

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:04PM, Director Perry called the March 10, 2015 Regular Board Meeting of the Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District to order. The record shows that Director Perry, Director Teals, and Director Dexter were present, as well as General Manager, Chris Overland and Legal Counsel, Brian Iller. The record indicates that this meeting was recorded. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited. Director Bailey arrived later.

DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEM(S)

Director Perry called on the board members and the audience for discussion on any agenda items. No one came forward.

DISCUSSION OF NON-AGENDA ITEM(S)

Director Perry called on the board members and the audience for discussion on any non-agenda items. Tom Bennett asked to be added under public comments. General Manager, Chris Overland announced that the Board of Directors needed to discuss the Governance Policy draft and Director Teals asked to further discuss the carp issue in Moses Lake.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Director Perry called on the board members to approve the agenda. Director Teals then made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Director Dexter seconded the motion. The motion was then carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Director Perry called on the Board of Directors to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consists of the meeting minutes from 02/10/15, the bills/checks (#14919 - #14962) and vouchers (#1000119 - #1000121) totaling in \$95,225.71. Director Teals made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Director Dexter seconded the motion. The motion was then carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

MOSES LAKE NORTH DAM CONSTRUCTION

Strata could not make it to this Board Meeting so General Manager, Chris Overland gave a brief update on the progress on the Moses Lake North Dam Project.

- The Dam appears to still be on schedule with approximately the end of March being the start-up date from looking at it today.
- General Manager, Chris Overland added updated pictures to the MLIRD website.
- The project is past its tip point where if a person goes out there every day there would be something new each time.
- Director Teals said that he is really impressed. A friend of his jogs out there 3-4 times a week and he had talked with Ryan Carter with Strata and had said that the Moses Lake North Dam is definitely the best earthquake proof structure in Eastern WA.

MLIRD STAFF REPORTS

General Manager, Chris Overland reported on projects and events:

Recent events/news discussed:

- The lake level was at 1043.52 as of March 10th, 2015.
- On March 23rd, 2015 the Bureau of Reclamation is going to start water flowing through Rocky Coulee Waste-way for about a week at 400 cubic feet per second until they fill the East Low Canal. Around April 4th, 2015 flows are going to increase to 2,000 cubic feet per second and run to the end of May until the Potholes reaches its target of 1046.7.
- The Board will need a motion to approve the J.R Newhouse Financial Statement Engagement Letter which is on the agenda.
- Notification on the algae and weed grants came back yesterday and unfortunately they were not approved. Chris has heard that numerous counties are asking the State for help right now which may have played a role in our grant status. MLIRD utilized the same resources for grant writing as in the past and currently has a request in for feedback from the Department of Ecology. In the meantime, for lack of grant dollars the District had hoped for, funding may in part be made up through efforts to cut discretionary spending to allow for algae treatments this summer.
- The D6T Dozer sales or trading detail needs to be finalized and options were discussed. Resolution 2015-002 was passed last month which authorizes the sale once the fair market value had been established and agreed upon. Next is the procurement of replacement equipment and a new excavator has been selected. There was discussion around MLIRD trading used surplus equipment for new needed equipment. Chris mentioned that the Board doesn't need to make a decision at the moment but if the Board of Directors does not do something in the way of a motion that will allow staff to move forward, then it may require a special meeting to take place. Everyone understood.
- Chris had talked recently with Ryan Walker of Grette & Associates about dredge permitting and indicated that it appears due to the way the shoreline permitting process may be being re-written, MLIRD may be allowed to increase the width of the current settling pond operation since there has been some discussion that the existing 200 feet from the lake requirement may be changed in the future. This means they may be able to increase the footprint and go wider with the settling ponds.
- Alan Heroux with Vision 2020 recently approached MLIRD in regards to moving their Fishing Derby this year from Cascade Park to Connelly Park. In the interest of risk management and mitigating liability, the General Manager contacted the Districts insurance carrier who provided him with a form and indicated that anything out of the normal course of activities that take place at Connelly Park should have additional insurance coverage.
 - Director Teals then asked to speak on this matter. He said that, for MLIRD to work with the City of Moses Lake to have their fishing derby at Connelly Park is no different then what we have done in the past when MLIRD held fishing derbies at Connelly park. Director Teals then went into more detail on the subject and the benefits it may bring to Connelly Park.

Discussion between the directors then took place on the pros and cons of the situation. Director Teals then moved that MLIRD work with Vision 2020 to have their Fishing Event at Connelly Park this year. Director Dexter seconded the motion. The motion was then carried unanimously.

- The State Audit began on 2/17/15 and the auditor will be back on March 13th. The exit meeting is going to be scheduled for the end of March.
- MLIRD now has an additional two employees that are CESCL certified as it relates specifically to dredge operations.
- There is a signed lease for the existing settling pond area and will hopefully have a signed lease for the spoils location within the next weeks.
- Revisions have been made to the Governance Policy and all the changes are in red from the 2010 version. Chris suggested that the Board of Directors take the corrections home and go over them and if they have any changes let him know so they can be approved at the April meeting. Legal Counsel, Brian Iller made the suggestion to combine the Bylaws and the Governance Policy into a single document. There are certain provisions where RCW chapter 87.03 talks about “Bylaws”. So Legal Counsel, Brian Iller would like to change the document name to be Bylaws and Governance Policy.
- Lakeshore Cleanup is on track for Saturday, March 28th, 2015 from 9:00AM – 12:00PM at the Moses Lake City Fire Station #1.
- MLIRD was recently approached by an individual representing a parcel owner, requesting a refund due to the changes made to the parcel by the Assessor’s Office. In past years, this particular assessment has brought in excess of \$1,200 a year to the District and with the change it would now bring \$9. In checking into this matter, it was determined that before the previous Assessor left office, she had made some changes that are currently under review. Legal Counsel, Brian Iller is trying to schedule a meeting with the County Prosecutor’s office, the County Assessor’s office and the County Treasurer’s office to talk about these kinds of issues. General Manager, Chris Overland will keep the Board updated on this matter.

ACTION ITEMS

- Director Dexter made a motion to approve the J.R Newhouse Financial Statement Engagement Letter. Director Teals seconded the motion. Director Teals then asked to discuss why MLIRD is using J.R. Newhouse. A brief discussion on the reasons for using J.R. Newhouse then followed between the Directors, Legal Counsel and the General Manager. Director Teals agreed to keep using J.R. Newhouse for the rest of this year but wanted to look into a possible change for next year. The motion was then carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:42PM. The expected time was 10 minutes and they were to return to Regular Session at 7:52PM. Director Perry indicated there may or may not be further action taken as a result of the discussion in Executive Session.

Legal Counsel, Brian Iller entered back into the room at 7:52PM to extend Executive Session another 10 minutes and they were to return at 8:02PM.

The Board entered back into Regular Session at 8:02PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tom Bennett announced that General Manager, Chris Overland had already discussed what he wanted to talk about in his Staff Report.

WORKSHOP/DIRECTOR QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Director Teals wanted to further discuss the carp issue and asked that within the next few weeks, everyone to think about the idea of putting a bounty on the carp and that MLIRD would pay. His example included \$0.50 per carp and to possibly have a dumpster out back of the MLIRD office for people to throw the carp in as they dropped them off to collect their bounty. He would like someone to contact Fish and Wildlife and see if something like that is legal or if there is a limit on carp and then make a report back next month. Following up on an earlier comment from Clay Crook, General Manager, Chris Overland asked about working with Fish & Wildlife to add more walleye to the lake to help with carp control. An audience member said they did add walleye to Moses Lake a few years ago. However, the walleye ate all of the other fish as well. Director Teals just wanted to throw the idea out there and discuss it again sometime in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04PM.

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: _____