**Hermiston Irrigation District**

**Board of Directors**

#### April 17, 2025

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Findley called the April 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, 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; Bureau of Reclamation Project Manager Tom Appler; Legacy Creation Network Representative James Hurst; and Struchen Financial Representative Brady Struchen. Director Jeremy Bolen was not in attendance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**NEW AGENDA ITEMS TO CONSIDER:** Nothing to add to the Agenda

**GUESTS:** Legacy Creation Network Representative James Hurst

Struchen Financial Representative Brady Struchen

James Hurst and Brady Struchen explained to the Board the difference between our current Deferred Compensation plan and retirement plans to move to and become compliant with a retirement plan.

Water Rights/Land Use Specialist Karra Van Fossen arrived at 4:17 p.m.

James Hurst & Brady Struchen left at 4:31 p.m.

**MINUTES:** The Board reviewed the March 13, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Director Allstott moved to approve the minutes as presented. Director Wallace seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & VOUCHERS:** The Board reviewed and approved the March 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, April 17, 2025 and that there remains approximately $275,151.69 in outstanding account receivables, with $16,234.48 of that remaining from previous years.

**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 different repairs throughout the District. The Crew installed 2 new POD’s on the G-Line and replaced pipe across Bensel Rd and found that the culvert was collapsing and had a blockage caused by a root. They repaired the culvert on the R-Line at Bensel and Cooney Rds, replaced panels on the A-Line above Canal & Ott Rds, 395 & 9th St, and on Feedville Rd. He stated that HID had a slow start up on April 1 and that it was a usual start up with turning off lines for repairs throughout the District. The crew has started spraying the A-Line and Maxwell Canals.

District Manager Kirkpatrick reported to the Board that HID’s 2025 irrigation season started on April 1, 2025. It has been a slow and steady start-up due to the rain and moisture. The Feed Canal will continue to run until HID has reclaimed 20% of the losses. The Feed Canal was turned off on April 15, 2025. The balance of 27,884 af of water for the season will be pumped from the Columbia River.

**WATER & LAND USE REPORT:** Water Rights/Land Use Specialist Karra Van Fossen reported to the Board that she submitted the 2025 Temporary Transfers prior to water startup. She also stated that she does not intend on submitting a permanent transfer this year as she submitted one last year with 100+ acres on it.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Nothing to bring to the Board

**NEW BUSINESS**

**SDAO/SDIS HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE RENEWALS FOR 2025/2026:** District Manager Kirkpatrick reported to the Board that HID has received the 2025/2026 Health and Life Insurance Estimates from Swanson Insurance. District Manager Kirkpatrick recommends that the District continue to provide health insurance under the Blue Cross/Blue Shield PPO V Plan through SDAO as presented. Director Zumwalt moved to renew the District’s health insurance with Regence Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Oregon Plan PPO V through SDAO. Director Allstott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN:** James Hurst and Brady Struchen presented to the Board the differences between deferred comp plans and other retirement plans. District Manager Kirkpatrick requested input from the Board on how to proceed. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to proceed with James Hurst and Brady Struchen on Proposals and bring it back to the Board in May.

**GEO MEMBRANE BIDS:** District Manager Kirkpatrick reported to the Board that HID had received four comparable bids for Geo Membrane Liner. Geo-Form LLC submitted a bid for $30,720.00, Terrafix submitted a bid for $57,764.00, BTL submitted a bid for $15,840.00 plus freight of $600.00, and Western Environmental Liner $13,680.00 plus freight of $1,350.00. District Manager Kirkpatrick recommended Geo-Form or Terrafix as that is the product that works best for the volume of water that is pushed throughout HID’s system. Director Zumwalt moved to approve Geo-Form in the amount of $30,720.00. Director Wallace seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**VOLVO GRADER OPTIONS:** District Manager Kirkpatrick and Field Manager Cleaver reported to the Board that the Volvo Grader was in the shop due to needed repairs after it over spun. Bailey’s Heavy Equipment recommends option 1 of repair the engine for $14,613.84. Director Zumwalt moved to approve option 1 in the amount of $14,613.84 and then option 2 if needed in the amount of $22,726.26. Director Allstott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**NON-ACTION ITEMS**

**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION:** Chet Sater spoke to the Board in regards to him taking the retirement at the Bureau of Reclamation. Thomas Appler and Rick Hlawek will be the interim Bureau of Reclamation Umatilla Field Office Manager’s until the position is filled. District Manager Kirkpatrick also reported that Wendy Morrison has taken the retirement and that leaves the Bureau of Reclamation Umatilla Field Office without a Realty Specialist.

Director Bryan Allstott left at 5:09 p.m.

**HID PROPERTY:** District Manager Kirkpatrick reported to the Board that Richard Carpenter called and asked if HID would be interested in selling a piece of land that is connected to their land that HID has no access too. She stated she was only presenting it to the Board so they were aware.

**BRANDT PROPERTY:** District Manager Kirkpatrick reported to the Board that the first phase of the Henry K Development did not touch the A-Line therefore she forwent the Developers Agreement as well as the Fencing Agreement. They have contacted the BOR for a crossing agreement for water and sewer. The District was contacted by the City of Hermiston regarding water at the State offices on Columbia Drive. District Manager Kirkpatrick and Field Manager Cleaver discovered the water was coming from a weir box on the Hermiston Home Works property after District Manager Kirkpatrick spoke with previous owner Ray Kopacz, she discovered that he and his father had placed a drain line in 1976 to divert water up 10th Street into the Maxwell Canal. This line was capped off by Dixon during construction of the new housing project. Tyler Brandt does not want to take any responsibility of said water but may allow HID an easement to take over and install a new drain line. District Manager Kirkpatrick recommends to have Tyler Brandt install a new drain line and then grant HID an easement or help pay for the Feed Canal to be lined. District Manager Kirkpatrick requested to contact Jordan Ramis for a more detailed Developers Agreement due to the excess water.

**WATERSHED PLAN-EA NRCS/FCA WORK:** District Manager Kirkpatrick reported to the Board that there has not been much movement on the Watershed Plan-EA this month due to our project manager being out of the office.

**STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION AND ISSUES:** District Manager Kirkpatrick reported to the Board that she is staying engaged with OWRC and responding to bills as needed.

HID submitted a letter of opposition of SB1153. A copy of the letter is attached for your review. This Bill is broadly written and would affect temporary and inner district transfers. Irrigation Districts already have fish screens and bypasses as required and approved by ODFW. Districts are 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.

**OXBOW PROPERTIES:** District Manager Kirkpatrick reported that HID has signed a Trespass Enforcement Authorization with Umatilla Co Sheriff’s Office. Managers Kirkpatrick & Cleaver conducted a field assessment with BOR staff and is coordinating with BOR and the Umatilla County Sheriff’s Office to clean-up the Oxbow properties. On March 12, 2025 crews from BOR, USF&W law enforcement and the Sheriff’s Office made initial contact with the citizens that are occupying the Oxbow properties. The current plan is that crews will go to the site with equipment and dump trucks to clear the area on April 22 & 23, 2025 after the proper notices have been made.

**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.

**TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES:** District Manager Kirkpatrick reported to the Board that Blue Mountain Communications was able to fix the HID phone system. There is no need to replace it at this time. We will still need to replace the office computers before October 2025.

**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 Zumwalt moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:36 p.m. Director Wallace seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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Ian Findley Sonia Nash

Director Recording Secretary