

October 5, 2023

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

Those present were: Mick Lookabill, President, Brady Howell, Jeff Jenkins, Month Reisig and 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 Reisig to approve the minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken with Howell, Jenkins, Reisig, Fenning and Lookabill voting yes. Absent: Hoff. Motion Carried.

Payroll and bills in the Amount of \$311,144.26 was approved on a motion by Reisig second by Jenkins. A roll call vote was taken with Jenkins, Reisig, Fenning, Lookabill and Howell voting yes. Absent: Hoff. Motion Carried.

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

Matt Wells of the Bureau of Reclamation met with the Board on routine business. He reported that the Pathfinder Ownership stood at 582,531 acre-feet.

The Manager reported on the repairs that are being done on Lateral # 1 where the structure had washed out this season and also reported on the repair to the road crossing on 21EB South.

Copies of the letter we received from Crank Legal Group, which is the Law Firm representing some of the landowner around Lingle WY, regarding the breach in the Main Canal in July of 2022 was given to the Directors for their information.

The 2024 budget was discussed. A motion was made by Jenkins second by Fenning to approve Option #1 of the budget as presented. A roll call vote was taken with Fenning, Lookabill, Howell, Jenkins, and Reisig voting yes. Absent: Hoff. Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Lookabill second by Reisig to set the 2024 O & M at \$36.00 per acre. A roll call vote was taken with Lookabill, Howell, Jenkins, Reisig and Fenning voting yes. Absent: Hoff. Motion Carried.

The Manager reported that all of our full-time staff positions have been filled.

The 2023 NSIA/NWRA Joint Conference will be held in Kearney on November 19-21. Any one wanting to attend should let the Manager know so that he can make reservations.

The 2023 WAID Conference will be held in Casper, WY. on November 8-9, 2023

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
October 5, 2023**

➤ **Fall and Winter Work Projects.**

Again, this year we have many maintenance needs that need to be done on the canal and with the dams at Lake Minatare and Lake Alice. Most of them are minor in nature, but they need to be taken care of, so they are off of Reclamation's lists of repairs that need to be off the books. We plan to continue the rehab work at the Spring Canyon Flume this Fall.

➤ **Water Season**

The water season went well. The District's employees did a great job facing their different challenges. One of the bigger challenges remains finding employees to ride ditch. This puts a lot of extra work on the crew members.

➤ **Magnacide-H Herbicide**

Magnacide-H is the herbicide the District uses to control pondweed and algae in our canals. It is very expensive and has always only been available through one distributor. This year another company has entered the market and is causing little competition. This competition has caused the price of Magnacide to maintain and actually go down a small amount.

The District is trying a new product this year, on a small scale, called Nautique. This product is an Herbicide that targets pondweed This product is handled by a

company called SePro. This product is cost prohibited on canals like our Low Line Canal but may have a place on our smaller laterals.

➤ **54 Lateral on Minatare Division**

Two years ago, the District over dug 54 lateral and lined it with clay to try to seal up a seep issue that was causing damage on the farm below this lateral. This has helped this situation significantly. This year with a fuller reservoir, with a wetter season than normal, the seep remained under control.

➤ **Lateral 21 Main**

Last winter the District over excavated 21 lateral and lined it with clay. This water season we received the benefit from this work. There was no problem getting the water through this lateral like we have had in the past.

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

Mick Lookabill, President

Margaret Harriger, Sec.-Treas.