

Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at 10:00 A.M.
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
AGENDA

These are the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Directors of the United Irrigation District, held in the Glenwood Office on March 22, 2017, commencing at 10:00 A.M.

Present: Duane Nelson – Chairman
Daniel Hunsperger – Vice-Chairman
Jim Woolf – Board Member
Brandon Gibb – Board Member
Fred Rice – Manager
B. Craig Smith – Assistant Manager
Viera Ducky – Assistant Manager in Training
Public in Attendance – Lloyd Smith

Discussion and Acceptance of the February 21, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to accept the February 21, 2017 minutes. SECONDED by Brandon Gibb
...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the February 2017 Payroll

Brandon Gibb MOVED to accept the February payroll, SECONDED by Jim Woolf ...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of March 22, 2017 Accounts Payable

Jim Woolf MOVED to accept March 22, 2017Accounts Payable; SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger.
...CARRIED

Discussion and Acceptance of the Financial Statement to March 22, 2017

Brandon Gibb MOVED to accept the financial statement as of March 22, 2017. SECONDED by Jim Woolf.
...CARRIED

Highway Crossing Repairs

Fred updated the Board of Directors about his meeting with the lawyer and his advice. Mr. Thomas B. MacLachlan suggested that we do not take this to the court as the cost would be too much as well as he indicated that he could not deal with our file as it would be conflict of interest as his associates work with Syn-Core Directional Ltd. The Last email from Syn-Core stated that they are willing to pay Invoice for \$ 5,754.80 with the condition that Syn-Core Directional Ltd. gets a full release from United Irrigation District for this entire project that was billed out on March 27/15 (Invoice 10093). Daniel suggested that 6” pipe will be pushed through the crossing to repair it. As the warranty on fusion of pipe is over, Board decided to accept Syn-Core’s offer.

Jim Woolf MOVED that the UID accept the Syn-Core Directional Ltd. offer to pay \$5,754.80 for the repairs and release Syn-Core from any future liability for fusion failure on the Hwy crossings.
SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger. ...CARRIED

Rod Taylor Bridge

Original Agreement for Rod Taylor Bridge was found. As per agreement the Vendor, which is Mr. Taylor, is responsible for all repairs on this bridge. Board recommended that Fred need to speak with Mr. Taylor about the original agreement.

Skype participation in Board Meetings.

Discussion about Skype participation in Board Meetings was brought by question from some of nominees for Board Directors. Brandon really likes this idea and mentioned we will likely need to do it soon or later. It will also be good for more flexibility and higher time efficiency. Directors can still add value to conversation through skype even they are not physically present. Other Board members would prefer to do it in the traditional way for now. They are thinking that if a nominee is asking about Skype participation, he is already planning not to be at most of the meetings.

Adjusted United Irrigation District 2017 Budget

A mistake in the amount of \$50,000 was found in estimated expenses as amortization was counted twice. In that case our estimated deficit is lower by that amount.

Brandon Gibb MOVED to accept the 2017 Adjusted Budget. SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger.

...CARRIED

Scholarship 2017

All Board Directors agreed to offer scholarship for 2017. This amount would still be \$500. Jim Woolf would like to open this scholarship to all graduating students from Grade 12 at Cardston High School due to low number of graduating students from District area. Daniel suggested specific essay questions and other Directors agreed on it. Essay theme is: How does irrigation in Southern Alberta directly affect the environment? We will also offer Scholarship for Grade 9 students from Spring Glen Junior High School in Hill Spring in the amount of \$250 with the same essay question.

MLA Meeting – March 8, 2017 in Edmonton

Daniel was not able to attend this meeting due his other responsibilities. He is going to the regular AIPA meeting on Friday March 24th, 2017 and he will give us a report next meeting of what he learned about the MLA Meeting from other members.

JD 750C Repairs

Fred reported about welding work provided by Monty French Welding Ltd on the JD 750C. He was satisfied with work done as well at a reasonable price. There was another leak found which required new pump. As per Fred, total repair price will be about \$7,000. We need to find less expensive vendor for parts. Duane suggested Columbia Chrome in Sparwood, BC.

Board of Directors Nominations

As for now we have received 4 nominations for 2 positions for Board Director. Our Election will be held on April 12th, 2017 from 10am to 8pm. This year we will have only one station for the election at the UID office.

Water Licence request

Mr. Allison a Hydrologist in AB asked about buying 60 acre feet of water to be transferred from the UID existing license. Prior to consideration the Board of Directors needs to know what the water will be used for and also the exact legal land description based on a Land Title. An email to Mr. Allison will be sent. As Brandon noted, we would rather supply with water somebody who really needs it than for commercial use. Daniel also reminded the Board that after the last water licence sale the Board decided not to sell any more water licence.

Appointment of Annual Meeting Chairperson

Jim Woolf was appointed by the Directors to be Chairman of the Annual Meeting today at 1pm in Hill Spring Community Hall. Jim agreed with that.

IRP funding still at \$19M

The government of Alberta released its 2017-18 Budget. The Minister of Agriculture and Forestry informed us that Irrigation Council will see capital funding sustained at \$19 million for IRP projects. This amount will remain for another 2-3 years. Nothing will change for us as our budget for 2017 was based on those numbers.

Riverside Colony asking for 26 Acre Feet of water for Confined feeding operation as well as for permission to store that water in our Leveling Pond.

Fred explained to Board Directors about this request from Riverside Colony. Alberta Environment & Parks is not willing to give permission to Colony to drill their own well for their confined feeding operation and they are asking us to provide 7,000,000 gallons of water as well as store that water in our Leveling Pond.

After discussion the Board is willing to provide water for Riverside Colony but not willing to store that water in our Leveling Pond. We don't want to take the risk that the Colony will have no water for their feeding operation in case we need to provide some work on Leveling Pond and it needs to be empty.

Investment authority for RBC and ATB

As Viera Ducky is still in her probation period, Jim Woolf and Fred Rice will be the investment authorities for RBC and ATB.

Fred's Agenda:

1. A rate payer was complaining about the high rate for Small Parcel Charges. She also mentioned that she would like to attend meetings if they are in the evenings.
2. There were few concerns and complaining about high water level in our canal due to snow melting so quickly this spring. All agreed that the UID irrigation system have saved a lot of flooding.

Brandon Gibb MOVED that the meeting be adjourned at 11:55 A.M. SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 15, 2017 at 10:00 A.M.

Chairman – Duane Nelson

District Manager – Fred Rice