



The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID) was called to order by Brad Clarno, at 9:02 AM on, December 12, 2023, in the District office.

Directors present were Brad Clarno, Paul Kasberger, Tom Burke, Jeff Larkin, and Terry Blackwell. Craig Horrell, Secretary - Managing Director, Jenny Hartzell-Hill, HR Manager; Erin Bathke, Accounting and Administrative Associate; Kelley O'Rourke, Business Operations Manager; attended in person. Heidi Dennison, Finance Consultant; Cary Penhollow, Water Master; Jessi Talbott, Water Rights Director, Baxter Davies, Water Distribution Analyst; participated remotely by Zoom. Matt Singer, General Counsel attended via Zoom. In-person guests are listed in Exhibit "A".

1. OPEN FORUM:

Bobby West asked for the total amount of water delivered for the 2023 season. Cary will get the totals to her.

2. MINUTES:

The minutes from the 11/20/2023 Regular Meeting were provided prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Tom Burke to approve the minutes as presented. Following a second by Jeff Larkin the motion was approved unanimously.

3. TRANSFERS / INCLUSIONS:

No transfers or inclusions.

4. REPORTS:

- A. Watermaster Report –
A written report (Exhibit "C") was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Cary Penhollow joined the Board and discussed the potential for a stockwater run next week if the river levels hold steady. The Board will be called and notified and then patrons will receive both email and text messages.
- B. Operations and Maintenance Report –
Craig Horrell reported that maintenance season is in full swing, and the team will switch to stockwater run prep to get things cleared out for the potential run.
- C. Hydro Report -
A written report (Exhibit "D") was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Doug Watson joined the meeting and reviewed the repairs that are underway and what needs to be done in the future.
- D. Internal Operations & Communications-
A written report (Exhibit "E") was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Craig Horrell reported that ShanRae Hawkins is working on the NUID joint communication plan.

- E. Finance -
The written report (Exhibit “F”) was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Heidi did not have anything additional to report. We then jumped to the 2024 Budget review (seen old business).
- F. Manager Report-
Craig Horrell reported that the OWRC conference was a few weeks ago. Staff and two Board members attended. He also introduced Brian LePore, Division 3 Board Member Elect, as he attended via zoom.

5. **BILLINGS & PAYROLL:**

Terry Blackwell made a motion to approve the Billings and Payroll as presented. Following a second by Paul Kasberger the motion was approved unanimously.

6. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Merkley PL 566**
EIS Update: Craig Horrell updated the Board. We are working hard to get the draft EIS out by May 2024. He is working to educate the NRCS on the importance of the COID EIS. Without this EIS North Unit Irrigation District will fail.
- **SPP Property Update**
Craig Horrell updated the board on the property sale. Doug Watson has had communications with FERC and we are still waiting for them to get through their process.
- **L Lateral Piping**
Craig Horrell explained that we are working through the lateral piping. This will also be discussed in the Executive Session.
- **2024 Budget**
Heidi Dennison provided the updated draft budgets to the Board. There is excess money in the LGIP account, and we will not need to do an internal loan to cover January and February operating expenses. Terry Blackwell made a motion to approve the 2024 Budget. Following a second by Jeff Larkin the motion was approved unanimously. See Exhibit “G”.
- **2024 Annual Assessment Rate**
Paul Kasberger made a motion to approve the 2024 rate with the rate plan increase as planned, Exhibit “H”. Terry Blackwell made a motion to approve. It was approved 4 in favor and 1 opposed (Tom Burke).

7. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **2024 Instream Leases**
Jessi Talbott, Director of Water Rights, joined the meeting to discuss the instream lease proposal for 2024. It will be the same amount that was approved last year. Discussion followed that the priority for instreaming is given to water that is in beneficial use jeopardy. The amount is 1,200 min – 1,600 max. The weed form was discussed that is included in the instream lease paperwork. Todd Peplin also informed the Board that collaboration is being done with the 3 counties regarding weed control. Terry Blackwell

made a motion to approve the 2024 amount. Following a second by Jeff Larking the motion was approved unanimously.

- **Resolution 2023-7 Financial Transaction Update**

The resolution was provided prior to the meeting, Exhibit “P”. Tom Burke made motion to approve the resolution as presented. Following a second by Terry Blackwell the motion was approved unanimously.

- **New Board Member On-Boarding**

Craig Horrell explained to the Board that he is developing an on-boarding plan with sessions for each of the areas: Habitat Conservation Plan Education, General Board Procedures / COID 101, Water 101 (acronyms, partnerships in the Basin, what our water right and certificates are). To get the new board members information to assist them in their new role.

At 10:05 a.m. the Board recessed the General Session and moved to the Executive Session.

- ORS 192.660(2)(e) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.
- ORS 192.660(2)(h) to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

The executive session recessed and returned to general session at 12:01 a.m.

8. **BOARD COMMENTS:**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m. following a motion by Tom Burke and a second by Jeff Larkin.

Craig Horrell, Manager

Tom Burke

Brad Clarno

C.B. Foss

Jeff Larkin

Brian Lepore