

Minutes of the Regular Meeting held by the Board of Directors Big Lost River Irrigation District, Butte and Custer Counties January 5th, 2021 at 2:00 P.M.

Board Members Present: Chairman Byron Pehrson; Vice Chair Darrell Lee McDonald; Secretary-Treasurer Mark Roberts; Max Bingham;

Employees: Lucas Yockey, Kristin Johnson

Guests: Mike Telford, Alvin Wheeler, Harvey Walker, Larry Quist, Joel Andersen, Jay Jensen, Jace Thacker, Steve Hadley, Mike Schrock, Marc Hansen, Mark Telford, Brett Williams, Steve Eckles, Jared Eckles, and Craig Parkinson

The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman, Byron Pehrson at 1:55 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) An amendment to the December 1st minutes was proposed by Lucas to add for clarification “and premium will be deducted from her wages” to the end of item # 10. Motion was made to add amendment and to approve December minutes by Max Bingham; seconded by Darrell Lee. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Mark Roberts; seconded by Darrell Lee to approve the Check Register/Deposit Detail for December, 2020. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Max Bingham to amend the agenda by adding appointment of Alvin Wheeler to BLRID board, there was no second and motion failed. Meeting proceeded with agenda as written.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Directors Oath- Darrell Lee McDonald and Byron Pehrson were sworn in by taking the Oath of Office and will both serve a term of 3 more years.
- 2) Re-Organization of Board- Motion made by Darrell Lee to keep Mark Roberts as Secretary Treasurer, and Byron Pehrson as Chairman; Mark Roberts seconded; Mark Roberts and Darrell Lee voted yes, Max Bingham abstained. Motion passed.

Motion made by Byron Pehrson to keep Darrell Lee McDonald as Vice Chairman of the board; Mark Roberts seconded. Motion passed.

- 3) National Weather Service Winter Forecast- Link Crawford gave an update on the winter forecast via conference call and in office handouts. He reports 50-70% of normal snow fall so far. Still forecasted to be in El Nina pattern.
- 4) Reservoir: 51%, 179 Inflow, 88 Release, and gaining about 0.5% per day
- 5) Canal Status- All canals are snowed in, and no water is running. Discussion was held on Russell Babcock's headgate that is out of compliance, and it was reiterated that no water will be delivered until fixed. There will be a reminder sent out with 2021 assessment. Also, a headgate that is not lockable was brought to Byron's attention. Lucas will look into it and contact the patron who owns it.
- 6) ICRMP- Jim McKelvey came in and spoke about ICRMP and the coverage it provides for the district. Motion to renew ICRMP through Jim McKelvey was made by Max Bingham; seconded by Darrell Lee McDonald. Motion passed.
- 7) Budget- The decision was made to table this agenda item and send the un-approved budget home with the directors for review. There will be a special meeting on 1/11/2021 to approve budget, and to discuss any issue noted by the directors after they have had more time to go over it.

- 8) Liens- Letters have been written, and are ready to send to Custer and Butte Counties.
- 9) IWUA Invoice Approval- Discussion was held on the benefits vs. cost for membership. Board members want to table this item pending information Lucas will find out about if they help with funding for projects.
- 10) Darland Skid Steer Services Invoice Approval- Motion was made by Darrell Lee to approve payment on the Darland Skid Steer invoice; seconded by Max Bingham. Motion passed.
- 11) IWORQ Renewal- Discussion was held on the benefit vs. the cost for maintaining membership. The advice of the board to Lucas was to drop the membership as there was no seen benefit from it.
- 12) Hiring of Shane Reimer to survey the Burnett- Motion was made by Darrell Lee; seconded by Mark Roberts to hire Shane Reimer for the survey on the Burnett. Motion passed.
- 13) Opt-Out Tazarr Forbes & Terry Pettet- Tazarr Forbes all assessments and opt out fees have been paid. Motion was made by Max Bingham to approve Forbes opt-out; seconded by Darrell Lee. Motion passed. Terry Pettet assessments have been paid opt-out has not, Mark Roberts will contact him and see if he still wants to opt-out of BLRID.
- 14) Discussion on Potential Opt-Outs Who Have Approached Mark Roberts- There was discussion on how to advise people who would like to opt-out of BLRID. The decision was made to tell them to contact BLRID office for forms and instruction.
- 15) Potential Board Members and Assessments- A motion was made to propose a by-law by Byron Pehrson; seconded by Darrell Lee that states: In order to run for a position on the Big Lost River Irrigation District Board of Directors, the nominee must first be in good financial standing with BLRID and have all fees and dues paid in full. Once elected, all Directors must stay current on their assessments or their position and term of office will be suspended. Motion passed.
- 16) Arco Diversion Later Pipeline Association- Easement: Discussion was held on easements for pipelines, and if BLRID can grant easements through their easements. Also discussed were options other than using a pipeline to reduce shrink to irrigation water being delivered. Board wants an alternative method that helps reduce shrink for all patrons. Lining of canals was talked about. Discussion on easements was tabled, and the decision was made for Mike Telford and Lucas to collaborate on a plan to present at the next board meeting.
- 17) Max Bingham- Letters from Attorney and IDWR: Byron apologized for getting the dates for the Rotation Credit Hearing wrong, and sending the letter to release Kent Fletcher as our attorney on file for the matter before it was agreed upon. Discussion was held on whether permission was given or not given by all board members for the letter to be written. A recess was taken from 3:10pm to 3:20pm. Motion was made by Max Bingham that ALL letters from attorney and IDWR be sent to all board members via e-mail. Motion was tabled till next meeting, without a second, pending phone conference with ICRMP.
- 18) To Do List- Lucas updated the board on the on going To-Do-List.
- 19) Dam Funding- Discussion held on status of gathering funding and hiring someone to help with applying/writing grants. Motion was made by Darrell Lee, seconded by Mark Roberts, to hire Dave Tuthill to help find and apply for grants with weekly updates and an adjustable cap of \$7500 to start, pending review of contract. Motion passed.
- 20) Kent Fletcher Rotation Credit Hearing- Discussion was held on the need to have our attorney present at hearing. Motion was made by Max Bingham; seconded by Darrell Lee, to have Kent Fletcher be the attorney on file and attend the Rotation Credit Hearing to represent BLRID, and a letter be sent to him requesting he do that. Motion passed.
- 21) Executive Session – Statute 74-206 (1) None

Adjournment: There being no further business for consideration a motion was made to adjourn by Max Bingham; seconded by Darrel Lee McDonald. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. Next Meeting: February 2nd, 2021. Approved minutes can be downloaded from the website: www.blrid.com. All meetings are recorded.

ATTEST:

_____ Byron Pehrson, Chairman

_____ Mark Roberts, Secretary-Treasurer