

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 9, 2018.

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

Also present: Manager John Crowley, Secretary Stacy Coulter, LeeAnn Scheffer, Harvey Hackett, Bob Nicholson, Randy Nentwig, Robert Jackson, Bob Kirkpatrick, TC Richardson, Cary Hays, Mary Hackett, Skip Kowalski, Margaret Gorski

Chairman Schmiedeke called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

The minutes of the regular December board meeting were mailed to the Board. There were no other additions or corrections. The December 2018 minutes will stand approved.

Manager Crowley gave the water report: elevation is at 4221.2, almost 2 feet above last year. Snotel: 68” at twin lakes, last year 55 inches – heavier snow than last year at this time.

Siphon II update: seven expansion joints were replaced in October, November and December. BRID crew finished all replacement projects on December 20. One brand new joint was put in, the crew also used salvaged slip joint from the Siphon I Phase III project.

Siphon I Phase III update: regarding the scouring that was discovered in new pipe, Morrison Maierle is paying for the inspection. Tomorrow, Bill Spicklemeier from Rust Not will inspect the pipe and provide the report. Manager Crowley passed around a report done by Sam Bruno from Frontier West.

Manager Crowley asked the board what they would like to do with the bridge structure that was removed in the Siphon I Phase III project. Matt and John Schmiedeke suggested that we keep it and use it in the future.

Manager Crowley reported on Joe Smith. He wants to install a free span bridge at his Stevensville property (parcel #40100). Manager Crowley has informed him that if the bridge is approved, it will need to be installed by April, before the beginning of irrigation.

Motion to approve the bridge contingent upon all regular specifications being met was made by Matt, seconded by Bill. All in favor, motion passed.

David and Dustin arrived at 10:30 and offered to answer questions from guests. TC Richardson spoke about irrigation in the past and his history as a Three Mile resident. TC stated that he would like the Three Mile area to remain peaceful. His opinion is that most people in Three Mile are satisfied with BRID. TC said that there are “marching orders” set out by the judge. TC handed out a written proposal to the board. TC told Dave Markette that he’s “ticked off” at the attorneys for not responding to the five things that Judge Haynes ordered.

David Markette responded that TC *assumed* that the attorneys are not working on these things but they are. Markette told him that, while we have won a major battle, we have not received a final judgement. The attorneys DO have a strategy and are working on those things. As far as the organizational structure, it is not BRID's responsibility. There will have to be public meetings and consent of the parties involved. Attorneys are trying to strictly comply with the judge's order.

Mr. Markette reminded TC that he has a right as a public citizen to get involved but may be interfering with the strategy that the attorneys discuss privately with the board.

There is discussion about the logistics of forming a Three Mile Subdistrict board, whether or not they are to be appointed by BRID, elected or volunteers. Those matters will be sorted out after a final judgement is made by Judge Haynes.

The board resolved into an executive session at 11:00.

Meeting resumed at 12:00.

Manager Crowley introduced Bob Wolfenden. Mr. Wolfenden would like to purchase and move water to a new property that he purchased across from Store Lane in Stevensville. Chairman Schmiedeke told Mr. Wolfenden that no water can be transferred out of the sub district until there is a final judgment on the lawsuit.

The board informed the remaining public (TC, Cary, Bob Kirkpatrick and Robert Jackson) that a holding a public meeting will not interfere with the strategy of the attorneys, but to hold it after the February 8 hearing. There was more discussion on whether or not officers of the sub district board should be appointed or elected.

Matt reminded TC that the majority of the work and decision-making regarding the sub district belongs to the Three Mile users, not BRID.

Cary Hays spoke about the scouring in Siphon I Phase III. His opinion is that the failure is due to improper preparation of the pipe at the welds prior to the application of the coating.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:35 a.m.

CHAIRMAN _____

SECRETARY _____