

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners (Board) of Greenfields Irrigation District (GID) held on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7:00 PM. Attending the meeting were President Tim Brunner, Vice President Bill Norris, Commissioners David Gulick, Chris Ostberg and Pat Brosten, Manager Erling Juel, Secretary Trudy Whitmore, O&M Foreman Charlie Clement, GID Ditchriders Steve Lettengarver and Cory Copenhaver, Travis Wilson, Sun River Watershed Group coordinator, Alan Rollo and Landowners Chase Brady and Michael Konen.

President Brunner called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and asked for approval of the agenda as presented. Commissioner Brosten motioned for approval, Commissioner Ostberg seconded and the vote was unanimous for approval.

Minutes from the January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 regular meeting were unanimously approved as mailed following Commissioner Gulick's motion, Mr. Brosten's second. Minutes from a Special Meeting held on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 were presented. See page 2, under Item 4, the 1<sup>st</sup> full sentence was amended to read "Discussion followed about if...". Those minutes were approved as amended; Mr. Ostberg motion, Mr. Brosten second, unanimous vote.

Warrants totaling \$72,791.83 (\$136.24 reimbursables) were presented. There was no discussion and the warrants were approved for payment...Mr. Ostberg made the motion, Mr. Brosten seconded and the vote carried.

Parties Presenting Issues: None

Contracts to Execute: A Right of Entry and Temporary Construction Permit/Agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation (BoR) and GID for an AgriMet station at J Waste-Way was presented for signature. The BoR has a measuring device at J Waste-Way and this revised agreement now includes the BoR having to move the site if GID moves forward with improvements at the waste way. This was approved during an earlier meeting; no Board action required other than signature.

Manager's Report: See attached.

- 1) RESERVOIR & RIVER OPERATIONS AND PROJECTIONS: Snow pack levels are good. The National Climate Prediction Center is still predicting above normal precipitation with below normal temperatures which continues to be a good thing.
- 6) BILL PEARSON LAWSUIT: B. This request is consistent with what the DNRC wants for the State Water Service Contract (WSCS) lands for the 2017 season except that the WSCS's were in place since the mid 1980's which is not so on Farm Unit 260. Depending on the court ruling, precedent will not be set but similar requests could be presented to the Board and would be handled on each individual basis. This request will be acted on under Agenda Item #1.
- 7) The vehicle being considered is a Ford not a Dodge with estimated cost to convert it to GID's needs of \$6500.00. O&M Foreman Clement is looking at high pressure pumps which

start at \$3,000. Most of the \$6500 estimated cost is for the pump(s). Clement is checking on a 2<sup>nd</sup> tractor mower set-up for the 2017 season. On February 10<sup>th</sup> the State will issue their list of vehicles and bids for the procurement program. GID is looking to replace vehicles for GID's Dam Tender, O&M Foreman and Division 5 Ditch Rider. If there is nothing on the State's list GID is looking for, Manager Juel will check with local area dealers. The frames on GID's ATV's are not built to carry 25-30 gallon tanks and GID is looking at replacing the ATV's or utilizing smaller tanks.

9) The hydro project is still included with FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) "pending agency deliberation". Manager Juel is trying to contact Thom Fischer with Tollhouse.

11) Some Board members believe interest rates will be going up hopefully in time for the April renewal of two of GID's Certificates Of Deposit (CD's) at 1<sup>st</sup> Security Bank, Fairfield.

14) Manager Juel will be in touch with the couple who will conduct evaluations of GID's grazing leases... see discussion during previous meetings. Mr. Juel is considering a "pasture supervisor" position to spot check AUM's, condition of grass, read brands etc., two or three times per grazing season. GID knows of a qualified individual for the position who lives in Kalispell but would be here on weekends to check the pastures. The Board discussed putting in test plots on some of the pastures, if not all, in order to help out with evaluating the grass on them. In regard to the grazing leases, the lack of an agreement with the BoR and GID is negatively impacting the drought assistance program with Farm Services.

15) F. Having multiple firms "on board" avoids going through the bid process on every job and it doesn't "pigeon hole" one firm to one project. A 5 year agreement with two or three firms also allows GID flexibility instead of having just one firm for every project.

There was no more discussion on the Manager's Report.

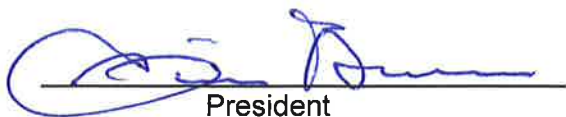
Agenda Item 1) See discussion in the Manager's Report under 6. A. & B. The Board tabled the lawyer's request to the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting to give Mr. Pearson time to complete his 2017 Irrigation Plan and for the Board to review that plan. Mr. Brosten made the motion to table, Mr. Ostberg seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Under Public Comment, Michael Konen formally introduced Travis Wilson as new coordinator of the Sun River Basin Watershed Group. Mr. Wilson came from the Winnett area where he was with the Big Sky Watershed Corp, see attached.

Alan Rollo had nothing to present and Jim Hodgskiss was not at this meeting.

During the current legislative session there is a bill that would have the State claiming all water thereby giving them the ability to tax all water within the State. The bill has not been introduced and the MWRA will fight it if it is introduced for consideration.

There was nothing else presented to the Board. Mr. Brosten motioned to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Gulick seconded...the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

  
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President

  
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Secretary

Recap of Board action during this meeting:

-Tabled Pearson lawyer's request for continued water delivery on Farm Unit 260, 2017 season

AGENDA FOR: Regular Meeting February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 7:00 PM at the office...

CALL TO ORDER

Public Comment: Prior to each agenda item...limited to 5 minutes...any Board action necessary will be addressed at the next regular meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

APPROVE MINUTES: January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Regular Meeting, December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Special Meeting

REVIEW AND APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT

PARTIES PRESENTING ISSUES TO THE BOARD:

CONTRACTS TO EXECUTE: Agrimet Station Right of Entry and Temporary Construction Permit at J-Waste Way.

MANAGER'S REPORT

AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1) FARM UNIT 260 – Continue delivery of water to disputed acres, 2017 season.

Alan Rollo updates...

Jim Hodgskiss updates...

**Tabled items:**

\*Jo Hatch WSC on BoR pasture...Jo, Trudy and Erling are working towards resolution to this issue...from March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting

\*Arlene Harris request to graze landslide area of Parcel #14, December 2016 meeting.