

January 5, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Pathfinder Irrigation District met in their office in Mitchell, NE on Thursday, January 5, 2023.

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

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

The reading of the minutes was dispensed with as 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. Motion Carried.

Alan Fenning arrived at 9:10 a.m.

Payroll and bills in the amount of \$132,834.76 were approved on a motion by Jenkins second by Reisig. 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 Hoff. A roll call vote was taken with Reisig, Fenning, Hoff, Lookabill, Howell and Jenkins voting yes. Motion Carried.

The current snow pack report as of Jan. 2, 2023 was at 125% of normal for the Upper North Platte.

The outlet works on Lake Minatare are in need of repair and the Manager has been working with Michael Placke, PE with the JHEO Consulting Group, Inc. regarding the replacement of the outlet face, valves, impact blocks and stabilization of the canal banks immediately downstream of the outlet works. We are working on getting funding through the State of Nebraska Surface Water Irrigation Infrastructure Funds LB1012e and possible Water Smart Grants through Reclamation for this repair work.

The Associated Facility Review (AFR) report was discussed and we will continue to work on the repairs to the facility as outlined by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Employee salary adjustments for 2023 were discussed. A motion was made by Hoff second by Howell to allow a 6.5% raise for the employees. A roll call vote

was taken with Fenning, Hoff, Lookabill, Howell, Jenkins and Reisig voting yes. Motion Carried.

Bids on pickups were discussed. The Manager will look into the possibility of purchasing one new pickup.

Ballots were cast for the election of a Director in District # 1 of the North Platte Valley Irrigators Association. A motion was made by Hoff second by Reisig to cast 44 votes for Rodney A Schaneman and 44 votes for Mick Lookabill. A roll call vote was taken with Lookabill, Howell, Jenkins, Reisig, Fenning and Hoff voting yes. Motion Carried.

Selection of Clerks and Judges for the upcoming elections in Lateral Divisions one and two of the Pathfinder Irrigation District to be held on February 7, 2023 were as follows: Lateral Division # 1 Paul Pieper, Clerk and Mike Gompert and Tom Butcher, Judges. Lateral Division # 2, Vern Groskopf, Clerk and Jim Darnell III, and Dean Keener, Judges. Alternate: Torry Butcher.

The hiring of personnel was once more discussed. A decision will be made at a later date.

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
January 5, 2023**

➤ **21 Lateral**

The district's employees continue to haul clay on 21 lateral to help seal up the bottom in the sandy area towards the beginning of the lateral. After a large amount of snow has blown in, they are dumping the clay on the road until the snow melts. We may have to take dozers in and doze the snow out if we don't continue to get above-freezing temperatures.

➤ **Pipeline Project Progress.**

This month the Mitchell District will begin removing the cement ditch so we can start to lay the pipeline through Tim Meister's property.

➤ **New Server in Mitchell Office.**

Kevin with Advance Technology has installed our new server and worked out all the bugs during the installation. The server is updated and should give us several years of use.

➤ **Workers Compensation Audit.**

Our worker's compensation audit came out well. The District has received a small refund on last year's payments. The District's employees continue to keep safety as the primary concern, and our premium reflects this.

➤ **The Hiring of Personnel.**

The Minatare District still needs two truck driver positions and an operator position soon. I will continue to look for individuals to fill these positions. I am going to continue to advertise these positions. It is getting difficult to find qualified individuals to fill these positions.

➤ **Schmaltz Bridge.**

The Minatare District has completed the headwalls for Schmaltz's bridge. We will set the deck on the headwalls this month.

The tentative date for the next regular meeting has been set for Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at the District Office located at 140624 10th Street, Mitchell, NE and will convene at 9:00 a.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 o'clock a.m.

Mick Lookabill, President

Margaret Harriger, Sec.-Treas.