

Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District

Regular Board Meeting

August 12, 2014

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FOR THE RECORD ANNOUNCEMENT

The Regular Board Meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Chairman Foster. The record shows that in attendance are all Directors, Counsel Brian Iller and Gail Powell, taking minutes. The meeting is being recorded for content and accuracy. Chairman Foster introduced the new General Manager, Chris Overland to the Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District and audience. The Pledge of Allegiance was called for.

Identification of Agenda Items

None

Identification of Non-Agenda Items

Persons identified were Jeff Powell and Norm Estoos.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Director Covey moved for approval of the agenda and Director Perry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Minutes and Bills Checks and Vouchers:

A motion was made by Ken Kernan to approve the consent agenda including minutes. Director Covey seconded the motion. The motion and second is to approve the July 8th, July 21st, and August 1st minutes and the full consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION:

A presentation was given by Mike Schuler, President of the Columbia Basin Walleye Club. Mike explained the club would like to start a project to build and place habitat structures in Moses Lake to protect the fish. The project name is the Moses Lake Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Project. Placement of the habitat structures to make a fishing reef would require at least 12 reefs and be made up of approximately 200 structures. The completion timetable would be 10 years after permit approval. Mike's contact number is (509) 431-1344 and e-mail is chesaw5@msn.com. This has been a successful project at the Pot Holes Reservoir.

The club has paid for and completed the SEPA checklist. The Columbia Basin Walleye Club has approached MLIRD to be the lead agency on the project with little or no money invested. The Columbia Basin Walleye Club has \$5,000 in reserve funds for the habitat project.

MLIRD would like to entertain sponsoring the project and report back at a future Regular Meeting. Counsel Brian Iller feels there is minimal risk involved, but may require some expertise in the SEPA environmental checklist, and make sure the process is completed correctly.

BOARD REPORT

Chris Overland, newly hired General Manager, gave a brief presentation of his experience and background to the Board and audience. Chris brings a vast amount of mechanical, technical and administrative experience to the District. Chris was also a journeyman electrician and most recently worked as a Maintenance Supervisor and Department Head at a local processing plant.

The dredge operation continues as it moves closer to the Alder Street Fill. Depths average 6 feet and as much as 13 feet. 320 feet of pipe has recently been placed on the dredge. Chris Wilson is asking for more 10" pipe costing \$23,000.

Two park employees and Julie Smith, Administrative Assistant resigned. Staffing and the harvester have been the biggest challenges thus far. Temporary employees have been working to fill some of the vacancies at the park. Chris is hopeful that he will have the Administrative Assistant position staffed in the coming weeks. Chris, Tyler and Beth are still employed; no hiring within has occurred at this time, but the quickest way to fill positions is use a temporary agency.

Director Bailey updated the Board on the good news of the dredge project; this will change the way the whole mechanics of the dredge is working. Director Bailey, Chris and Tyler will spend additional time with Chris Overland during the next few months educate him on the dredging process.

Chris Overland shared the dredge operation will taper back so the harvester project can move forward starting next week.

Chris Overland has proposed a committee in the future to help optimize some of the operations.

Some of the requirements that have been in place will be changed in staffing the park. The District will look for an attendant to oversee the assets and ensure the District has safety, rather than mowing lawns, etc. These changes will make it more profitable for the District as well as open up more opportunities for employees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board convened into Executive Session at 7:54 PM to discuss the litigation that has been specifically threatened as authorized by RCW 42.30.110(i)(i); and potential litigation in the form of discussing legal risks of a proposed actions and/or current practices regarding Interlocal Agreements with County and Ecology Grant agreement as authorized by RCW 42.30.110(i)(iii). The estimated time for Executive Session is to be 20 minutes; to return at 8:15 PM.

PUBLIC SESSION

The Board reconvened into Public Session at 8:15 PM.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Director Perry to authorize mediation on the whistle blower complaint brought by Curt Carpenter to be attended by up to two Board Members and Legal Counsel. The motion was seconded by Director Kernan. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Bailey to accept and sign the construction grant #T-1400643 between the State of Washington Department of Ecology and the Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District. The motion was seconded by Director Covey. Vice Chairman Bailey indicated this was the District's acceptance of a \$2,033,000 grant for the replacement on the north dam. The motion passed unanimously.

An additional agenda item request by Vice Chairman Bailey was made. Chairman Foster asked for the additional agenda item to be placed in the form of a motion.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Bailey to accept resolution 2014-54, appointing Secretary to the Board of Directors, and that appointment would be our General Manager, Chris Overland as Secretary. The motion was seconded by Director Kernan. The motion was approved unanimously.

Director Covey would like to change the process of the Resolution numbering. Starting in 2015, the numbers should start with 2015-1 and continue throughout the year and then at the end of the year, move to 2016-1, etc. Legal Counsel agrees with the numbering method. The Board agrees with this change.

A motion was made by Director Kernan to accept the Interlocal Agreement with Grant County on the assessment/foreclosures. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Bailey. Motion carries.

Bank Signature Cards

A motion was made by Director Covey and seconded by Vice Chairman Bailey to direct staff to obtain new signature cards and to have the Directors and Chris Overland sign at the local WA Trust Bank. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jeff Powell asked about a timeframe on the start of the dam repair.

Chairman Foster ensured the start will not go into the winter months based on the information he currently has in hand. The funding was a big piece and the District now has the funding. 99.9% of all permits and temporary power with PUD is secured; waiting for a few minor details to be ironed out.

Audience member, Norm Estoos, brought up general discussion on the lake levels and suggestions of repairing the existing dam versus rebuilding the dam.

Chairman Foster shared when the DOE signs the authorization the District will have \$2,033,000 to reimburse for the expenses for the construction of the dam. The District has enough reserve to make up the difference including what has been spent and additional amount to complete the project.

No further action was taken in Public Session; Chairman Foster adjourned the meeting at 8:40 PM.

Jeffrey B. Foster, Chairman

Bill Bailey, Vice Chairman

Ken Kernan, Director

Ronald Covey, Director

Mary Perry, Director

Respectively Submitted

By: _____
Secretary to the Board of Directors

Transcribed by: _____
Gail M. Powell