



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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Farmers Irrigation District met on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at the district office and via zoom for the purpose of conducting its regular monthly business. Those in attendance were directors Dani Annala, Don Chandler, Bill Munk, Pete Siragusa and Erick von Lubken, District Manager, Les Perkins (via zoom), Watershed Manager, Megan Saunders, Office Managers, June Brock and Cassy Stintzi.

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

New office Manager, Cassy Stintzi was introduced to the board members.

MONTHLY BUSINESS:

The minutes of the October 18, 2023 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 November 2023 were presented and discussed. It was moved by Erick von Lubken and seconded by Bill Munk to approve the bills in the amount of \$467,377.63. 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 \$127,065.04 representing 8% of total 2024 assessments charged versus 6% last year. The EOM balance, including reserves as of November 9, 2023 was \$933,241.23 (see attached).

b) Hydro Production – October's production was projected at 1,200,000 kWh. Actual production was 1,432,213 kWh (see attached). Hydro revenue for October was projected at \$98,736.00. Actual revenue was \$119,487.42. Actual trending kWh for the year is at 77.52%. November's projection looks to be a little lean due to Plant 2 being offline intermittently for canal repairs. There have been issues with one of the motors on the HPU overheating.

c) Manager's Report –

Resolution 06-23 (Updated Procurement Policy) was presented. This resolution brings compliance with state statutes and makes for easier procurements. It was moved by Erick von Lubken and seconded by Don Chandler to approve Resolution 06-23. The motion passed with all in favor.

The leak on the open canal below Riverdale Rd (Mellow's stretch) was repaired with Bentonite, biaxial geogrid webbing, and gravel to stabilize and raise the canal bank. A very large fir tree on the edge of the canal was removed. The tree blocked access with a machine and the roots from the tree were a problem for the integrity of the canal wall, (see photos). A licensed tree faller will inspect the canal as numerous other trees threaten to fall towards the canal and will need to be removed. Also, the large fir trees at the district office will be removed to allow for more efficient storage of materials and maneuvering of equipment.

Projects: Reservoir Status: Three quotes were presented for the East Wetland Raise below the Stanley Smith pipeline. Crestline Construction won the bid, and the district received the Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) permit in time to start the project. On Tuesday November 14th, Megan, Cassy, George and Jeff planted close to 500 willow and dogwood shoots at the west wetland site. The project is complete and Crestline has completed demobilization.

FID and NRCS invited FID patrons both in person on November 8th and virtually on November 15th for public comment meetings to learn about developing a Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment to modernize irrigation infrastructure in FID. Once this Watershed Plan is approved, the district can apply for grant funds for piping the remaining open stretches of the Farmers Canal. This grant is in \$25 million range. Several FID patrons cornered Les to question him regarding the irrigation rate increases from last year but there were no substantive questions regarding the projects identified in the plan.

Power Purchase Agreement: The PPA negotiations are in draft mode currently and Les would like to have the board decide on how long to make the contract for, 5 years, 10 years or 15 years or anything in between? Erick asked Les as to his opinion. Les explained that the last five years of any contract were the higher yielding rates and there is a lot of uncertainty as to what will happen to PURPA, access to market, contract structure, and rates in the coming years. As a public entity, Les stated that a more conservative approach is probably warranted and therefore signing a 15-year contract is probably prudent. Much discussion ensued regarding PURPA rules, base load etc. Les will again provide the board with the PPA comparisons as well as a copy of the current draft contract. Les will reach out to Greg Adams (FID's energy and public utility lawyer). Dani asked if the REC market will be a favorable contribution to the district? 2023 REC sales are at \$6.83 per REC, bringing in approximately \$150,000 for the 2023 vintages. Industry speculation is that REC values will continue to rise in the future. It was decided that the December board meeting would be moved up to December 13th, so the PPA contract can be negotiated and signed before the end of the year.

MISCELLANEOUS: None

LEGAL: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

OTHER BUSINESS:

ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Signed: _____ Pete Siragusa, Chairman

Attest: _____ Bill Munk, Secretary



