

Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District



PRESS RELEASE

At the Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District's October 22, 2021 Special Board Meeting, Director Jeff Foster made a motion to not assess the MLIRD ratepayers any fees, charges, rates, taxes, or tolls for 2022 and that the MLIRD Board relies on MLIRD Staff to maintain a tight budget and deal with reserves and proceeds from the sale of the MLIRD surplus equipment until there is a legislative fix or an appeals court decision. Director Dexter seconded the motion.

Given the uncertainty about assessment authority until the Washington Court of Appeals decides the appeals from the trial court decisions regarding assessment authority and/or a legislative fix, the MLIRD has decided not to assess the districts ratepayers for 2022.

Board president Bill Bailey stated "*Judge Estudillo has confused the MLIRD Board.....*" and "*.....doesn't see a way.*"

In 2022, the District will operate a very tight budget on accumulated reserves and proceeds from the sale of surplus

**Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District, P O Box 98, Moses Lake WA 98837
Phone: 509-765-8716 Fax: 509-764-8425**

equipment.

Vice President Richard Teals stated he *“feels this is the right move for MLIRD”*. Director Kris Dexter feels *“until the MLIRD Board gets direction from the court of appeals and if the MLIRD Board decides to go for a legislative fix that might be the best option because MLIRD is the only irrigation and rehabilitation district in the State of Washington and that makes this a unique situation”*.

President Bailey stated *“the bottom line is the original code was created in 1963 and things have changed a lot since then and if nothing else, the use of the language and the interpretation then is considerably different than it is today”*. As a result, there are different opinions on what MLIRD’s current rules are. Bailey went on to say that he *“agrees with the motion and thinks MLIRD should hold off on assessments for 2022 and monitor the MLIRD budget and expenses and be prudent with the reminder that in the long run, MLIRD is going to be looked upon as being continually careful with the MLIRD ratepayer’s money and the MLIRD Board is working in their best interest.”*

The motion carried unanimously.

Press/Media contact Beth Yonko byonko@mlird.org or 509-765-8716

**Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District, P O Box 98, Moses Lake WA 98837
Phone: 509-765-8716 Fax: 509-764-8425**