

Greenfields

IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Minutes from a regular Greenfields Irrigation District Board meeting held on Tuesday, December 8th, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. Those in attendance were: Vice President Bill Norris acting as President in Tim Brunner's physical absence, Commissioners Chase Brady, Pat Brosten and Dave Gulick. District Manager Erling Juel and Board Secretary Jenny Gulick were also present. Others present via teleconference were: Board President Tim Brunner, Canal Maintenance Employee Cory Copenhaver, Also, Al Rollo, Tracy Wendt SRWG Coordinator and GID Water User Spencer Pearson. Also present to address the Board during the "Parties Presenting Issues" portion of the meeting via teleconference was Don Davies who is GID's Financial Auditor.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Norris at 7:03 P.M.

Approve Meeting Minutes and Monthly Warrants: The first item of business was to approve the minutes from the November 10th Regular Meeting and Executive Meeting minutes. No discrepancies were found, and Commissioner Brosten moved to approve the minutes with Commissioner Brady seconding the motion. All in favor and the minutes were approved. The next item of business was to approve the November warrants. Brief discussion followed regarding the warrant to RSI for flowable fill on the PSC underdrain project. Clarification was made that the Blue Cross/ Blue Shield Health Insurance Policy covers 3 non-union employees, and it is a comparable plan with the Union's Insurance plan. Commissioner Brosten moved to approve the warrants and Commissioner Brady seconded. All in favor and the minutes were approved.

Parties Presenting Issues: Don Davies presented the Board with an overview of his 2019 Fiscal Year Audit findings (audit reports were provided to each commissioner beforehand to review). November 17th was the actual filing date, but with the current pandemic occurring there will be no penalty fee. GID's net position is down from last year as a lot of jobs have been completed. All cash was accounted for. Don hopes that next year we will be able to clean up the State DNRC liabilities that are currently still on the books. Vice President Norris asked Mr. Davies what the interest in Gibson Hydro figure was for. Don gave a brief explanation of what the figure in question was. Manager Juel mentioned that it was possible that some of the Beaver Creek Crossing money had gotten coded to Gibson Hydro investment accidentally and informed the Board that Secretary Gulick would look into it tomorrow. Mr. Davies informed the Board that in 2018 there was no money assigned to that account. VP Norris asked what the note payable was for and Mr. Davies explained it was for the Case Tractor installment payment. He also gave brief explanation of the statement on page 24 stating how the district handled the COVID pandemic and that was by staying open and having no employees put out of work. Commissioner Brosten moved to adopt the 2019 Fiscal Year Audit Report and Commissioner Brady seconded. All in favor and the motion carried.

Contracts to Execute: None.

The next item of business was the Manager's Report:

Reservoir and River Operations: See M.R. for full details. Snowpack is currently at 130-145% of normal. We have seen considerable run-off due to the warming trend. Gibson is at 128% of normal and 30% full. Willow Creek is slightly below normal and is 69% full.

Water Rights: Nothing New to Report. Todd and Kate Banner came in and signed the Agreement they have with GID to co-mingle their private and GID water rights.

GID Staff Updates: The Union Representative provided a letter with the Union Employee's counter proposal, which will be discussed during the Executive Session meeting directly following this meeting. A number of employees and/or their family members have contracted COVID, which has brought the productivity level down. There will be no Annual Christmas party this year due to social distancing requirements and instead GID will give the employees jackets. Weed Foreman Stan Fry was laid off on November 30th. Manger Juel will be performing employee evaluations beginning next week.

GIS Mapping, Plats, Database & Certification Updates: We are currently working with USBR to finalize a \$25,000 grant and will hold a get together to work towards completion in January. Pondera Canal Company came to look at our new database and get a feel how it could work for them. GID will get a kickback from Edge Marketing and Design if they do decide to proceed on using GID's database model that will be tweaked to suit their needs.

Farm Unit Operations: History of the 960-acre limitation policy was provided to the Board after last month's Board meeting. Manger Juel stated that regardless of the past, no change should be made to the policy unless an interested producer has a petition signed to reconsider changing the policy. There are currently 20 new pivots in the works of being put in and the Board can look for further details on a number of them at next month's meeting. Landowner is requesting consideration for a cost share on alterations to GID's infrastructure to install a new pipeline. This will be discussed in further detail during the Agenda portion of the meeting.

DNRC State Land WSCs: GID lost its' staff attorney because she will be going to work for Gianforte's office. She will assist in writing the reply brief.

Willow Creek Feeder Canal Lawsuit: See M.R. for details. Lawsuit to be discussed further during the Executive Session meeting to follow.

GID Vehicles & Equipment: The John Deere excavator is fixed and working well.

Office & Admin: LED lighting was put in the office. Now we will look into cost to replace the very old and nasty, ripped carpet in the office.

Hydro Updates: We are still moving forward with obtaining easements with SREC's help. Brad Bauman is considering taking the GM job at SREC after Scott Odegard retires this Spring. Manager Juel is looking at attending the Public Service Commissioners' meeting on-line. Arnold Coulee LOPP: No word yet on the \$2 million grant, but hopeful we will hear by mid-January. Our DNRC RRGL grant for \$125,000 is ranked #3, with funding likely to be received after July 2021. We received a refund from SREC for \$19,580 for the 1.8-mile line upgrade. Nothing new to report for Gibson Hydro, but Manager Juel prepared and sent a letter to Tollhouse regarding project status.

Monthly Financials & 2020 Budget: GID will send out a letter to landowners with delinquent taxes for past years. Al Rollo suggested looking at procedure for handling delinquents in past Board Policies and voiced his belief that calling them might be the best initial action to take. See Monthly Warrants List and Board Report for further details.

GID Infrastructure: GID wrote a proposal to MDT to do the work on the closing of SRS D-21 Drain this Winter and it was approved by MDT, but still waiting for the go ahead to begin. We also wrote a proposal to MDT with some options on their proposed road improvements on HWY 89 but have received no word back yet. The DNRC RRGL grant for J-Wasteway was ranked #21 and should most likely see funding after July of 2021 for Fall work to begin. On the DNRC RRGL grant for the SRS 71 Check Replacement and Reregulation, it was ranked #19 and we will most likely receive funding for that after July also. Manager Juel and Al Rollo are working on the FLAP application for the

Sun River Bridge Replacement which will ask for additional funding of \$8.5 million to compliment the FLTP award of \$1.77 million already received. The backfilling at Underdrain Sta 264+90 PSC went well and we are hoping to be ready for thru traffic by the end of the week. GID imported material to fill.

Title Transfer: A draft memorandum of the agreement has still not been received and the USBR is now expected to submit it after the holidays. The USBR manager wants to visit GID and there is a phone call set-up to discuss the status.

GID O&M Projects: See O&M Foreman's List of jobs completed, as well as notes in the M.R. for maintenance items in progress or in the planning phase. Tonne's Muddy Creek Crossing project must be completed by late Spring.

Grazing Lease Issues: Currently there are no Grazing Leases being given up.

Miscellaneous: Steve Davies and Tom Sawatzke, the #1 and #2 USBR people at the Montana Area Office are retiring at the end of the month. GID received a proposal to have the Forest Service police camping at Willow Creek Reservoir for \$5,000 per year. Need more details if Pishkun camping is also included.

Short-Term and Long-Term To-Do-Lists: See the M.R. for details.

Agenda Items:

- 1) Mark Coverdell requested winter grazing on his pastures #23 and #59 for December and January. Commissioner Brosten moved to approve the request and Commissioner Brady seconded. All in favor and the motion carried.
- 2) 2021 Union Negotiations will be held during an Executive Session meeting that will be held immediately following this meeting.
- 3) FYI provided to the Board for several new pivots being installed, see handouts provided. President Brunner asked that Manager Juel get with Charlie and Dale to look into how Ed Birky's water rights, both private and GID rights are being handled and feels that we need an agreement with the landowner to co-mingle both rights.
- 4) Commissioner Brosten will run for re-election for Precinct #2 and Commissioner Brady will run for re-election for Precinct #4.
- 5) Landowner Marty Klinker request for interest on pasture rebate not refunded nor requested, see attached letter. Brief discussion followed. Commissioner Gulick motioned to deny Klinker's request and Commissioner Brosten seconded. All in favor and the motion carried.
- 6) Landowner Spencer Pearson requests consideration for a cost share on alterations to GID's infrastructure to install a new pipeline, see attached proposal. Pearson wants to close the drain and the lateral, in which he will do the work, but requests a cost share on the new pipeline to be laid. The drain is to be filled in with dirt and the Bureau will require us to maintain them in the event that they will need to be used again. Commissioner Brady moved to allow the closing of the drain with the stipulation that GID is ensured no liability issues if subbing issues occur. Commissioner Brosten seconded the motion. All are in favor and the motion carried. The second request needing to be voted on is the closing of the lateral and the cost share of the pipeline at 25%, with Pearson filling in the lateral himself. Commissioner Brady moved to approve the request and Commissioner Brosten seconded. All are in favor and the motion carried.
- 7) This Item is not on the Agenda, as it was added just before the meeting commenced. Landowner Mitch Konen is putting in a new pivot and GID has asked him to move the sump location from one canal GM 59-

26 to another, the end of GM 72. Konen requests that GID cost share moving the sump. The estimated total cost will be around \$5,500 and it will benefit both GID and the landowner. Commissioner Brady moved to table the request until we see a proposed bid on the cost to do so. Commissioner Brosten seconded. All in favor and the motion is tabled.


Public Comment:

- 1) Al Rollo gave the Board a reminder on DNRC grants that we may need more Board involvement to help get the word out to the legislatures. He also informed the Board that there is a chart showing the government's budget funding levels, which helps to determine which grants we apply for.
- 2) Teton County Commissioner Jim Hodgskiss is not present and is scheduled to retire at the end of the month.
- 3) Tracy Wendt with SRWG then addressed the Board. She informed the Board that she has been busy working on grant reporting. The next Board meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2021 at which time there will be an election to renew/replace the Board members. SRWG sent out Year End Newsletters. She is working with Erling and Charlie on up-coming projects such as the Buffalo Ranch crossing, the Muddy Creek gauge and Marc Lee's project.

Commissioner Brosten moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Brady seconded. All in favor and the meeting is adjourned at 8:28 p.m.



Board President



Board Secretary

Recap of Board Action During the Meeting:

- 1) Board voted to allow Mark Coverdell to winter graze on Pastures #23 and #59 for December & January.
- 2) Commissioners Brosten and Brady to run for re-election.
- 3) Board voted to deny Marty Klinker's request for interest on pasture rebate not refunded.
- 4) Board approved Spencer Pearson's request to close drain assuming that GID will incur no liability for any subbing issues experienced. Board also approved the request to close the lateral and provide a 25% cost share on the pipeline put in.
- 5) Board voted to table Mitch Konen's request to cost share moving the sump to a new location for his new pivot installation until a bid on the cost is provided.