

July 6,2023

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

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

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

Payroll and bills in the amount of \$260,276.95 were approved on a motion by Jenkins second Reisig. A roll call vote was taken with Jenkins, Reisig, Fenning, Lookabill and Howell voting yes. Motion Carried.

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

Matt Wells of the Bureau of Reclamation met with the Board and reported that as July 5th that the Pathfinder Ownership has filled with the irrigation account being at 1,000,372 acre-feet.

Water operations for 2023 were discussed. Water was started in the Main Canal on July 1st. The Low Line was started on June 27, the Supply Canal on June 28th.

A motion was made by Lookabill and seconded by Fenning to allow the General Manager be added so as to pay bills online through the Pinnacle Bank in Mitchell, NE. A roll call vote was taken with Fenning, Lookabill, Howell, Jenkins and Reisig voting yes. Motion Carried.

The silt run is scheduled to begin Sunday July 16, 2023. This is about a week later than usual so as to get the elevation of Guernsey Lake higher to provide for a more efficient silt run.

The Manager gave an update on the repair work on the upper bank of the canal which had been washed out due to the recent rains. The repairs to the canal banks have been repaired and we were able to bring water down as scheduled.

A motion was made by Lookabill second by Jenkins to approve JEO Consulting Group for the engineering service for the Lake Minatare outlet works. A roll call vote as taken with Lookabill, Howell, Jenkins, Reisig and Fenning voting yes. Motion carried.

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 6th, 2023**

➤ **Water Operations Update.**

We started the Low Line Canal on Monday, June 26th, and the Supply Canal on June 28th. Due to upper canal washes on the Main Canal, we started the Interstate Canal on July 1st.

➤ **Canal Damage**

On June 15th, the hills above the Interstate Canal reported rainfall of 4.5". This amount of rain caused some washes on the canal. Two days later, the same area received another 2.5", and then five days later, another 4" was reported. Due to all this rain in such a short time, it caused some significant damage to the upper banks of the Interstate Canal just west of Highway 71. We rented a long-reach excavator from Shane Aulick to help speed up the repair process. Gering Ft. Laramie also sent their excavator and operator up to help us with the repair process on the canal. It took four days to repair the canal. Times like this show the quality of employees the District has. I received calls from Goshen Irrigation and Gering Ft. Laramie, both very eager to help us in any way.

➤ **Silt Run.**

The silt run for this year is scheduled to start on July 16th. Reclamation was concerned that the lack of water demand wouldn't provide a very good silt run if they didn't postpone it for a few days until demand picked up.

➤ **850K John Deere Crawler**

During the second ditching, the 850K crawler broke a track rail again. This happened last year on the second ditching down at Minatare. To help us complete ditching in time, Farmers Irrigation let us use their 750 crawler.

The left track appears to wear harder than the right track on our 850K. We have had John Deere look at it before but have yet to find a real solution. Kenny Thomas will remove the rail and see what is causing the wear. It currently has an aftermarket undercarriage. A new John Deere undercarriage will cost about \$52,000 and this does not include pads.

The tentative date for the next meeting has been set for August 8th, 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 to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Margaret Harriger, Sec.-Treas.

Mick Lookabill, President