**Hermiston Irrigation District**

**Board of Directors**

#### November 14, 2024

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Findley called the November Regular Board Meeting of the Hermiston Irrigation District Board of Directors to order at 4:02 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Business Manager Nash recorded all in attendance. Present at the meeting were Directors Bryan Allstott, Jeremy Bolen, Ian Findley, and Steve Wallace; District Manager Annette Kirkpatrick; Business Manager Sonia Nash; and Water Rights Specialist/CSR Karra Van Fossen. Director Bryon Zumwalt and Field Manager Wyatt Cleaver were not in attendance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**GUESTS:** None

**NEW AGENDA ITEMS TO CONSIDER:** None

**MINUTES:** The Board reviewed the October 17, 2024 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 October 2024 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 standing.

Business Manager Nash advised the Board that collection calls were made yesterday, November 13, 2024, and that there remains approximately $21,161.53 in outstanding account receivables, with $4,555.37 of that remaining from previous years.

**FIELD MANAGER’S REPORT:** District Manager Kirkpatrick reported to the Board that the 2024 Irrigation Season ended on October 10, 2024. The field crew has been cleaning, winterizing and securing the HID properties. She also reported that there were high losses in the Feed Canal and that they are reevaluating the issue and have begun maintenance on the Feed Canal. BOR was notified that HID is Ready, Willing and Able to receive water in the Feed Canal for the 2025 season.

**Paluso, Dency Jo**: Ms. Paluso called on October 30, 2024 and reported that she still has water at her place, 3 weeks after the end of the irrigation season. She continues to claim that it is water from the A-Line. There is some residual water in the A-Line from springs located upstream. Nothing more than a few inches of water. I still contend that she has a groundwater problem.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**STATELINE TRUCK DRIVING SCHOOL:** District Manager Kirkpatrick reported to the Board that Business Manager Nash had registered Diego Gonzalez for Truck Driving School as previously approved by the Board and is currently working on the longevity contract. She stated that when Diego was registered Business Manager Nash reported that Stateline Truck Driving School had shortened the class from 4 weeks to 3 weeks due to low class registration and was requesting HID send another employee in 2024 instead of waiting for the 2025 class as it would decrease the cost significantly. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to send a second employee in 2024.

**RATIFY HVAC BIDS:** Business Manager Nash reported to the Board that she was seeking a motion to ratify the decision of approving Eastern Oregon Heating & AC for the new HVAC System for the Office. Bids were sent via email to the Board on October 18, 2024 and found comparable. Three D Heating & Air submitted a bid for $9,079.00. Eastern Oregon Heating & AC submitted a bid for $9,227.69 and Bruce Heating & Air-Conditioning submitted a bid for $10,214.00. The Board awarded the contract with a 3/2 approval via email & texts for Eastern Oregon Heating & AC in the amount of $9,227.69. Director Allstott moved to approve to ratify the award to Eastern Oregon Heating & AC. Director Bolen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**DRAFT 2025 BUDGET WITH WAGE PROPOSAL:** District Manager Kirkpatrick went over the Draft 2025 Budget. District Manager Kirkpatrick reported to the Board that she is not recommending an increase on the 2025 Assessments. She also went over the wage proposals for 2025 with the Board and stated that she would be bringing another Draft Budget back in December as we still had a very large carryover, and that she had placed some extra funds into the rental properties as they are needing new flooring in the 4th St rental and Echo rental has asked for assistance in lawn upgrades. No approvals were made by the Board this month as it will be approved in January at the Organizational Board Meeting.

**DRAFT EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK:** District Manager Kirkpatrick gave hardcopies of the Draft Employee Handbook to the Board. No approvals were made by the Board this month as it will be brought back for approval at the December Board Meeting.

**NON-ACTION ITEMS**

**FEMA-MAXWELL PUMP STATION AND PIPELINE PROJECT:** District Manager Kirkpatrick is working on final submissions.

**THEATER LN LAND SALE:** District Manager Kirkpatrick reported to the Board that the land sale is completed. Funds have been received and deposited.

**OWRC ANNUAL CONFERENCE:** District Manager Kirkpatrick reported to the Board that the office will be closed from Monday, December 2, 2024 thru December 5, 2024. District Manager Kirkpatrick, Field Manager Cleaver and Business Manager Nash will be attending the OWRC Annual Conference in Hood River that week. Karra Van Fossen will be attending the conference with Stanfield Irrigation District Manager Brian Anderson.

**PERSONNEL:** District Manager Kirkpatrick reported to the Board that HID terminated field crew member Donald Mote. Donald Mote filed for unemployment and was denied. He has filed an appeal and the hearing is scheduled for November 19, 2024.

District Manager Kirkpatrick reported to the Board that Field crew member Tony Mendoza Bedolla has passed his Pesticide Applicator’s Laws & Safety Test. He is now working on his Right-of-Way Category.

**WATERSHED PLAN-EA NRCS/FCA WORK:** District Manager Kirkpatrick reported to the Board that HID and FCA are still in discussions with the CTUIR and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to come to an agreement about relocating the O-Line easement. She has also met with staff at the West Umatilla Mosquito Control District. We discussed how overtopping and flood irrigation impacts their operations. We are working with them to create a financial impact statement that could quantify the amount that may be saved when HID pipes the District, especially the B & O Lines.

**OTHER:** District Manager Kirkpatrick reported to the Board that the HID Agricultural Water Management and Conservation Plan is being updated. HID’s BOR Water Right Certificate is being updated. Water Right Specialist Van Fossen is working on the 2025 Water Right Transfer. We have applied for a SDAO Safety Grant and are looking into a Cyber Security Grant that was recommended by SDAO. We will be meeting with a financial advisor to discuss options for employee retirement accounts.

**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 4:39 p.m. Director Findley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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Ian Findley Sonia Nash

Director Recording Secretary