

September 6, 2018

The Board of Directors of the Pathfinder Irrigation District met in their office in Mitchell, NE on Thursday, September 6, 2018.

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 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 Kister to approve the minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken with Howell, Kister, Reisig, Fenning, Hoff and Lookabill voting yes. Motion Carried.

Payroll and bills in the amount of \$229,417.73 were approved on a motion by Reisig second by Hoff. A roll call vote was taken with Kister, Reisig, Fenning, Hoff, Lookabill and Howell voting yes. Motion Carried.

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

Kevin and Barry Stuart met with the Board regarding maintenance issues.

Orin Bolzer, area farmer, and Dwight Deines,(representing the Mitchell Drainage District), and Steve Smith, Attorney-at-Law, met with the Board regarding access issue on Dry Spotted Tail drain. The issue was discussed and the Board at this time cannot give permission for access as the ownership of the land has not been legally determined.

The draft of the 2019 Budget was given to the Board for their review.

A time slot for Public Comment (which is limited to 30 minutes with 5 minutes per speaker) has been added to the agenda. No one appeared before the Board.

The question has been brought up as to how the District can improve our communications with the irrigators. We are in the process of trying to secure current phone numbers and email address of the users so they can be notified of any changes that are taking place. Notices are also being posted on the Company web-site.

Future grant projects were discussed, such as adding automation to some of our checks on the Lowline, thereby, enabling us to better regulate the water flow in the canal. The Manager will visit more with Tom Knutson on this possibility.

An update on Senate Bill S.2563 was given by the Manager.

The Manager also gave an update on the CNPPID/Republican River NRD's application for a trans-basin transfer of water right from the Platte River to the Republican River. He has sent comments expressing concerns with the transfer on behalf of the North Platte Valley Irrigators Association.

An update on the Low Line Canal break Northeast of Bayard on June 22, 2018 was discussed. We will begin filling in the wash on the Steward land in the near future.

We will again be doing the "End of Season Dinner" for the employees' this month.

Carl Bibb and Matt Greenway, representing the Harry Koch Co., met with the Board to present the Health and Dental insurance renewals. They also presented the renewal of the District's property, auto, Liability, crime and worker's compensation insurance. A motion was made by Hoff second by Reisig to accept the proposals as presented. A roll call vote was taken with Fenning, Hoff, Lookabill, Howell, Kister and Reisig voting yes. Motion Carried.

The Manager's report was given as follows:

**PATHFINDER IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MANAGER'S REPORT
September 6, 2018**

➤ **WaterSmart Grant Project.**

Development of the final reports required under the grant are underway and should be provided well in advance of the deadline. Final costs and cost share will be determined based on the final reports.

➤ **Senate Bill S.2563; Water Supply Infrastructure and Drought Resiliency Act of 2018.**

Following the sending of the District's letter to Senator Fischer on this issue last month, we have been contacted by Senator Fischer's office and I participated in a conference call with the top staff member for the Senate Water & Energy Committee. Steve Smith and Harry Labonte (Wyoming Water Development Commission) were also on the call along with representatives from Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District (CNPPID). CNPPID was the one objector to the bill including Glendo as a facility the Corps of Engineers could review the flood routing curves under a pilot program. The intent of the pilot program would be to see if new information would change how water is stored and released from the flood pool at Glendo. The idea behind this is to see if water could be released from the flood pool at a slower rate to improve water supply downstream vs. the current plan that would release the water as quickly as possible.

CNPPID wants the water released quickly to insure as much of that water as possible gets to Lake McConaughy before it can be used. The staffer was totally amazed at CNPPID's position, everywhere else in the West where this topic was discussed it was fully supported, recognizing the need to utilize as much water as possible from these facilities to meet water needs. At the end of the call the staffer offered CNPPID the opportunity to provide language for consideration in the bill that would address their concerns. The next step will be to see what CNPPID offers up and go from there.

Another section of the bill that is of interest to us; would address the issue Reclamation has with utilizing our canals and facilities to conduct groundwater recharge when excess water is available. Current authorized uses of our facilities are limited to irrigation only. The bill would add groundwater recharge to the authorized purposes allowing us to work with the NRD in the future to conduct groundwater recharge.

➤ **CNPPID/Republican River NRD's application for a trans-basin transfer water right from the Platte River to the Republican River.**

I drafted comments expressing concerns with the trans-basin diversion on behalf of the North Platte Valley Irrigators Association (NPVIA). The North Platte NRD filed as an objector and will participate in the hearing process before the Department of Natural Resources. I know there were about 5 or 6 other entities that filed as objectors. CNPPID has reached out to the NPNRD to discuss their concerns and see if they can find a resolution to their concerns in an attempt to reduce the number of objectors. A timeline of when this will move forward with the Department is unknown at this time.

➤ **Becker Bridge Issue.**

I was not able to setup a meeting with Susan Green, Director Lookabill and myself prior to the September Board Meeting. I plan to have that meeting as soon as possible in September, to discuss options for providing access across the Low Line Canal.

The tentative date for the next regular meeting has been set for Wednesday, October 3, 2018, 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 11:50 a.m.

Monty Reisig, President

Margaret Harriger, Sec.-Treas.