

## **CALL TO ORDER**

At 7:00 PM, Chairman Foster called the February 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 were present. 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 nothing was brought forward.

## **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Chairman Foster then called on the board members to approve the agenda. Director Dexter 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 01/10/17, the Bills/Checks #15968-#16009 and Voucher #1000185 totaling \$69,731.92. Director Perry made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Director Teals seconded the motion. The motion was then carried unanimously.

## **MLIRD STAFF REPORTS**

General Manager, Chris Overland reported the following:

- Lake elevation was 1043.88 feet as of February 14, 2017 and continues to rise with the weather now, as part of the factor. General Manager, Chris Overland recently spoke with USBR, and they indicated that there are minimal flows coming in through Crab Creek and Rocky Ford currently. With the winter being what it has this year, the Potholes Reservoir is full, so the USBR flows that normally start in March likely won't happen until possibly sometime in May which may impact the typical early spring refreshing waters Moses Lake has seen in the past. More to follow on this matter.
- Lakeshore Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 9:00 AM at the Moses Lake Fire Station #1
- Grant County reports are in for the month of January. The assessments were approximately 10% under what MLIRD had projected.
- General Manager, Chris Overland recently spoke with Damien Hooper with the Grant County Planning Department on the possibility of constructing a building at Connelly Park. Mr. Hooper noted that without knowing a specific plan, he cannot say what changes would need to happen. However, he believes there is a

possibility that MLIRD could build at Connelly Park without having to change anything depending on the scope of a project.

- MLIRD maintenance staff has been working on equipment inspection & maintenance and should soon be rebuilding the Pelican Horn Carp Barrier.
- The 2017 budget was then discussed. The amount that came from the Grant County Treasurer as MLIRD's incoming 2017 assessment projected total was \$1,960,346. Highlighted items in the 2017 budget included tentative dollar amounts for the Parker Horn Pump Station VFD, Conventional Aquatic & Alum Treatments, Dredging Improvements and/or Relocating Spoils, Dewatering Improvements, a District Watercraft and Topping Trees at Connelly Park. Chairman Foster said MLIRD effectively has one year's worth of expenses in reserve. He noted that if MLIRD starts January 2017 with \$1.6 million, the projected expenses for 2017 are \$1.5 million and if MLIRD collects no assessments, MLIRD, in theory, would be okay. Director Dexter asked if with this budget MLIRD was looking at approximately \$400,000 under budget. General Manager, Chris Overland expressed a need for caution indicating that \$1,960,346 was the projected total from the Grant County Treasurer, but for the month of January as an example, incoming assessments were 10% lower. So if that is carried out each month as 10% lower, the year-end total is going to be closer to \$1,700,000 rather than \$1,960,346 and is more consistent with what MLIRD has experienced for assessment income.

Director Dexter asked after MLIRD finished the Moses Lake North Dam if MLIRD was low on cash? General Manager, Chris Overland said that MLIRD was never hurting for cash in a struggling sense. He explained that MLIRD cut expenses where possible, but that was just being prudent with spending. Chairman Foster explained that during the year of the Moses Lake North Dam construction, MLIRD drew down balances close to \$300,000-\$400,000 in the bank, but was never upside down like MLIRD thought might have happened. He also added that MLIRD has made it all back and then some.

Director Dexter then asked if MLIRD has any way of knowing what the positive effect on water quality the Parker Horn Pump Station is creating for Pelican Horn. General Manager, Chris Overland said that he could show Director Dexter the water tests. Pelican Horn was trending with Parker Horn until the Parker Horn Pump Station was shut off and then the Pelican Horn water was noticeably getting better because debris in the water was no longer being pumped from Parker Horn into Pelican Horn. This is one of the reasons why General Manager, Chris Overland would like to use Pelican Horn as an experimental area for Alum in 2017 to try to have a positive impact.

Chairman Foster asked at what point is the amount in the reserve enough to start thinking about lowering the assessment rate. Legal Counsel, Brian Iller suggested the board should start thinking about that in September or October before the assessment roll is adopted. Chairman Foster would at least like to be able to say the Board has had a discussion and this is what is foreseeable in the next few years. Director Perry would like to see a wish list of things that MLIRD would love to do in the future.

General Manager, Chris Overland showed a map of Moses Lake to show the shade of green that Pelican Horn has always been. MLIRD has pumped Parker Horn water into Pelican Horn for as many years as he can determine and it started with the Clean Lake Project. He thinks the key is MLIRD should possibly only be running the pump when the USBR is flowing water into Moses Lake. General Manager,

Chris Overland believes that using the Alum treatment to seal the sediment in the Pelican Horn might change the water color favorably due to a change in water quality in that area.

General Manager, Chris Overland also mentioned Connelly Park needs at least a crack and chip seal for the paved areas. Chairman Foster said that he supports General Manager, Chris Overland pursuing somebody's opinion as to what should be done with the pavement at Connelly Park for 2017.

Director Teals brought up that he does not like the District renting buildings. He thinks somewhere in the future MLIRD should have a facility at Connelly Park for both the equipment and office. Chairman Foster asked how long of a lease MLIRD just signed for the shop on Broadway. General Manager, Chris Overland believes it was a five-year lease with an early-out option. General Manager, Chris Overland restated that if MLIRD were to build a community center to share with the community, then there would possibly be no changes to the zoning for something with a larger scope and if MLIRD wants to build something strictly for MLIRD use, then that may impact how the plan will change. General Manager, Chris Overland restated that Damien Hooper with the County said he would not know the changes if any until he saw the scope of a project.

Director Dexter asked what kind of a reserve MLIRD should have. Legal Counsel, Brian Iller said that would probably be a question for the accountant. Director Teals thinks coming back in the late summer/early fall to talk about the assessment rates and be able to have a better understanding of how the assessment rates worked this year and then make some changes accordingly.

Chairman Foster called on the board members to approve the 2017 Budget as prepared by General Manager, Chris Overland. Director Dexter made a motion to approve the 2017 Budget as is. Director Teals seconded the motion. Chairman Foster asked Legal Counsel, Brian Iller if he was comfortable or if he had any concerns about moving forward with the approval of the 2017 Budget. Legal Counsel, Brian Iller stated that he did not have any concerns about moving forward. He added that the budget could always be amended and there is no requirement under 87.03 that the District even have a budget. The motion was then carried unanimously.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:50 PM to discuss with Legal Counsel pending litigation as authorized by RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i) and to discuss legal risks of a proposed action or current practice regarding personnel issues as authorized by RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)(iii). The expected time was 10 minutes, and the Board was to return at 8:00 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.

Chairman Foster entered back into the Boardroom at 8:00 PM to extend Executive Session another 5 minutes. They were to return to Regular Session at 8:05 PM.

The Board entered back into Regular Session at 8:10 PM.

## **WORKSHOP/DIRECTOR QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS**

Director Perry asked if General Manager, Chris Overland had made contact with the City of Moses Lake to see if they would be willing to

participate in some curtains for Alum treatments in swim areas around the lake. General Manager, Chris Overland said he has not yet made contact with the City of Moses Lake but that he believes MLIRD should not do anything with this project in the coming year. Director Dexter would like to convince the City of Moses Lake to take care of the curtains then it wouldn't be on MLIRD for any maintenance of the curtains. General Manager, Chris Overland mentioned that MLIRD did some algae treatments at Blue Heron Park for the Fourth of July Weekend and received some pushback from the City of Moses Lake because of the signage that had to go up so wanted to approach a project of this nature cautiously. If things are going great later in 2017 and there is funding left, MLIRD might engage a curtains project. Director Perry likes what General Manager, Chris Overland is planning on doing this year and thinks it is going to be beneficial.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

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Jeffrey B. Foster, Chairman

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Bill Bailey, Vice Chairman

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Mary Perry, Director

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Kris Dexter, Director

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Richard Teals, Director

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary to the Board of Directors

Transcribed By: \_\_\_\_\_