**Monday, January 18, 2021, at 10:00 A.M.**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

These are the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Directors of the United Irrigation District, held in the Glenwood Office on January 18, 2021, commencing at 10:00 A.M

Present: Duane Nelson – Chairman

 Daniel Hunsperger – Vice-Chairman

 Jim Woolf – Board Member

 Craig B. Smith – Board Member

Nicholas Barfuss – Board Member

Fred Rice – District Manager

 Viera Ducky – Office Manager

**Discussion and Acceptance of December 14, 2020, Regular Meeting Minutes**

Jim Woolf MOVED to accept the December 14, 2020 Minutes; SECONDED by Craig Smith. …CARRIED

**Discussion and Acceptance of the December 2020 Payroll**

Jim Woolf MOVED to accept the December 2020 Payroll; SECONDED by Nicholas Barfuss.

 …CARRIED

**Discussion and Acceptance of January 18, 2021 Accounts Payable**

Daniel Hunsperger MOVED to accept the January 18, 2021 Accounts Payable; SECONDED by Duane Nelson. …CARRIED

**Discussion and Acceptance of the Financial Statement to January 18, 2021**

Nicholas Barfuss MOVED to accept January 18, 2020 Financial Statement; SECONDED by Craig B. Smith. …CARRIED

**Letter from Dan French**

The UID received the letter from Dan French, our ratepayer. Mr. French is asking for reimbursement for eight damaged hay bales for $304.00. The damage was caused by the irrigation water overflow from our canal last summer after a power outage. The outage caused the canal to overtop and flood the hay bales on Dan’s field.

Duane Nelson MOVED that the UID will reimburse Dan French for damaged hay bales in the amount of $304.00; SECONDED by Nicholas Barfuss. …CARRIED

**New printer/scanner**

Our printer/scanner MFC-Brother J691DW is causing us problems lately in many ways and most likely it’s time to replace it. The Board agrees with the purchase of new printer as we need reliable printer especially for preparing Annual Report.

**Oldman Watershed Council**

The Oldman Watershed Council is kindly asking for on-going support in a letter from December 4, 2020. Our district supported them last time in October 2018. Their suggestion is a standardized rate of 3.2cents per irrigated acre.

Nicholas Barfuss MOVED that the UID will support them and send a cheque for $250; SECONDED by Daniel Hunsperger. …CARRIED

**Salaries 2021**

The Board meeting went in-camera session to discuss salary increase for 2021.

Nicholas Barfuss MOVED to increase salary by 1.5% annually for all full-time employees for the fiscal year 2021; SECONDED by Jim Woolf. …CARRIED

Regular Board Meeting Minutes, January 18, 2020, Page 1

**Accounts Receivable**

The Accounts Receivable for rates from 2019 is $684.52 as of today and ratepayers who owe the UID are: Fox & Welch.

The Accounts Receivable for rates from 2020 is $9,278 as of today and ratepayers who owe the UID are: Fox, Francis, Hornby, Lybbert, Paxman, Porter, Stephan, and Welch.

The Rate Enforcement needs to be filled out before March 1st, 2021 if rates from 2019 are not paid. We will contact these ratepayers again and a letter will be sent out with information about Rate Enforcement. Duane Nelson said he will talk to James Welch and Dan Fox.

**Water rates for 2021**

The Board discussed briefly rates increase for 2021, so By-laws can be prepared and work on Budget for 2021 can start. They suggested a 2% increase on all rates for the UID, however, Viera will also prepare an alternative Budget with a 3% increase.

**Solar panels for the UID**

Another discussion went on about solar panels for the main building of the UID. Board Members contacted Jim Seely for more information during the meeting, they compared prices with three other companies for green power: Park Power, Ridge Utilities, and Green Alberta Energy. Their rates are very similar if not the same. Duane’s opinion is that solar panels are far better investments than the investments we have now.

The Board decided to contact our contractor Solar Seeker Inc. and start with the project. The grant is not open yet, it will be open most likely in February 2021.

**Raymond Leek is on WCB**

Raymond Leek was hired by the UID for projects in fall 2020 and was hurt while working here. He is on WCB since December 1, 2020. They pay him only $119/week and he is unable to find another employment due to his health conditions. Fred suggested contacting him and offer him a modified work here at the UID. The Board agrees with the suggestion as long as we have some work for him.

**CIB Loan**

The CIB Loan which was discussed previously is still in process. Fred and Duane signed some documents but all this is still not finalized.

**Fraud issues or concerns**

As every year Fred brought up to the Board the question of whether anyone is aware of any fraud or concerns as this is one of the questions from the auditor. No concerns were raised.

**Lloyd Smith wants to put back on his land irrigation acres**

Lloyd Smith came with the idea of putting back irrigation acres on land situated west of Cochrane Lake. This land belongs to Lloyd and adjacent land belongs to Folsom Dairy. Fred thinks that this is actually a good idea and was asking the Board about their opinion. The Board members are in favor of this idea and the matter will be discussed again if both landowners will come with the request.

**Waterton Colony**

Waterton Colony came to discuss putting irrigation acres on some of their lands north of the Blue Ridge Colony. The land is already classified for irrigation and if they will buy irrigation acres or our district will expand this scenario is possible.

**Scholarship 2021**

As every year, the Board discussed the option to offer a Scholarship in 2021. They have decided not to offer the scholarship this year to any school with all the Covid-19 situation going around.

**Craig B. Smith’s concerns about the environment canal**

Craig pointed out a slough area on the environment canal - in the general area where the B Lateral inverted siphon is. Fred will check this out.

Regular Board Meeting Minutes, January 18, 2020, Page 2

Jim Woolf MOVED that the meeting be adjourned at 1:30 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, February 22, 2021, at 10:00 A.M

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Chairman – Duane Nelson District Manager – Fred Rice

Regular Board Meeting Minutes, January 18, 2020, Page 3