

**DEER CREEK IRRIGATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF THE
OCTOBER 3, 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

PLACE: Vina Elementary School Auditorium, 4790 D Street, Vina, CA 96092

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Jeff Rabo, Linda Pitter, Jake Thompson, Doug Amato

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Patrick Johnson

The meeting was called to order by Board President Jeff Rabo at 5:11pm. Secretary Donna Mullen recorded the minutes. With no corrections to be made to the agenda, Director Pitter moved that the agenda be approved with a modification to allow for public comment prior to beginning the Reports section. Director Thompson seconded, and the vote was unanimous. Director Pitter read the minutes from the September 19, 2022 regularly scheduled meeting. Director Pitter moved to approve the minutes as amended. Director Thompson seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.

John Pitter provided a summary of his efforts to place tarps in approximately 40 feet of District ditch that partially collapsed in front of his house. A brief discussion followed regarding the location and quantity of damaged irrigation ditch, as well as possible long-term solutions. Susan Edson inquired about the rate increase agenda item. Additional clarification was provided regarding the status of the rate discussion based on previous Board meetings. The Board's intention for further discussion at the current meeting was to provide further member input and a final discussion of the District's costs to operate prior to establishing a recommended rate increase.

Treasurer Ellen Stephens presented two District invoices for the period of September 20, 2022 through October 3, 2022. One for \$411.54 to Donna Mullen for purchase of a ditch tender laptop, and one for \$562.50 to Downey Brand for services rendered through September. She also presented two checks issued for Melvin's phone allowance and for Red Bluff Outdoor Power. Director Pitter made a motion to approve payment of the invoices from Donna and Downey Brand. Director Amato seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve payment. Ellen also presented a reconciliation report and current account balance. She presented the Profit and Loss statement for September and suggested to the Board that it be presented quarterly instead of monthly. The Board agreed and no questions followed.

President Rabo provided an update that the water delivery was still occurring and would likely begin tapering off as the irrigation season comes to an end. Discussion followed regarding Melvin's current schedule after returning to school. President Rabo presented the topic of infrastructure assessment and reviewed the priority project this winter as being the collapsed ditch across from the Pitter's property. Substantial efforts were made throughout the season to clear brush and debris from the District ditches, and many piles of vegetation along the ditches will need to be burned over the winter. Discussion followed regarding efforts to patch or repair concrete ditches and the potential need for additional labor during the winter. Darryl Wood suggested that he could provide contact information for an individual that may be able to provide some skilled concrete labor.

The topic of delinquent tax assessments was continued from the last meeting. President Rabo, Director Johnson and Case Knox assessed the condition of the District ditch through Gene Amato's property to Mike Chambers' property. It was determined that if the ditch was cleaned, water could be delivered to Mike Chambers' property. Since the last meeting, the Board

received clarification that Mike Chambers' current tax delinquency is for the 2021 and 2022 irrigation seasons. Director Pitter suggested that late fees could be forgiven, but that Mr. Chambers should be responsible for the two years of dues. The District would direct the convict crew to clean the ditch thoroughly during the winter.

Discussion continued from the previous meeting regarding a potential rate assessment increase. After a thorough summary of the previous two Board meeting discussions, it was agreed that a rate increase would be necessary largely due to the high increase in inflation. A discussion followed regarding tax increase constraints and limitations imposed by proposition 218, and suggestions from members in attendance. Upon closing the discussion, the Board agreed that President Rabo would talk to the District's attorneys regarding rate increase not to exceed 5%, and solicit their feedback and guidance.

Ellen presented an outline of the district tour. Dates, stopping points and hosts were considered. Ellen Stephens will revise the tour outline, and she and Donna Mullen will prepare a flyer for dispersal to the constituency.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT at 8:50pm