**Hermiston Irrigation District**

**Board of Directors**

#### March 13, 2025

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Findley called the March Regular Board Meeting of the Hermiston Irrigation District Board of Directors to order at 4:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Business Manager Nash recorded all in attendance. Present at the meeting were Directors Bryan Allstott, Jeremy Bolen, Ian Findley, Steve Wallace, and Bryon Zumwalt; District Manager Annette Kirkpatrick; Field Manager Wyatt Cleaver; Business Manager Sonia Nash; Water Rights/Land Use Specialist Karra Van Fossen; Bureau of Reclamation Umatilla Field Office Manager Chet Sater; and Developer Maggie Rodgriguez.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**GUESTS:** Maggie Rodriguez- Rodriguez Estates-Moved down to Old Business.

**NEW AGENDA ITEMS TO CONSIDER:** District Manager Kirkpatrick requested to add to the Agenda a Water and Land Use Report by Water Rights/Land Use Specialist Karra Van Fossen and the Oxbow Trail Project by Bureau of Reclamation Umatilla Field Office Manager Chet Sater.

**MINUTES:** The Board reviewed the February 27, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Director Zumwalt moved to approve the minutes as presented. Director Allstott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & VOUCHERS:** The Board reviewed and approved the February 2025 Profit & Loss Report and Check Voucher Report. The Board reviewed and approved the accounts payable receipts and Bank Statements. Business Manager Nash gave a report of the District’s financial standings.

Business Manager Nash advised the Board that collection calls were made today, March 13, 2025 and that there remains approximately $409,874.63 in outstanding account receivables, with $18,953.26 of that remaining from previous years.

Developer Maggie Rodriguez arrived at 4:03 p.m.

**FIELD MANAGER’S REPORT:** Field Manager Cleaver reported to the Board that over the last couple of weeks the field crew has been working on placing geo-form liner under the bridge on Highland Avenue, placed a pipe and re-graveled on the Weimer property, installed 3 delivery boxes for patrons, moved a valve for a patron, the roll tubs will be installed as soon as the parts are received, installed a delivery on the R-Line on site and lined the R-Line with teranap to assist with leaking issues, and will be repairing the culvert at Bensel and Cooney Rds next week. Field Manager Cleaver also reported that HID received the two new F-250 pickups that were ordered and have installed new bumpers and toolboxes on them, and that the Prison Crew has cleaned the R-Line and the tail of the A-Line.

Field Manager Cleaver, District Manager Kirkpatrick, and Field Crew Member Diego Gonzalez have met with several patrons to assist with water issues amongst neighbors.

District Manager Kirkpatrick asked Field Manager Cleaver if April 1 is still the projected turn on date. Field Manager Cleaver reported that the A-Line would be turned on April 1, 2025.

Chairman Findley asked how the CDL drivers were working out. Field Manager Cleaver stated that they completed all requirements and that it has been a lot of help as they have been utilizing them.

**WATER & LAND USE REPORT:** Water Rights/Land Use Specialist Karra Van Fossen reported to the Board that she has been working on the 2025 Temporary Transfer and is waiting on the City of Umatilla to complete temp transfer for OSU Extension Center, she has received her final RRA form and will complete the Summary and get that submitted. She also has a couple of partitions that have been completed and will separate those and get them to Business Manager Nash to process in her system.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**RODRIGUEZ ESTATES SUB-DIVISION:** Abraham and Margaret Rodriguez have purchased a piece of property along the R-Line Canal and have partitioned the land. They plan to sell the empty lots for development. The Board previously requested that the Rodriguez’s submit a plan to the Board as to what the fence would look like and then the Board could approve the variance.

Margaret Rodriguez submitted the plans for a fencing variance. Mrs. Rodriguez stated that the fencing would be 4’ no climb fencing with 6’ T-Posts every 10’ and railroad tie H-braces at the ends and in the middle at the property lines with additional railroad ties as support in between. Director Bolen moved to approve the fencing variance as presented. Director Zumwalt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

District Manager Kirkpatrick requested that the Rodriguez’s contact HID to inspect and be able to take pictures at the beginning and the end of the project.

Developer Maggie Rodriguez left at 4:25 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**OXBOW PROPERTIES:** Bureau of Reclamation Umatilla Field Office Manager Chet Sater and District Manager Kirkpatrick reported to the Board that HID is coordinating with BOR, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Law Enforcement, City of Hermiston and the Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office to clean-up the Oxbow properties. On March 12, 2025 crews from BOR and the Sheriff’s Office made initial contact with the citizens that are occupying the Oxbow properties. They will go out again in a week or two to give them additional information on local resources. The current plan is that crews will go to the site with equipment and dump trucks to clear the area on April 18, 2025 after the proper notices have been made.

**TRESPASS ENFORCEMENT AUTHORIZATION WITH UMATILLA CO. SHERIFF’S OFFICE:** District Manager Kirkpatrick requested a motion to have Chairman Findley sign the Trespass Enforcement Authorization with Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office. Director Bolen moved to approve to have Chairman Findley sign the Trespass Enforcement Authorization form. Director Zumwalt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Director Zumwalt stated that he had requested for this to be completed 6 months ago.

**NON-ACTION ITEMS**

**WATERSHED PLAN-EA NRCS/FCA WORK:** District Manager Kirkpatrick reported to the Board that HID has not received a monthly update for February/March yet. The application for Congressionally Directed Spending for $3MM has been received by Senators Wyden and Merkley’s offices. Cultural resources and financial analysis are still in progress.

**STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION AND ISSUES:** District Manager Kirkpatrick attended the OWRC District Manager’s Workshop and OWRC quarterly board meeting in Newport OR on March 6 & 7, 2025.

Over 3,300 bills have been introduced in the 2025 Oregon Legislative session. The collective of OWRC, irrigation districts and their partners are closely tracking many bills during this legislative session.

SB1153 is of particular interest to the agricultural community. This Bill directs the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) to consider whether certain water right transfers will result in a loss of in-stream habitat for sensitive, threatened or endangered aquatic species in stream reaches not protected by an existing water right or contribute to water quality impairment in water quality limited streams. It also directs them to provide an opportunity for tribes to review certain water right transfer applications and authorizes the department to condition water rights transfers with water use measurement and reporting, water level measurement and reporting or the installation of fish screening or by-pass devices.

This Bill is written broadly and would include inner district transfers. Irrigation Districts already have fish screening and bypasses. District are also already required to submit annual water use reporting. This bill would be burdensome to districts, cause delays in processing transfers and potentially open District transfers to additional public reviews that are considered unnecessary.

Other Bills that we are tracking include HB2170 & HB2982, Boat Inspection Stations/Aquatic Invasive Species Funding, HB3502 allowing District employees to sit for the Certified Water Rights Examiner state licensing exam, and other Water Policy Legislation concerning the Public Interest Review of District Transfers, Water Measurement and Reporting, Water Reuse, and the Governor’s 2025-27 Budget with a 135% increase to OWRD fees.

HID joined with CTUIR, Stanfield ID and West Extension ID to pen letters of support for the Umatilla Basin Project and the BOR Umatilla Field Office. Letters of support were sent to Representative Bentz, Senators Wyden and Merkley, BOR Acting Commissioner David Palumbo and Secretary of the Department of Interior Doug Burgum.

That coordination led to other letters of support for the basin project from the City of Pendleton Mayor McKennon McDonald and the Oregon Water Resources Department Director Ivan Gall.

**TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES:** District Manager Kirkpatrick is still receiving bids and information on the best way to move forward with IT upgrades. She is also looking into an OEM technology grant.

**MANAGER’S REPORT:** District Manager Kirkpatrick went through the calendar of events with the Board as listed on the agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, Director Bolen moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:49 p.m. Director Allstott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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Ian Findley Sonia Nash

Director Recording Secretary