

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:00 PM, Chairman Foster called the March 14, 2017, Regular Board Meeting of the Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District to order. The record shows that all Directors except Vice Chairman Bailey who attended via telephone. Legal Counsel, Brian Iller and General Manager, Chris Overland was also present. The record indicates that this meeting was recorded. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEM(S)

Chairman Foster called on the board members and the audience for discussion on any agenda items, and nothing was brought forward.

DISCUSSION OF NON-AGENDA ITEM(S)

Chairman Foster called on the board members and the audience for discussion on any non-agenda items, and James Clough asked to speak on the level of the lake.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chairman Foster then called on the board members to approve the agenda. Director Perry moved to approve the agenda. Director Teals seconded the motion. The motion was then carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Foster called on the board members to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the meeting minutes from 02/14/17, the Bills/Checks #16010-#16048 and Voucher #1000186 totaling \$80,562.68. Director Dexter made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Director Perry seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Bailey abstained from voting on anything related to Basin Property Management, Inc. The motion was then carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

United States Bureau of Reclamation - Toni Turner & Richard Smith

Toni Turner is the Irrigation Operations and Technical Services Program Manager who runs the operations for the Columbia Basin Project. Richard Smith is the Lead Dispatcher and Engineer in the irrigation operations. Toni Turner and Richard Smith gave a presentation on what has gone on the past six months and what is forecasted for the upcoming year.

Richard Smith said the USBR's goal is to get the water elevation down to about 1028.00 feet so the Potholes Reservoir Spillway can be inspected. After the end of every season, the USBR has to inject water to make the Potholes Reservoir turn around and come back up. By the 31st of October, the USBR's goal is 200,000 acre-feet of storage which is an elevation of 1035.06 feet. The reason for this target is the return flows. If the USBR does not end the season at 200,000 acre-feet, there will not be enough water storage in the Potholes Reservoir by the end of May. October of 2016 the precipitation was 380% above normal which caused the South District to quit taking water and saturated the lands while everything up north continued to fill. 1041.30 feet is the sill where the gates close at the Moses Lake outlet on the USBR structure. Moses Lake elevation is

approximately 1045.30 feet and normally for this time of year is about 1042.20 feet with high precipitation still in the weather forecast. The USBR has been receiving phone calls from landowners down South and Moses Lake concerning ice issues. Normally at the end of March, the USBR is flowing irrigation water through Moses Lake but won't be this year, as everything is already full. High water levels within the system are impacting the startup of the Quincy and East Irrigation Districts. The South Irrigation District has damage due to mud slides filling canals to the top with mud and damaged concrete panels, restricting their ability to take irrigation water.

Toni Turner added that the USBR owns the facilities here. However, a majority of the facilities south of the bifurcation where the system splits, with the exception of the Potholes Reservoir, is operated and maintained by the East, Quincy and South Irrigation Districts. When the system was constructed back in the 40's and 50's, it was designed to be one of the most efficient USBR systems. Any water that comes in from the north is collected in the Potholes Reservoir and used by the South Irrigation District. All three Districts have to be functional because they are all interrelated to one another. Water comes in from the north to Quincy, heads east where it is used for irrigation. That same water then runs off into other systems where it ultimately ends up in the Potholes Reservoir and is re-used again as it flows through Potholes East Canal, is re-used again down South all the way down to the Esquatzel-Pasco area.

Toni Turner explained that approximately four weeks ago, the South Irrigation District experienced significant damage and their Board declared a state of emergency. The South Irrigation District has been working 6 days a week, 10 hour days, and has hired contractors trying to get their system functional again. Right now, the USBR can only release a small amount of water down the Potholes East Canal where they would like to be releasing a higher volume to draw down Potholes Reservoir. This is an effort to stop the spill flowing out Lower Crab Creek into residential areas, underneath State Route 26 and down in the Royal City area. All the Irrigation Districts, including Moses Lake Irrigation & Rehabilitation District, are working together to try to make the system work. The Quincy and East Irrigation Districts were originally going to start irrigation on March 20th and 21st. However, both Irrigation Districts agreed to delay their start date until March 24th due to not having anywhere to put the water that comes in from the north and ends up in Potholes Reservoir. The South District is expected to be able to receive more water by the 20th and then be fully operational by the 24th of March. If the South Irrigation District is fully operating by then, the USBR will begin flowing water to the east and west canals.

An audience member asked what the USBR would do with all the extra water if big rainstorms came in. Richard Smith said if the Reservoir gets full to where the water would be topping the clay barrier, then the USBR would open the Spillway discharging the water down through the wildlife area which would destroy everything through there. Toni Turner added that right now the lake elevation is at 1045.30 and the top of the active pool is 1046.50. The USBR has continued to spill 100 c.f.s. through the Spillway which has helped lower the Potholes Reservoir water levels. That coupled with the fact that January and February temperatures were about 8-10 degrees colder on average than they have been in the past. The USBR tried to keep the rise of the elevation a little less steep, so there is more room in the system for all of the flows coming in.

A lot of coordination is put into the operation to keep everything working as smoothly as possible. The USBR also has 1046.50 feet up to 1048.00 feet, referred to as surcharge. This is space in the reservoir system used in a time of floods. The last resort is if the water level rises to 1048.00 feet and there still isn't any place south to put the water, then there are four

gates on the Potholes Spillway. Each gate can take up to about 6,000 c.f.s. and can release about 5,000 c.f.s. so about 20,000 c.f.s. can be released out of the Spillway. To do that, there would be a tremendous amount of coordination and emergency management with all of the Districts, WSDOT, the Counties, WDFW and trying to expedite permitting so that everything can go back to normal as soon as possible on the refuge property.

Toni Turner said this is all behind the scene stuff that not a lot of people see. The USBR is trying to work quickly on some of the other areas besides just water management, which is a 24/7 job. The USBR did use the Spillway as an emergency route in 1997 and released about 650 c.f.s. What they found at that time was that at about 100-125 c.f.s. is what caused significant damage and roads had to be blocked off because of it. If the volume of water has to go higher than that, the USBR has to go through approvals and notifications of agencies.

The USBR is hoping that actions that have taken place this year will help in not having to use the Emergency Spillway Plan. The bridge at State Highway 26 is designed for the 100-year flood which WSDOT calculated to be 960 c.f.s. and theoretically, the USBR would be able to discharge up to 960 c.f.s. and still, go underneath the bridge.

Richard Smith went on to explain that the USBR won't be running the usual Rocky Coulee Wasteway (RCWW) irrigation feed program that begins in late March until the latter part of May. With the higher water elevations and continued impact from precipitation, elevations need to be drafted down before the start of the feed program. He further explained that there is no way for the South District to have enough irrigation water supplies to meet their demand without driving the Potholes Reservoir up at the end of May.

Toni Turner said one of the things the USBR is participating in is a weekly Monday phone call with the National Weather Service. They provide the USBR information on short term climate and weather. Next week, Grant County is expected to get more rain which feeds into Crab Creek and down into Moses Lake. This gives the USBR the opportunity to gauge the amount of precipitation and do rough calculations on how much volume is going in, how much volume is available in the Potholes Reservoir and how much volume is being released.

Toni Turner explained that the USBR is hoping for all three Districts to be fully functional by March 24th. The USBR starts out by filling Banks Lake down to Billy Clapp Reservoir. Then from there, irrigation water flows down to the bifurcation where it splits to go into the East and West Canals. The dispatchers with the USBR are diverting water from Banks Lake down to Billy Clapp at about a foot and a half a day. Then approximately on the 20th of March the USBR will start delivering more water from Billy Clapp to the bifurcation and will hold it there until the 24th of March when the gates will be opened to release water down the East and West Canals. On March 11th the USBR started delivering water into the Potholes East Canal and are hoping to keep ramping it up until flowing at full capacity around the week of March 20th.

The USBR is doing their absolute best with the water they have and trying to manage it so that there is minimal damage and to protect the USBR Dam. Toni Turner explained that there is Standard Operating Procedure's (SOP) and an Emergency Action Plan. The USBR has followed those SOP's and rules dictating what the Bureau can do during non-flood and flood situations. Toni Turner also added that she and her team is looking back at past decisions, when and who was in on the collaboration, how could communications be improved, working more with the Department of

Emergency Management Office and keeping their web page updated so they can get information out quicker.

Director Teals said this seemed to have been an unlucky year for having the canals breaking down due to the weather and wondered if that hadn't happened, the USBR would have been able to flow more water down all of the canals to ease elevation issues. The Board of Directors and General Manager, Chris Overland thanked Toni Turner and Richard Smith with the USBR for coming to the MLIRD Board Meeting.

MLIRD STAFF REPORTS

General Manager, Chris Overland reported the following:

- Lake elevation was 1045.29 as of March 14th, 2017.
- Lakeshore Cleanup is this Saturday, March 18th at the Moses Lake Fire Department #1 at 9:00 AM.
- The advertisement has gone out for Connelly Park personnel.
- The Vice President of Dredgit, an environmental dredging company, is scheduled to attend the April 11th Regular Board Meeting to see how his services might complement MLIRD's dredging goals.
- The RFP for Aquatic and Alum Treatments is in the process of being finalized to be put out for advertisement.
- MLIRD has been in contact with Limnologists and is looking at doing some work to understand the chemistry and the impact of the subterranean flows into the Pelican Horn area. MLIRD has also talked about doing some aeration in the Pelican Horn area as well. General Manager, Chris Overland has been in contact with Roland Gonzales who is the Parks Superintendent for the City of Moses Lake to help MLIRD with an electrical source in the Pelican Horn area to aerate that part of the lake. Director Teals mentioned that during the Water Quality Institute, the water quality at the fountain in Parker Horn seemed to be better than anywhere else and one of the reasons seemed to have been because of the fountain. Director Teals thinks it is a great idea to try that won't be expensive. General Manager, Chris Overland said the people he has spoken with has said it is more productive when a lake has thermal layers but is worth looking into.
- A resident of Moses Lake has recently come to MLIRD and requested MLIRD do excavation work at the railroad trestle in Pelican Horn. Vice Chairman Bailey said the water level and the railroad trestle still being in use would be factors in planning such a project. The dredging operation will take a considerable amount of training and take a couple of years to put together. Chairman Foster said as MLIRD is looking at the next dredge permit, MLIRD can identify this area as a possible candidate for dredging. General Manager, Chris Overland explained to the resident that he would bring it to the Board for discussion. Director Teals said in the years past, you could take a backhoe and scoop it out. However, that is now not allowed. There was no further discussion.
- January assessment income was 90% of the budget and February was at 62%. Through February, MLIRD's year to date assessment income was at 74% of the budgeted numbers. Expenses through February are currently 84% of the budget. Alum treatments and park projections did not make it in the total amount for the 2017 budget that was approved at the last meeting that needs to be amended or corrected to include those totals. The \$1,531,381 was the total approved for the 2017 budget at the February Regular Board Meeting. The 2017 budget total needs to reflect \$1,648,993. Chairman Foster said the Board agreed to this when the expenditures were approved. Vice Chairman Bailey moved to correct the figures to reflect the actual total of \$1,648,993. Director Perry

seconded the motion. Director Dexter has concerns with using Aluminum Sulfate in the lake. Chairman Foster called for a vote, and all board members were for the motion except Director Dexter who voted against the motion. The motion carried.

Chairman Foster announced he doesn't want to fall back into micromanaging the budget. He said General Manager, Chris Overland put together a presentation last month on Alum, did an analysis with experts and the Board listened to the pros and cons. Chairman Foster said that he has a difficult time in what amounts to less than 10% of the budget in the proposed Alum plan that General Manager, Chris Overland is proposing when the Board thought it was a good idea 30 days ago and now wants to readdress it.

Director Dexter's only concern is with the Aluminum Sulfate application and not the 2017 Budget. He believes the real problem is the water is being dammed up with not enough circulation. He wants a comprehensive plan on what MLIRD could do to make it better because he believes there is a negative side to Aluminum Sulfate. He doesn't want to go forward with something, and then down the road wish MLIRD had not done the Alum treatments.

General Manager, Chris Overland said the Department of Ecology seems to advocate Alum and Washington is one of the greener states in the country in terms of protecting the environment. General Manager, Chris Overland said he could understand Director Dexter's concerns if it was with Copper Sulfate because it is outlawed by a lot of states including Washington. However, Aluminum Sulfate is a different situation altogether. Aluminum already exists in the environment and Alum is used for treating water and things of that nature as well.

Chairman Foster said he wasn't disrespecting Director Dexter's concerns. However, the experts, the analysis, and the comprehensive plan that Director Dexter would like done was presented at the last board meeting and all Directors voted for moving forward with Alum treatments.

General Manager, Chris Overland said he would like to move forward with the request for proposals, but that doesn't necessarily mean MLIRD will move forward with Alum treatments and this will give everyone a chance to take a second look.

Director Dexter does not want to add something that might mess up the ecosystem. He would rather leave the lake as it is than make an error and spend \$150,000 that doesn't help anything and creates more problems.

Chairman Foster called on the Board to see if they wanted to undo what was agreed upon for the Alum treatments at the February Board Meeting at this point. Director Perry said she would like to move forward with what was planned, that it had been well researched and that there is going to be other reports out there that are going to be plus or minus with what they are trying to sell. Director Teals also said he wanted to continue with what was planned. Vice Chairman Bailey agreed with Director Perry. Chairman Foster appreciated Director Dexter's comments and concerns, but at this point, MLIRD has got to try and make new efforts. General Manager, Chris Overland also added that MLIRD was going to proceed with caution and show diligence along the way.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:30 PM to discuss with Legal Counsel pending litigation as authorized by RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i) and to discuss a personnel issue in forms of a public employee as authorized by RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g). The expected time was 25 minutes, and the Board was to return at 8:55 PM. Legal Counsel, Brian Iller indicated that there may or may not be further action taken as a result of the discussion in Executive Session.

The Board entered back into Regular Session at 8:55 PM.

Vice Chairman Bailey made a motion to establish General Manager, Chris Overland’s salary at \$95,000 a year. Director Teals seconded the motion. Director Teals said since he has been on the Board he has found General Manager, Chris Overland very competent and a good networker. The motion was then carried unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS

Director Perry made a motion to approve MLIRD Resolution 2017-001. Director Teals seconded the motion. Director Dexter mentioned that he still weighs in against the Aluminum Sulfate application. Chairman Foster called for a vote, and all board members were for the motion except Director Dexter who voted against the motion. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Jeffrey B. Foster, Chairman

Bill Bailey, Vice Chairman

Mary Perry, Director

Kris Dexter, Director

Richard Teals, Director

By: _____
Secretary to the Board of Directors

Transcribed By: _____