in the amount of \$237,618.13. The motion passed with all in favor.

**BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:** None.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

An application to partition/subdivide on legal 2N-10-11-NW/NW-1600 was submitted by Terry Brandt TR (see attached). It was moved by Don Chandler and seconded by Pete Siragusa to approve the application as presented. The motion passed with all in favor.

### **REPORTS AND DISCUSSION:**

**a) A/R Report** – Jer reported that the district has received \$942,893.84 to date representing 92% of total 2015 assessments charged.

**b) Hydro Production** – April's production was projected at 2,850,000 kWh. Actual production was ~2.81M kWh (see attached). Hydro revenue for April was projected at \$195,282. Actual revenue was \$196,541.75. EOM balance for April including reserves as of May 13 was \$1,862,700.22.

**c) Manager's Report** – Jer reported that both upper and lower reservoirs are still full and spilling. Irrigation lines are charged throughout the district and in nearly full swing. Jer predicts that hydro production will take a large hit for the months of May and June due to the heavy early season irrigation demands. Jer reports that the middle and lower districts are already "pulling heavy" due to the early



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weather, and that hydro production is already about 500,000 kWh or greater behind target. Catching up is highly unlikely.

Jer touched on the topic of drought declaration. Five counties in the state have now declared local drought emergencies. Jer said that despite having senior irrigation water rights, it may be advantageous for the District to consider proactively filing a claim due to the lack of annual snowpack and somewhat dire hydrologic predictions forecast for this summer. Jer speculated that it may be handy to have additional resources for growers if things turn ugly. River flows in the Hood River are currently at a historical low. No decision was made.

Several junior water right holders located on the upper west side have asked for drought curtailment relief. Jer said that he has agreed to place these few patrons on a 3.5 day rotation so long as there is no impact to senior water right holders. The crew will manage this situation closely.

Tim Annala questioned the use of flow meters throughout the district. Much discussion ensued. It was generally decided that the district should compile a list of growers with and without meters, install certain potential meters where practicable over time, and begin randomly sampling and tracking on-farm water usage through such meters as a way to spot-check usage efficiency.

Jer informed the board that FID has been awarded EPA's National Sustainability Award. A 2-3 minute video will be made of the District's accomplishments. Jer's first interview is set for June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Gilkes Turgo – Jer reported that the trip to England was very educational and that the Turgo equipment is shaping up to be very impressive. The CEO of Gilkes appeared to be enthusiastic by Jer and Jerry's Farmers Screen presentation and felt that the screens could be very applicable to the European market. One of the Gilkes engineers was agreeable to conducting computational fluid dynamic (CFD) modelling to the Farmers Screen. The Gilkes CEO agreed that this was a good use of mutually beneficial resources. Jer said that the connection between FCA technical folks and the Gilkes CFD modeler and R&D team has been made and that he hopes something innovative will be discovered.

PacifiCorp – Jer and Jerry have been working non-stop to finalize surprise Interconnection issues and negotiations with PacifiCorp to avoid potential Turgo project delay and costs. Jer is cautiously optimistic. Much discussion ensued.

Hetzel deal- Terra Surveying has completed the land and road surveys of the Heltzel/Davenport Screen property which is nearly ready to be submitted to Hood River Planning Dept for review. Jer has submitted several edits that will be incorporated in the final draft survey prior to submittal. Rick has prepared the water transfer component of the project.



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**LEGAL:** Mr. Baker said that template easement language for the Hetzel deal has also been drafted. Mr. Baker will use the Heltzel/Davenport survey as exhibits to the new easement documents. Mr. Hetzel is drafting the first draft Master Agreement. Jer said that the “triggers/transfer components of the exchange” will all happen (be filed) in a concurrent matter sometime within the next couple of months depending on how quickly all parties can collectively move.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Lien Process Filing – It was moved by Don Chandler and seconded by Pete Siragusa to approve the lien filing process on all outstanding irrigation assessments. The motion passed with all in favor. Jer questioned why this approval process needed to be renewed every year.

Advanced Authority – The June Board Meeting has been indefinitely cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. Due to the cancellation, it was moved by Tim Annala and seconded by Don Chandler that the board authorize advanced authority to approve June’s A/P list and pay the anticipated bills. Two board members agreed to be available to endorse the A/P checks on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Jer mentioned that he would put together a mini-written status report and that a normal board packet would still be released. The motion to advance-authorize the month of June A/P list passed with all in favor.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Bill Munk, Secretary

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Erick von Lubken, Chairman