

July 12, 2022

The Board of Directors of the Pathfinder Irrigation District met in their office in Mitchell, NE on Tuesday, July 12, 2022.

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

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

Payroll and bills in the amount of \$303,042.13 were approved on a motion by Jenkins second by Hoff. A roll call vote was taken with Reisig, Fenning, Hoff, Lookabill and Jenkins voting yes. Absent: Howell. Motion Carried.

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

The Ditchriders' car expense was discussed. Because of the high cost of fuel an adjustment was discussed. A motion was made by Reisig second by Jenkins to allow an adjustment for the 2022 season. A roll call vote was taken with Hoff, Lookabill, Jenkins, Reisig and Fenning voting yes. Absent Howell. Motion Carried.

Water conditions/allocations were discussed. As of July 5, 2022 we have approximately 71 days more of irrigation for the season.

The canal breach on July 1, 2022 was discussed. The repair work went really well and water was started back into the canal on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Water for delivery was once again available on July 10<sup>th</sup>.

Representatives from the JEO consulting Group along with Leroy Sievers has reached out to us to do a review of the Dam and outlet works on Lake Minatare. The review will be no expense to the district and would be a great help to the district in the future.

Matt Wells of the Bureau of Reclamation met with the Board and discussed the current water conditions. As of July 1, 2022 there is 631,128 acre ft. in the ownership account.

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  
July 12th, 2022**

➤ **Water Operations Update.**

We started delivering water on June 26<sup>th</sup>. I got the water I needed into Lake Minatare and Lake Alice. Lake Minatare was taken up to an elevation of 4116.82. That is 41,703 acre-feet of water. Lake Alice was taken up to an elevation of 4173.07. That is 4932 acre-feet of water.

➤ **Canal Breach**

At approximately 4:45 am on July 1<sup>st</sup>, the superintendent of the Ft. Laramie division received a phone call from a user that the Main Canal had broken. By 5:30, Roger confirmed this break and called me. When Roger got to the break, it was about 20 feet wide. We shut the gates at Whalen and started moving equipment up to the site. By 2 pm, we had stopped the water with cement and dirt. We continued to let the canal drain down till the next morning. We then removed all the cement we hauled in and started pumping out the water from the canal to make it dry quicker.

I was able to get MC Schaff engineering to send someone out to do a proxy on the dirt we had available, and they also provided some drawings and engineering information on how to repair the break. They also provided an employee to do compaction testing as we rebuilt the bank. There was also an engineer on-site from the Bureau of Reclamation as well. He was very helpful in providing information and details on rebuilding the canal to be stronger than before.

After all the wet soil and cement were removed and the bank was tapered to the correct angle, the top of the hole was about 240 feet long, 21 feet deep by 56 feet wide.

The District's employees had moved over 7000 cubic yards of materials, and we started the canal back up on July 7<sup>th</sup> at 12 pm.

I started 250cfs four hours later, another 250cfs, and then 100cfs every four hours until we reached 1400cfs. It took 64 hours for the water to hit Lake Alice. The raises behind the original head of water came very quickly.

➤ **Silt Run.**

The silt run for this year is scheduled to start on July 11<sup>th</sup>. The drawdown of the Guernsey Reservoir will begin sometime on July 5<sup>th</sup>. We got the canal back running just in time for this badly needed silt run. At this time, we are scheduled for a 14-day silt run.

➤ **Insurance Coverage**

Lex Larson with JG Elliot has decided to wait until next year to bid on our insurance due to how busy the District is with the canal break.

The tentative date for the next regular meeting has been set for Thursday, August 4, 2022, 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 10:35 a.m.

---

Mick Lookabill, President

---

Margaret Harriger, Sec.-Treas.