

January 7, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Pathfinder Irrigation District met in their office in Mitchell, NE on Thursday, January 7, 2021.

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

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 Boardroom.

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 Lookabill second by Reisig to approve the minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken with Howell, Jenkins, Reisig Fenning, Hoff and Lookabill voting yes. Motion carried.

Payroll and bills in the amount of \$195,925.15 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 Howell second by Jenkins. A roll call vote was taken with Reisig, Fenning, Hoff, Lookabill, Howell and Jenkins voting yes. Motion Carried.

The 2021 salary adjustments were discussed. A motion was made by Jenkins second by Fenning to allow a 2% salary adjustment as presented in the 2021 budget. A roll call vote was taken with Fenning, Hoff, Lookabill, Howell, Jenkins and Reisig voting yes. Motion Carried.

The Manager provided a report on the ownership of water in the following reservoirs as of December 31, 2020. Pathfinder Ownership stands at 439,480 acre- feet, Guernsey is 8,075 acre-feet, Inland Lakes are 22,879 acre- feet.

The Manager reported that the repairs to the Spring Canyon Flume was coming along really well.

A discussion was held regarding the modification to the Health Insurance portion of the Employee Personnel Policy. A motion was made by Lookabill, second by Fenning to approve the modification. A roll call vote was taken with Hoff, Lookabill, Howell, Jenkins, Reisig and Fenning voting yes. Motion Carried.

The Board reviewed the bids to replace the Morrill Division's backhoe. A motion was made by Jenkins seconded Fenning to award the bid in the amount \$101,360.00 ,which includes the 5year/5,000 hour Comp warranty, to Murphy Tractor Co. A roll call vote was taken with Lookabill voting no, Howell, Jenkins, Reisig, Fenning, and Hoff voting yes. Motion Carried.

The North Platte Valley Irrigators Association had contacted us to provide a recommendation for a Director to serve on their Board. Director Fenning will contact some individuals to see if they would be willing to serve on their Board.

Jim Margheim has requested assistance with modifying a pipeline delivery box. The Board discussed it and it was decided that we would procure the material needed and he would then reimburse the District for the cost of the material and that he would have to provide his own labor to install the necessary modifications according to district specifications.

The Manager discussed with the Board the Bureau of Reclamation's concerns with the abandoned outlet works at Lake Alice Dam # 1. It is understood that the cost of the repairs would be the Bureau's responsibility.

Selection of Clerks and Judges for the upcoming elections in Lateral Divisions One and Three of the Pathfinder Irrigation District to be held on February 2, 2021 were as follows: Lateral Division # 1, Paul Pieper as Clerk and Mike Gompert and Tom Butcher as Judges, Lateral Division # 3, Clerk to be Al Garza and Judges to be Mel and Delores Hubbard.

No one appeared during the time set aside for public comment.

The Managers report was given as follows:

**PATHFINDER IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MANAGER'S REPORT
January 7, 2021**

➤ **Federal Legislation S 1570 and HR 2871.**

Federal legislation was introduced recently by Idaho representatives that would allow the use of federal irrigation facilities for groundwater recharge. The District supported the legislation and sent letters to our congressional delegation voicing our support. We have received responses from our delegation that they received and will consider our comments. If the legislation passes the District could enter into a contract with the North Platte NRD to conduct groundwater recharge activities when excess water is available. The hearing on the Senate bill

was conducted in July and in September was reported out to the full body for consideration. Nothing new to report.

➤ **Pipeline Project Progress.**

The pipe has been installed on the Lateral 22 branch. Structure work has begun on the Lateral 22 project and will proceed as weather allows. We are waiting on 21” pipe for the Lateral 7M project. The 24” has arrived and has been installed.

➤ **2020 Legislative Session.**

LR340 introduced by Senators Stinner and Hughes would require the Natural Resources Committee to conduct an Interim Study looking at surface water aging infrastructure issues. I have been working with Mitch from Senator Stinner’s office in developing goals for the interim study. Because of Covid-19, hearings were not scheduled. Some information was provided by DNR, but it uncertain if a legislative report will result. NSIA is looking at working to reintroduce the study resolution for next year in hopes of moving something forward legislative wise in the next couple of years.

➤ **Jerry Bernhardt Delivery from Low Line Canal via Pump Station.**

Deines Irrigation has removed the District’s delivery pump that was installed in 1994 and never used. They are going through the pump to see if any repairs are needed. It looks like we will need to replace the 7½ HP motor with a 10 HP motor to delivery 650 gpm to the North portion of the Bernhard farm. This will require a 3-phase electrical service.

I have meet with Mr. Bernhardt and he agrees this is the best solution to re-establish his delivery point. We are waiting on the delivery of the 8” pvc pipe to bury from the pump to the delivery point. Nothing new to report.

➤ **NSIA Sponsored NET Video of Water in Nebraska.**

The Nebraska State Irrigation Association this past year sponsored a video working with NET to highlight the importance of water in Nebraska. The name of the video is “Nebraska, the Great American Water Factory”. The video will broadcast on NET sometime in 2021. I will share the dates and times for the showing as they are announced.

➤ **Joint Letter to Reclamation Placing them on Notice of Potential Injury Related to the Bypass of Water from Guernsey Reservoir in 2021-22.**

I have sent a letter to all 12 of the irrigation districts that by contract share in the water supply from Guernsey Reservoir. Asking them to join in sending a letter to Reclamation placing them on notice that the bypass of water through Guernsey Reservoir during the fall of 2021 and winter of 2022 could result in an injury to the districts and their irrigators. I also enclosed the draft letter for their consideration. To date have been notified by Gering ID, Gering-Ft. Laramie ID and Central ID that they would sign onto the letter. I have also heard from a few more that their board would be considering the letter at their next meeting.

The tentative date for the next regular Board meeting has been set for Thursday, February 4, 2021, at the District office in Mitchell, NE located at 140624 10th Street and will convene at 9:00 a.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Randy Hoff, President

Margaret Harriger, Sec.-Treas.