

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of The Bitter Root Irrigation District held at the District office at 1182 Lazy J Lane, Corvallis MT on December 13, 2022.

Commissioners present: John Schmiedeke, Steve Bauman, Bill Posten, Dave Golay, Matt Pendergast was absent.

Also present: Manager John Crowley, Secretary LaDonna Felton, Annie Oliff, Dianne Snedigar, Rankin Holmes, Nik Ortman, Kelsey Coty, Brad Coty, and Christina Johnston.

Chairman Schmiedeke called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

The minutes of the regular November board meeting were mailed to the Board. There were no other additions or corrections. The November 2022 minutes will stand approved.

**Public Comment:** Kelsey Coty, Brad Coty and Christina Johnston would like some clarification on a letter that was sent out to the end users on Ridgeline (see attached letter). Kelsey stated to her the letter sounded like all the neighbors were supposed to come together and come up with an irrigation plan and pay for it all between them. Kelsey stated that she already has a hookup along with the Johnstons. Kelsey doesn't understand why they have to help pay for the people that do not have risers.

John S – This is between your subdivision. We have no authority to come put anything in. By law all the easements and risers should have been done during the split.

Manager- this land was an 80-acre parcel that was sold in 1972. The irrigation was installed in the early 80's. This letter was to get the landowners attention so we could get everyone on the right track. We need to have recorded easements so landowners in the future can have access to the water.

Coty and Johnstons have easements in their property deeds. There needs to be an agreement for easements and downsized turnouts for the other three users so landowners can access their irrigation water.

### **Reports:**

Water report:

Lake elevation 4205.5            5609-acre feet

Snowpack: 42 inches

Snow water equivalent is 11-inches

### **Business:**

Rankin Holmes Senior Water Resources Scientist – Bitter Root Water Forum hired Rankin to assist BRID in gaging areas of the big ditch. The data that Rankin records will help BRID better understand water losses that we have on the big ditch. The information that Rankin collected

will help in writing grants for future projects. The Bitter Root Water Forum is very interested in partnering up with BRID. Rankin went over all the data that he recorded over the irrigation season. The district board is in favor of the partnership. Manager and Rankin will sit down and discuss ideas and talk about a partnership with the water forum.

Morrison-Maierle – Nic Ortman Water Resources Engineer for Morrison- Maierle came to talk about the design and replacement plans for the valves at Como Dam. New valves are rated for 50 to 75 years and installation at a cost of approximately 3 to 3.5 million installed. Morrison-Maierle is working on finalizing all the details and cost in the next two weeks.

Reed Water transfer -

<u>PARCEL#</u>	<u>OLD LEGAL</u>	<u>NEW LEGAL</u>	<u>OLD</u> <u>I.A.</u>	<u>NEW</u> <u>I.A.</u>
1300710	TW10 R19 S29 IN SESE INDEX 31		4	0
	CS #731599-F TRACT A-1			
1300730	TW10 R19 S29 IN SESE INDEX 36		4	5.5
	CS # 731599-F TRACT A-4			
1300720	TW10 R19 S29 IN SESE INDEX 35		5	7.5
	CS # 731599-F TRACT A-3			

John Schmiedeke made the motion to approve the water allocation, Bill Posten seconded it. All in favor, so carried.

Bob Wolfenden water allocation - Transferring 9.6 Irrigated acres from Parcel 1256400 to parcel 1312701

<u>PARCEL#</u>	<u>OLD LEGAL</u>	<u>NEW LEGAL</u>	<u>OLD</u> <u>I.A.</u>	<u>NEW</u> <u>I.A.</u>
1256400	Sunnyside Orch #4, S04, T09, R19 W, Lot 5	Three Mile Gravity line	9.6	0
	BLK 20			
1312701	S34, T10, R 19 IN NWSW INDEX 24	Ridgeline Gravity line	20	29.6
	CS# 467073-r TRACT 2			

Note: This transfer was first approved by the Three Mile Subdistrict NRCS approved the water transfer from three-mile gravity line to ridgeline.

John Schmiedeke made motion to approve contingent upon receiving the signed water allocation, Bill Posten seconded it. All in favor, so carried

MaCo Insurance – MaCo is dropping all Special Districts. Corey at Grenfell insurance is looking into other options for us.

Christmas Bonus - \$1,000.00 Christmas Bonus

Dave Golay motioned to approve; Steve Bauman seconded it. All in favor. So, approved

Three Mile Statement – Yearly statement this year is a lot higher than usual. This is due to labor and equipment rates that increased. The system is getting older and starting to demand a little more attention. We also had some training for new positions that were taking place. Statement cost for 2022 was \$61,711.21

Went over end of year budget comparison for 2022 and assessments for 2022 (see attached)

**District Updates:**

Working on Siphon 1 replacing 80 feet of old pipe with new 66-inch diameter pipe at Harlan Creek. Matt helped with hauling two sticks of pipe.

Three Air vents were installed on Siphon 1 waiting on 4 more air vents. Morrison-Maierle paid for these.

Greg Snedigar, Chad Zander, Jeff Red, and John Crowley attended Dam Tender training in Boise Idaho.

Motion was made by Steve Bauman to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Dave Golay. All in favor; motion passed

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:45 p.m.

CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_

SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_