

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 February 11, 2020

Commissioners present: Bill Posten, Matt Pendergast, Steve Bauman and Dave Golay

Also present: Manager John Crowley, Secretary LeeAnn Scheffer, Harvey Hackett, Annie Oliff, Russ Cleveland, Michael Kapus, Robert Jackson and Kay Propst

Acting Chairman Bill Posten called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

The minutes of the regular January board meeting were mailed to the Board. There were no other additions or corrections. The January 2020 minutes will stand approved.

Public Questions and Comments:

Russ Cleveland, Three Mile looked at financial data submitted by LeeAnn Scheffer, costs for maintenance 2019, they are comfortable with and the way it was handled. Glad that the excess was put towards the sinking fund, and like the fact the cost per acre was left at \$16.00.

Business:

Dennis Smith, turned 65, he has been dropped off Pacific Source Insurance and has went to Medicare. LeeAnn and John had discussed with Klarysse Murphy how the county handled when an employee did not take the option for insurance. They have an In Lieu option. A set amount of money is decided that the employee can take, it is added to their paycheck and is a taxable income. Matt Pendergast made the motion to offer an In Lieu option of \$175.00 per month to all full time permanent employees that opt not to take insurance through BRID's carrier. Dave Golay seconded it, all in favor, motion carried.

Checked on prices for a Sheeps foot for the excavator, 30" is approximately \$12,000.00. This is the correct size for good compaction along the ditch for repairing holes. We tabled this until next meeting.

District Update:

Water Report: Lake Elevation 4215.3 Acre Feet 12,354, Snotel site 101", Snow water content is 31.1. Last year at this time lake elevation was 4217.9 about 14,387 acre feet. Snotel site 78" snow water content 25.9.

Cory Lay: In Matt Pendergast division on the corner of Tripp Lane and Three Mile. Cory is wanting to dry the three lots and move the water to the lot he is keeping. Cory is suppose to submit a parcel map. Discussion was tabled until district receives parcel map.

Lords: The property is located close to the intersection of Groff Land and Oliver in Dave Golays district. Lot 23 of Lords property will have a boundary change and be joined with

Champions property Lot 21A & 22 A. Lords Lot 24 will be divided into two 5 acre lots. We noticed this through the county no paper work has been delivered to the district.

Finances:

LeeAnn Scheffer reported on the bank account balances as of 12/31/2019. Please see attached

DNRC Loan: Interest rates have dropped, we contacted Mark Anderson at Farmers State Bank to refinance the DNRC loan for approximately 1,700,000.00. He says he thinks he can get us down to a 3.25% loan, we are currently at 4% with the existing loan. John and LeeAnn have scheduled a meeting with him for later in the week. More to come.

Slide Show: Crew has been doing a lot of cleaning, up by Rennakers it was thinned on the upstream side. Several sites for burning debris this spring, brush was too full or rocks to chip them. Work was done to clear trees around Spooner outlet. Due to the weather crew was back inside shop pouring blocks for future use. John spoke with Dennis Miotke, manager of East Bench they have 25 of the cleaning drums like we do. They use a nylon block instead of bearings. The nylon blocks last a life time. For a set of the blocks it is \$92.00.

Weed spray: BRID received \$1,131.00 from Bitter Root Land trust for weed spraying applications. We are the only irrigation district in the valley that keeps herbicide spraying on the ditches. During the 2019 year we got through entire ditch, did a lot of hand spraying.

Motion was made by Matt Pendergast to pay the bills and adjourn the meeting and seconded by Steve Bauman. All in favor; motion passed.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:45 a.m.

CHAIRMAN _____

SECRETARY _____