

April 6, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Pathfinder Irrigation District met in their office in Mitchell, NE on Thursday, April 6, 2023.

Those present were: Mick Lookabill, President, Brady Howell, Jeff Jenkins, Monty Reisig, Randy Hoff. Directors, Margaret Harriger, Sec.-Treas., and Rick Miller, Manager. Absent: Alan Fenning.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. with reference being made to the "Open Meetings Act" as posted in the Boardroom.

The reading of the minutes was dispersed with at the minutes had been given to the Directors for prior review. A motion was made by Hoff second by Reisig to approve the minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken with Howell, Jenkins, Reisig, Hoff, and Lookabill voting yes. Absent: Alan Fenning. Motion Carried.

Alan Fenning arrived at 9:05 a.m.

Payroll and bills in the amount of \$222,926.05 were approved on a motion by Reisig second by Hoff. A roll call vote was taken with Jenkins, Reisig, Fenning, Hoff, Lookabill and Howell voting yes. Motion Carried.

The Financial Statement was approved on a motion by Jenkins second by Reisig. A roll call vote was taken with Reisig, Fenning, Hoff, Lookabill, Howell and Jenkins voting yes. Motion Carried.

Matt Wells and Brock Merrill of the Bureau of Reclamation met with the Board on routine business. They reported that the ownership in the irrigation account stood at 295,038 acre feet, Guernsey Lake was at 22,000 acre feet and the Inland Lakes account was at 19,634 acre feet as of April 5, 2023.

A motion was made by Jenkins second by Reisig to adopt the Wyoming Region 7 Mitigation plan update for 2023. A roll call vote was taken with Fenning, Hoff, Lookabill, Howell, Jenkins and Reisig voting yes. Motion Carried.

The Manager gave an update on the Landowners' claims against Pathfinder Irrigation District regarding the Canal breach, Crank Legal Group is representing some of the landowners.

Water Operations for 2023 were discussed. At this time the district is planning on starting the canal on April 12<sup>th</sup> to fill the inland lakes.

The seasonal staffing for 2023 was discussed. The Mitchell Division still has ditch rider position to fill, otherwise the staffing is completed.

The District Audit has been completed for the 2021-2022 fiscal year by the Contryman Associates. Everything was in order according to the United States of America auditing standards.

No one appeared during the time set aside for Public Comment.

The Manager's report was given as follows:

**PATHFINDER IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
MANAGER'S REPORT  
April 6, 2023**

➤ **Spring Work**

The staff continues to focus on preparing the laterals and canals for the 2023 water season. Snow in the canals is making it difficult to burn weeds.

➤ **Tim Meister's tile line off of the Ford Ditch.**

The tile line for Becker's farm that runs along the road on county road E through Tim Meister's property has been installed. All of the cement ditch has been removed, and the pipe is buried. This will be a great improvement having this cement ditch gone. The ditch was one of those areas that needed to be cleaned every couple of years and was starting to show its age.

➤ **Employee Vacancies**

For the first time in a couple of years, the District is fully staffed as far as crews go. We have two ditch rider vacancies in the Mitchell Division. I have had good luck using Indeed online to fill these positions.

➤ **Yonts Water Conference**

Information and registration for the 2023 Yonts Water Conference to be held on April 12 at the Panhandle Research Extension and Education Center. Information can be found at [Yonts Water Conference | Nebraska Extension \(unl.edu\)](https://www.unl.edu/yonts) Pre-registration is required by April 7<sup>th</sup> for a meal count. Minor adjustments to the agenda may be made later.

➤ **Drain Inspection**

We looked at the drains with Farmers Irrigation District. Some of the things that need to be addressed is a headwall on the Alliance drain above the Farmer's Irrigation canal. The Districts must also haul some hardpan to protect the flume south of Bayard.

➤ **Schmaltz Bridge on the Highline Canal**

The bridge that was damaged on the Highline Canal last year by fire has been replaced. The deck was set the last week in March, and all the welding and backfilling are completed. The Minatare crew did a great job pouring the headwalls and lining up the correct skew for the bridge.

➤ **21 Lateral**

Mitchell Division has hauled all the hardpan they need to haul for this year on 21 lateral. I expect to see a great improvement in efficiency and capacity with the work we have done on this lateral. The District also removed an old check structure to give the lateral more fall.

➤ **Mountain Peaks**

Matt with Mountain Peaks is scheduled to come over next week and finish fixing and replacing the issues we have had with our automation system. I am optimistic we will get things going in the right direction for the 2023 water season regarding our automation.

The tentative date for the next regular meeting has been set for May 4, 2023, at the District Office located at 140624 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Mitchell, NE. and will convene at 9:00 a.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

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Mick Lookabill, President

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Margaret Harriger, Sec.-Treas.