

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 January 11, 2022

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

Also present: Manager John Crowley, Secretary LaDonna Felton, Anne Oliff, Diane Snedigar and Harvey Hackett

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

The minutes of the regular December board meeting were mailed to the Board. There were no other additions or corrections. The December 2021 minutes will stand approved.

Reports:

Water: Como Lake Elevation 4215.8
Acre feet 12,733 stored
Snowpack
 Snow depth 76 inches
 Snow water equivalent 19.1 inches

December 2021 Como Lake elevation 4212.1
Acre feet 9,983 stored
Snowpack
 Snow depth 36 inches
 Snow water equivalent 7 inches

Difference:
Acre feet 2,750
Snow depth 40 inches
Snow water equivalent 12.1

Snowpack in the bitterroot is 113% of average. We are in the 32% – 42% drought status

Morrison-Maierle update – received email from Molly with a follow up from the December board meeting. The type of Air Release valves Morrison-Maierle are going with is Val-Matic 49a (7/16) air release valves. Lead time is currently estimated at 4 weeks. The optimal size of the candy cane vent is 20 inches and the optimal location of the air vent is established downgradient of the inlet near the existing air valves. The air vent will extend in a

vertical fashion rather than a cane to reduce losses. The vent will include a screen for protection. Morrison-Maierle is in coordination with R&A Fabricators to perform welding

Markette – Nothing to report

Bureau of Reclamation has an extended repayment of extraordinary maintenance cost. This is a one-time offer. Manager talked with Sarah in Ephrata and we could probably get a loan for the gate valves at 1.78%. The user rates would most likely have to be increased to pay for this. John S questions how bad the valves are
Stan from HDR after looking at the gate valves doesn't think they are to bad. There is water lost through the gate valves but is it enough to justify the cost at this moment
John Schmiedekes opinion is to wait. Everyone agrees to wait.

Montana Fabrication – Manager emailed Ryan at Montana Fabrications. The last 3 sticks of pipe is scheduled to be ready the first part of February.

HDR – Stan has been able to get out on the ditch a little bit and he has some thoughts and ideas on where to use the money from the planning grant. We are putting in for another planning grant for lining.
We have an opportunity to work with Bitterroot water forum, they have a couple of people that will go out and measure water for us. If we have places where we are subbing a lot of water out, they can go in and measure it then when we write our grants, we can tell them the amount of water we are losing.

District update:

We had a blow down near Hard Rock

The crew is staying busy in this weather grinding and prepping the clamshells for the next phase of Siphon 1, pouring Eco Blocks and headgates.

Jared Porter has quit. Manager interviewed a man but doesn't think he is interested in the position.

Levi went home last Monday Jan 3rd sick and has since tested positive for Covid.

Smitty is calving

Commissioners would like to have a ditch tour this year.

There is a MWRA Meeting Feb 9-11 at Fairmont.

Motion made by Bill Posten to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dave Golay.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:30 a.m.

CHAIRMAN _____

SECRETARY _____