



AGENDA
HUNTLEY PROJECT IRRIGATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Main Office

November 13, 2024

5:00 p.m.

- I. Approval of Minutes**
- II. Approval of Warrants**
- III. Treasurers Report**
- IV. Manager's Report**
- V. Scott Aspenlieder – USDA Project Discussion**
- VI. Brian Osness – Irrigation share rearrangement**





HUNTLEY PROJECT IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES November 13, 2024 5:00 p.m.

The Huntley Project Irrigation District held the regular board meeting at its main office on November 13, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Present at the meeting was, President, Cody Kuntz, Vice President, Justin Hein. Commissioners, Denis Adams, Mark Fox, and John Mahan. Manager, Travis Kamp, Secretary/Treasurer, Sandra Rush. Also present was Scott Aspenlieder with Performance Engineering, Landowner, Brian Osness & Andrew Bolerjack with the Yellowstone County News.

Minutes

Cody called the meeting to order. The meeting minutes from October 9, 2024, were reviewed. Denis Adams asked Travis if he had scheduled the pump out of the Pryor Creek Siphon, Travis said he will schedule this for some time in late December most likely. With no other questions or comments being brought forward, Justin Hein motioned to accept the minutes as they were read. Denis Adams 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

Warrants & Stockman Bank Debit Card

Warrant numbers 79029960 – 79030042 were presented. Sandra said she received a call from Landowner Thomas Lee, stating that he believed he has been charged for irrigation shares that he does not have, nor has he had since he purchased the property in 2018. She said after investigating this he would be correct. She also added that she corrected this in the years 2019 & 2021 but for some reason the County did not make the necessary changes to their database and continued to charge him for 37.5 irrigated acres. She said it was just missed the other years. A total of \$7,275.00 was overcharged and is due to be reimbursed to him. Sandra said she contacted Marci Schafer and another county clerk regarding this error requesting the correction to this year's taxes that have already gone out. He will be



credited for this year's 1st half of the tax bill that has already been paid on his 2nd half. Leroy Gabel contacted the office inquiring about a pump contract that HPID has with his dad. He said he recently has had to take over the books for his mother and noticed that the annual payment of \$1,134.00 has not been received in several years. Sandra said she was not made aware of this when she took her position, therefore a total of 5 years in back payments are due to be paid to the Gabel's. Without any questions or comments being brought forward, Justin Hein motioned to accept the warrants & the Stockman Bank debit card purchases. Denis Adams 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report/Office Business

Sandra presented the November budget variance report. The latest trial balance received 9/30/2024. \$1,696.72 was received in 2023 assessments. The balance remaining to be paid for the 2023 tax season is \$686.36. Sandra said the 2024 taxes are beginning to drop into the O&M Cash acct.

- We are going to go over budget this year. Sandra explained with the screen repairs that are being done and the amount of maintenance and equipment repairs that were required this year, it will cause an overage. At this time, it's hard to put a solid amount on the overage but I am estimating approx. 250k.
- A question regarding earned PTO was brought to the office. Sandra said an employee who has put in over 20 years with the City/County prior to his employment with HPID was earning 2 PTO days of month for his years of employment asked if we honor the same contract policies as that of the County? Commissioner Cody Kuntz said he did feel that HPID coincides with the City/County policies. HPID is not City or County. We are a Quasi State. Justin Hein added that this is something that should be negotiated during the union negotiations. Sandra said the employees will begin to prepare for negotiations in 2025. Their contract ends 12/31/2025.

Manager's Report

Travis reported that maintenance continues as weather permits. He spoke to the Board briefly regarding the possibility of assisting employees that would like to gain their CDL's through the CDL program here in Billings. The cost of schooling is around 7k. The Commissioners did not feel this was something they wanted to offer at this time. The Commissioners fear that even if we had a 2-year agreement between the Irrigation District and the employee to compensate HPID for the schooling, there is no guarantee the employee would honor the entire 2 years and doesn't feel the funds provided for the schooling could easily be recovered.



- Komatsu needs new bushings & pins. Commissioners instructed Travis to get what is needed
- Trying to coordinate with Rail Link to plan a removal of the rock at the entrance of tunnel 2.
- Struggling still with the fiber optic installations with Charter. Acceptable bore logs are not being received. Daily logs of where construction is occurring each day is also not being received. Scott spoke with Charter to get bore logs that are legible and have geo locations. Nemont is not doing much in our system currently.
- Travis gained quotes from IWS & Purvis for screen repairs & materials needed for repair work. The cost through IWS is almost the cost of new screens. Repair work would cost roughly 125k with shipping. A new set could be purchased for 160k. Through Purvis we can get the chain, belting & rods for 50k. They would be built in Virginia and shipped here. The only thing that would not be included is the flight clips. Travis said, we can put those on here ourselves. Justin Hein said he still wanted Brad Kembel to do the shaft work as well. Travis said he spoke with him today. Brad wants the screens without the chain & mesh. We are going to haul it all down there to him. He already has the 2 bottom bearings and has already done the shafts. We need to get the top bearings to him still. A decision on which direction the Commissioners want him to go forward with is needed no later than the Dec 11th meeting. As of date, Purvis is 75 working days out for delivery. That is pushing us into late March to put screens back together and ready to operate by mid-April at best. Travis is going to call Keenen with Purvis tomorrow and have him come out here next week and meet with him & Commissioners for more discussion.

Brian Osness

Brian wants to place 2 pivots on the old home place on his land that is fed off the extension line. He said he would place these pivots one at a time. He wants to move the diversion site to the reservoir line. Travis said a check would need to be put in and Brian understands that he will have to cover the cost for that. But in doing this, it will take some heat off the extension line. Justin Hein motioned to approve the pump site and check for new pivots. John Mahan 2nd the motion. Motion carried. Travis said after looking closer at all the Osness's tax ID's and the placement of the new pivots, we saw that we needed to move some shares around between some of his parcels to ensure that all the land that is being irrigated has the appropriate amount of shares assigned to them. We will only be moving shares that are not being used on other parcels to the parcels that will be using them. He will not be gaining irrigation shares in doing this. Travis sat down with Brian in the office for several hours going over maps and irrigation shares assigned to their properties and together they were able to reassign his current shares to the appropriate parcels



where is irrigation is occurring and where pivots will be placed. The Commissioners requested Travis to prepare a motion for the share swap with all transfers listed with their Tax IDs for the December board meeting and present it for a motion.

Scott Aspenlieder - Performance Engineering

Scott Aspenlieder came to the meeting to discuss potential projects toward the USDA Water Conservation Project and to gain approval to enter into a formal agreement with the USDA for the 15M in funding. 19 projects totaling \$19,890,258.00 were presented. The Commissioners reviewed and discussed each project with Scott and Travis. Out of the 19 projects, 8 projects were selected to move forward with that will fulfill the 15M in USDA funding. Scott said he wants to update our paper map by using a geographic information system (GIS) to gain a digital map of the District. Scott said important detail can be represented in helping to modernize our mapping. Scott said he wants to start with a couple of the smaller projects just to get a better feel on how this will all play out. Once everyone is comfortable, we will move onto the larger ticket items. Discussion evolved on which areas we should start 1st. Scott & Travis feel piping lateral D03 & D04 would be a good starting point. John Mahan motioned to move forward into an Agreement with the USDA. Denis Adams 2nd the motion. Motion carried, unanimously.

With no other issues being brought forward, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes are transcribed and respectfully submitted by:

Sandra Rush - Secretary/Treasurer

Approved By/Title: Cody Kuntz – President

Date: 12/11/2024