

May 3, 2022

The Board of Directors of the Pathfinder Irrigation District met in their office in Mitchell, NE on Tuesday, May 3, 2022.

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

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

Payroll and bills in the amount of \$198,285.75 was approved on a motion by Jenkins second by Hoff. A roll call vote was taken with Jenkins, Fenning, Hoff, Lookabill and Howell voting yes. Motion Carried. Absent: Reisig.

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

A motion was made by Lookabill second by Fenning to authorize the President to sign the Dietrich Agreement and the Nebraska Department of Transportation Agreement (XL2112) for replacing the guardrail on Highway 71N bridge across the Interstate Canal. A roll call vote was taken with Hoff, Lookabill, Howell, Jenkins and Fenning voting yes. Motion Carried. Absent: Reisig.

Matt Wells of the Bureau of Reclamation met with the Board. He reported as of May 1, 2022 there was 402,857 acre-feet in the ownership account. Guernsey was at 42,798 acre-feet and the Inland Lakes account was 42,680 acre-feet.

The second quarter budget was given to the Board for their review.

Lex Larson of the J. G. Elliott Company had asked about submitting a quote on the district's insurance this coming Sept. The Board would ask that the quote be for the same coverage that we currently have.

The making of an additional payment to the Bureau of Reclamation on the XM contract for the Guernsey North Spill Gate repairs was discussed. The decision was to wait until our September meeting to decide if we will make the additional payment.

The Manager discussed the fire damage to the Drew Schmaltz bridge on the High Line Canal and also the Eugene Hoff and Jeremy Kuklish fire damages.

The decision was made to do the Watershed Tour on May 9th and 10th, 2022.

The current water supply conditions were discussed.

Water Operations for the 2022 season was discussed. The preliminary plan is to start the canal around the 15th of May to transfer water to the Inland Lakes and to possibly start deliveries on May 23rd.

Bradley Sawyer, with Great Plains Communications, met with the Board regarding permission to bore under the laterals along the Lake Oil and Highway 71. A motion was made by Hoff second by Fenning to approve the agreement as presented. A roll all vote was taken with Lookabill, Howell, Jenkins, Fenning, and Hoff voting yes. Motion carried. Absent Reisig.

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
May 3, 2022**

➤ **Deliveries and Major Repairs**

The new deliveries that needed to be installed are all getting wrapped up. The District's employees have most of the major construction items done for this year.

➤ **LB1012**

Creates the Surface Water Irrigation Infrastructure Fund and provides a one-time transfer of \$50 million from the Cash Reserve Fund to the new fund. Grants from the fund are limited to a max of \$5 million with a 10% local match requirement. We supported the original bill LB1074, which was amended into LB1012. I am waiting to see how this money will be distributed and what we need to do to meet the requirements. We will go after some of this funding. We have many areas that will meet the different requirements that I believe they will put on this money.

➤ **Preparing for Water in the Laterals and Main Canal**

Every year has its own sets of challenges and this year is no different. The District's employees have been working very hard to burn when they can and get the entire system ready for the water. The wind has been their biggest challenge along with the weeds. The wind and weeds have made ditching the laterals difficult. We have great employees and they will win the battle.

➤ **Employees Vacancies**

We have filled all our ditchrider positions. I am still in need of a truck driver in the Minatare Division.

➤ **Yonts Water Conference**

There was a good turnout for the conference. I was able to meet several of our stakeholders.

➤ **Drain Inspection**

We looked at the dams above Bayard. There were no real issues to report during the inspection.

The tentative date for the next regular meeting has been set for Monday, June 6, 2022 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 declared adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Mick Lookabill, President

Margaret Harriger, Sec.-Treas.