



The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID) was called to order by Brad Clarno, at 9:04 AM on, April 4, 2024, in the District office.

Directors present were Tom Burke, Brad Clarno, C.B. Foss, and Jeff Larkin. Craig Horrell, Secretary - Managing Director, Jenny Hartzell-Hill, HR Manager; and Erin Bathke, Accounting & Administrative Associate; attended in person. Heidi Dennison, Finance Consultant; Kelley Hamby, Operations & Maintenance Manager; Cary Penhollow, Water Master; Jessi Talbott, Water Rights Director, Doug Watson, Hydro Manager; 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:

Paul Kasberger, Patron from Division 1. He asked the Board if they had made a decision on tailwater at the end of the Pilot Butte Canal system due to piping? He also reviewed with the Board that it was agreed per his request to extend the lateral piping beyond the planned project with Paul buying the pipe, COID's contractor relocating the ditch onto Paul's property and installing the pipe. He informed the Board that the pipe has not been supplied on neighboring property. He also inquired about LPID's piping project, the incompleteness of the project and status of the reimbursement of the \$50,000 request for his losses from the prolonged project in 2023.

The Board told Paul Kasberger that the LPID Claim is on the agenda for Executive Session agenda. Jeff Larking told Paul that he understood his concerns and requests and would bring those to the executive session. They also informed him that the tailwater issue and ownership of pipe - L-Lateral is on the agenda. Paul can be part of that discussion during the agenda item.

Bobby West, representing a group of alfalfa patrons voiced that they would like to have water on the Central Oregon Canal start on the 9th of April.

Craig Gary, a Redmond patron. Asked about the 5-year financial plan regarding the assessment increase. He requested the budget and rate projection from the 5- year financial plan. Craig Horrell explained that the rate increase plan and details are on the website under the rates tab. If he needs additional information, staff can supply it per his request.

2. MINUTES:

The minutes from the 3/12/24 Regular Meeting, the 3/19/24 Special Meeting, and the 3/20/24 Special meeting were provided prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Tom Burke to approve all three meeting minutes as presented. Following a second by CB Foss the motion was approved unanimously.

4. TRANSFERS / INCLUSIONS:

The water rights memorandum was provided to the Board prior to the meeting, Exhibit "B". Jessi Talbott updated the Board on the transfers. Jeff Larking made a motion to approve the transfers as presented. Following a second by CB Foss the motion was approved unanimously.

5. **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 reservoir levels and river flows. Arnold is planning to turn on the 14th, NUID 5th, LPID same as COID. Cary said that we could start pulling water mid-week next week to get water started. Board discussion followed. Suggested to start the Central Oregon Canal on the 10th and the Pilot Butte Canal on the 11th. Tom Burke made a motion to start the Central Oregon Canal on April 10th and the Pilot Butte Canal on the 11th or 12th depending on river flows. Following a second by CB Foss the motion was passed unanimously.
- B. Operations and Maintenance Report –
A written report (Exhibit “D”) was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Kelley Hamby joined the meeting to discuss the current projects and maintenance season wrap-up. Kelley also provided input operationally regarding the L-1,2, & 3 projects. John Skidmore also updated the Board on the Grants Pass legal case regarding homeless occupants on public property. Hopefully the Supreme Court decision will provide some more guidance on this widespread issue.
- C. Hydro Report -
A written report (Exhibit “E”) was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Doug Watson joined the meeting to answer any questions. He updated that Board that we are generating power and wrapping up maintenance project that were performed over the winter.
- D. Internal Operations & Communications-
A written report (Exhibit “F”) was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Craig Horrell updated the Board on the proposed commercials that have been put together and the partnerships we have. Those will be shown by ShanRae Hawkins at 10:15 a.m. ShanRae Hawkins joined via Zoom and presented the outreach goals, the plan, and draft commercials.
- E. Finance -
The written report (Exhibit “G”) was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Heidi Dennison joined via Zoom. She had nothing to add to the report. The quarterly budget review will be presented at the May meeting with a work session starting at 8:30 a.m.
- F. Manager Report-
Nothing for individual report, topics are all in old and new business.

6. **BILLINGS & PAYROLL:**

Tom Burke made a motion to approve the Billings and Payroll as presented. Following a second by Jeff Larkin the motion was approved unanimously.

7. **OLD BUSINESS:**

• **Merkley PL 566**

EIS Update: Craig Horrell updated the Board. The process is still in progress. He is hoping for finalization in August at this point. All technical reports are done. Craig will be traveling to Washington DC next week to do a check-in.

• **SPP Property Update**

Craig Horrell updated the board on the property sale. We are still waiting on FERC to approve our easement and remap submittal.

• **Union Meeting Update**

Craig Horrell updated the Board that he has pulled insurance information from accounting and has delivered the information to the Board to brainstorm on and we will have them bring us a proposal on how to move forward with the insurance and benefit stipend.

• **Joint Town Hall Meeting with NUID – 3/20/24**

Craig Horrell gave a summary of the meeting and what he envisions for next year's meeting. It was suggested to have a public notice on radio, tv and post flyers in frequently visited stores and meeting spots to get the word out.

• **A Lateral Easement Request**

Rosengarth's easement request decision from last month's meeting was relayed to him by Craig Horrell. He is now taking that into consideration as he develops his plan. We will put it on the agenda when he is ready to proceed.

• **DRC On-Farm Pilot J & L Laterals**

Kate Fitzpatrick, DRC, joined the meeting and discussed the updates per the discussion by the Board last month. The original proposal is attached as Exhibit "H" The Board reviewed the proposal. The updated amounts are \$12.50 to patron, \$9.50 to COID. Tom Burke asked the board to table the matter to allow for further discussion prior to making a final decision. It was clarified that 5.44 is the rate and duty on the COID certificate, which is 9.75 gallons per minute. NUID will review the proposal and make a decision and COID can follow-up in May. It was proposed that a full Board to Board meeting with NUID be scheduled for the week of April 15th to discuss.

L Lateral / Paul Kasberger delivery: Paul Kasberger came to the Board to ask for an exchange for his work on the upper ditch and if the Board approves, COID will abandon the ditch and it will be maintained and the responsibility of Paul Kasberger. Paul Kasberger also requested that the board approve the use of excess pipe to complete the piping of the ditch that crosses Paul Kasbergers property. Board discussion followed. Follow-up will happen in Executive Session.

Paul Kasberger has concerns that with the piped project there will be a tailwater issue for patrons at the end of the pipes. He explained that the neighboring property gets piped water and excess tailwater. The pipe goes to her pond, and she has to closely manage the

amount of water flowing through the pipe into her pond to prevent it from overflowing. Paul suggested that the District consider installing devices to remedy this for the patrons. Kelley Hamby stated that he has met with and discussed options with patrons. Board discussion followed.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- **Drought Recovery**

Jefferson County filed for a drought with the State of Oregon. The submittal is attached as Exhibit “I”.

- ORS 192.660(2)(d) to conduct deliberations with persons you have designated to carry on labor negotiations.
- 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 1:24 p.m.

9. BOARD COMMENTS:

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m. following a motion by Tom Burke and a second by CB Foss.

Craig Horrell, Manager

Tom Burke

Brad Clarno

C.B. Foss

Jeff Larkin

Absent from Meeting
Brian Lepore