

Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District
Regular Board Meeting
July 09, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

At 5:30 PM, President Bailey called the July 09, 2024 Regular Board Meeting of the Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District to order. The record shows that President Bailey, Vice President Teals, Director Perry, Director Ketterer, and Legal Counsel Brian Iller were present. Director Dexter attended via-telephone. The record shows the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The record indicates that this meeting was recorded.

DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEM(S)

President Bailey called for discussion on any agenda items, and Mark Hopkins and Jeff Powell asked to be added to the agenda.

DISCUSSION OF NON-AGENDA ITEM(S)

President Bailey called for discussion on any non-agenda items, and Sam Castro with the Grant County Public Works Department asked to be added to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

President Bailey called on the board members to approve the agenda with the amendment of Petitions to add lands to the District for parcels #121126009 – Merkle, #121126010 – Merkle, #111885157 – Dieter, #121126012 – Cole, #121126013 – Hemmerling, #110065300 – Lystedt and the amendment to remove lands from the District for parcels #090467000 – Dorsing and #090467001 – Dorsing. Director Ketterer made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Vice President Teals seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

President Bailey called on the board members to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the meeting minutes from the 06/11/24 Regular Board Meeting and 06/20/2024 Special Board Meeting, the Bills/Checks (#19200-#19236), and Voucher #1000274, totaling \$91,705.16. Director Perry made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Director Ketterer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. President Bailey abstained from voting on anything related to Basin Property Management, Inc.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Mark Hopkins stated he believed his parcel was already located in the District; however, after receiving the letter from Legal Counsel Brian Iller's office saying his parcel was not in the boundaries, he wants to get his parcel petitioned into the District so he can continue irrigating from the lake. Interim Manager Beth Yonko stated Mr. Hopkins has filled out a petition form and the petition will go before the Board at tonight's meeting. President Bailey stated the District has sent out multiple letters to the non-District property owners with the intent that if the parcel is using lake water to irrigate, the parcel needs to be added to the District in order to use MLIRD's water rights, or have a well, or an independent water right. President Bailey also mentioned that the Board has 18 land petitions for tonight's Board meeting and the petition fee will be divided amongst the 18 petitions. The petition fee covers the cost of three advertisements in the Columbia Basin Herald and the filing costs with Grant County.

Jeff Powell stated he has lived on Panorama Drive in Moses Lake for 30 years and found the letter that was sent by Legal Counsel Brian Iller's office offensive. He stated if MLIRD was looking for public relations, they didn't get it with this letter. The letter specifically states that he pumps from the lake and he knows that he never has. Interim Manager Beth Yonko stated that MLIRD mailed out two letters last August, one for the MLIRD ratepayers and one for the lakefront property owners not in the MLIRD requesting they notify the District if they are not pumping from the lake and the office did not receive any feedback from that letter. She said MLIRD staff has been keeping records of phone calls and emails from property owners that have called the office stating their parcel is not irrigating from the lake so any letters moving forward do not get mailed to them again.

Sam Castro stated he is the Public Works Director for Grant County. The reason he came to the Board meeting was to get a better understanding whether or not MLIRD has pursued ARPA fundings from Grant County. He mentioned he seen MLIRD was awarded a grant and may need some funding to provide the match and would be more than willing to go to the Grant County Commissioners to have a discussion if there is additional ARPA funds. The Grant County Commissioners have received approximately \$19 million in the last two year cycles. Mr. Castro strongly encouraged the Board if there was any projects in the future, to solicit the ARPA funds. He stated he has more than 35 years of public service and would be more than willing to help MLIRD and give his expertise on the steps to move forward with pursuing those funds. Vice President Teals stated he would be interested in hearing more about the ARPA funding. Mr. Castro stated he would speak with the Grant County Commissioners and see if there was any additional funds available and if there was, could help assist the MLIRD staff with the application process to apply for the funds. President Bailey agreed and stated if the Board could find out how much funding MLIRD is eligible for, then the Board can come up with a plan to move forward. Vice President Teals made a motion for MLIRD to work with Grant County to discuss mutual projects. Director Perry seconded the motion. The motion carried with four votes in favor. Director Dexter abstained from the motion.

Director Perry stated he had received a petition at his residence that appeared to be a copy of MLIRD's land petition; however, the petition was to exclude land from MLIRD. He is not sure where it came from or who delivered the form to his residence. He wanted the Board to be informed that someone had created the form and delivered it to a number of properties in his area.

MLIRD STAFF REPORTS

- The MLIRD office has received a high volume of phone calls in regards to the letter mailed out from Legal Counsel Brian Iller's office. A large number of calls have been aggressive and wanted the Board to know how upset they are with the letter accusing them of stealing water when they clearly are not. MLIRD staff has responded and documented phone calls and emails for parcels that are not irrigating from the lake.
- Grant County has not updated parcel records since October of 2023. Neal Welbourne with Welbourne Geographic Services has been in contact with Grant County and will get MLIRD's records updated as soon as the information becomes available.
- The MLIRD office has received 18 land petitions for the Board to consider at tonight's Board meeting.
- A portion of the Moses Lake North Dam's fencing was stolen and has been replaced by MLIRD Operations & Maintenance Lead Chris Wilson.
- The 2024 aquatic weed treatment is taking place this week and will be treating approximately 460 acres.

- The MLIRD office has received a petition to remove lands from the District. The parcels on the petition include #090467000 and #090467001 owned by Craig and Cheryl Dorsing. Director Perry stated the owner Mr. Dorsing who is his neighbor misinterpreted the petition to remove lands from the District. President Bailey stated he would call and have a conversation with Mr. Dorsing regarding the petition form.
- Lad Irrigation informed MLIRD that the Parker Horn Pump Station was in need of repairs and those repairs are now being taken care of.
- There has been interest in the broke down John Deere gator's tailgate that is owned by MLIRD. The gator has been retired for many years and is inoperable. Interim Manager Beth Yonko is not sure if the Board would like to go through the expense of surplus and advertising the gator.
- Connelly Park has been very busy this year compared to the last few years it seems. MLIRD staff changed the ending time for the temporary park attendants which has helped with getting the park guests out of the park at closing time. The park attendants lock the incoming gate at 9:00 PM and then stay until 9:30 PM to ensure all guests have exited the Park.
- The MLIRD office is waiting for the final contract from CERB and then Aspect Consulting can begin working on the Moses Lake Hydrologic Water Budget Study.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Glen Zuger – 3182 Wild Goose Road NE

Mr. Zuger stated the water quality in his area has been extremely terrible this year. He said there is a huge amount of green algae. President Bailey and Interim Manager Beth Yonko will get ahold of Mr. Zuger within the next few days to take a look at the water quality in his area.

LAND PETITIONS

President Bailey stated there is 18 land petitions for the Board to review. The petitions include parcel #111880000 - Lewis, #111885263 - Rudd, #111755000 - Ashley, #111885258 - Sybouts, #161716000 - Miner, #091523001 - Gerber, #091523005 - Holmes, #111885112 - Swisher, #09153007 - Hopkins, #111885133 - Law, #111741000 - Jarman, #111757000 - Rich, #121126009 - Merkle, #121126010 - Merkle, #111885157 - Dieter, #121126012 - Cole, #121126013 - Hemmerling, and #110065300 - Lystedt.

Vice President Teals made a motion to accept and move forward with the 18 land petitions. Director Ketterer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

WORKSHOP/DIRECTOR QUESTIONS and/or COMMENTS

Director Dexter asked if there was going to be any discussion on the assessment protests received and the parcels with acreage of 0.00 acres - 0.09 acres. President Bailey stated there has not been anymore discussion regarding these parcels; however, another study session will need to be scheduled. Director Dexter mentioned he had reviewed a lot of the 0.00 acre to 0.09 acre parcels. He suggested having additional acreage categories such as 0.00 acres - 0.09 acres and from there go to 0.10 acres to 0.50 acres and so on.

President Bailey stated the latest update on the fountain was that Miner Services, LLC could do the repairs and solicit part of the materials. Director Ketterer stated there was a comment made today by the City of Moses Lake Parks and Recreation Director Doug Coutts who mentioned their may be available funds. Interim Manager Beth Yonko stated that the fountain is 44

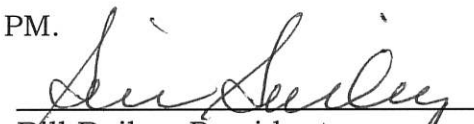
years old and has had minimal maintenance. In 2007, the Port of Moses Lake made the decision to stop putting it in the lake. In 2009, the MLIRD Board at the time decided to adopt the fountain and take care of the maintenance and putting it in the lake each spring. President Bailey stated that it was time the fountain was either replaced or retired. President Bailey mentioned the Board needed to start thinking about what they would like MLIRD participation with the fountain to be. He believes MLIRD could offer to help put it in and out each year. He also mentioned that several ratepayers have indicated they don't mind seeing the fountain out in the lake every year; however, they do not think the MLIRD ratepayers should be paying for the upkeep without everyone in Moses Lake helping fund it.

Vice President Teals stated he has received some comments from ratepayers on the lake that are assessed on irrigation for using lake water when they specifically built their house to never have to use any water such as the city or lake water for irrigation purposes. He feels the Board should take a look at the irrigation assessments and make some changes.

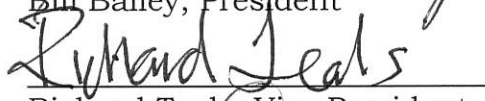
Director Perry asked for an update on the search for an MLIRD General Manager. Interim Manager Beth Yonko stated the Board will be having a Special Board Meeting on July 24, 2024 from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM for a study session. The MLIRD General Manager interviews are tentatively set for August 8, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

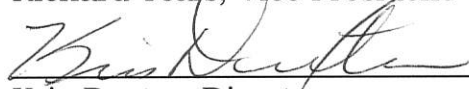
The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.



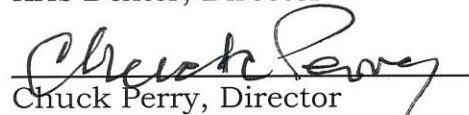
Bill Bailey, President



Richard Teals, Vice President

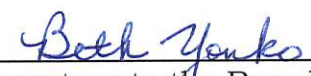


Kris Dexter, Director



Chuck Perry, Director

Joe Ketterer, Director

By: 

Secretary to the Board of Directors