

Monday, March 9, 2026

Farmers Union Ditch Meeting

Board Present:

Corey Blaine, Cheryl Bloom, Luke Erlebach, Robert Netzly, Jacob Zwygart

Seth Kettering – Ditch Rider

Rosalie Cope, Administrative Assistant

Andrew Waldera, Attorney for FUD

Luke Erlebach called the meeting to order at 5:29 p.m.

The Board entered into executive session from 5:30 p.m. – 6:51 p.m. Robert Netzly made a motion to table discussion and have ongoing conversations to try to get resolution in the coming weeks and to conduct business going forward with the caveat that Corey Blaine will not be involved in any voting or official business of the Board until this matter has been resolved; Motion was seconded by Luke Erlebach. Motion was unanimously approved.

Brett and Katella Saffery live at 1275 W Beacon Light Road behind Katella's dad, Larry Fisher. Ms. Saffery explained Mr. Fisher has lived there since 1983 and has taken water shares from headgate 64. The property owner at 1262 W Beacon Light Road is proposing to reroute the lateral to build a barn which will disrupt the way Mr. Fisher historically accessed his water. Andy explained the pond is considered a ditch under 42-11-02. He said the problem area is where the lateral is piped between the headgate and the pond because the statute relies on visibility. Lateral water users do not have the ability to relocate the facilities of others without written permission of the owners and any changes must be in a manner that does not otherwise impede the water. The users of the historical system are the owners of the system. Mr. Saffery said the group informed Mr. Fisher he would bear the cost of relocating the pipe in exchange for granting him an easement. Andy said the landowner pays all costs associated with relocating the facility and any increased O&M costs going forward. Luke reiterated the Board does not get involved in lateral matters and recommended they use the statutes Andy provided to resolve their issues.

Conor Byrt at 6750 W Hill Road was scheduled to call in but did not. Andy previously sent an email response to Mr. Byrt's asking for more information regarding his inquiry.

Minutes from the February 19th meeting were e-mailed to the Board for review. Cheryl Bloom made a motion that approval of the February 19, 2026 Board minutes be postponed until the April Board meeting to allow the Board Secretary time to review

the meeting recording and the draft minutes before they are presented for approval; motion was seconded by Luke Erlebach. Motion was unanimously approved.

Andy explained minutes are not official records of the company until they have gone final and approved by the Board. The Board may post approved minutes on the company website if they so desire. The Board agreed to post the approved, January 21st meeting minutes on the website.

Financials were emailed to the Board prior to the meeting and updated financials were provided at the meeting. Rosalie reviewed the accounts receivable summary. Cheryl Bloom made a motion to issue refunds on credit card processing fees over \$25 to those who paid by check; motion was seconded by Luke Erlebach. Motion was unanimously approved. The Board decided a motion for approval of financials is not necessary.

BOARD SECRETARY REPORT

Cheryl Bloom spoke with Mike Meyers at Black Canyon Irrigation District regarding development policies and procedures. Mr. Meyers is willing to meet with Board members and/or staff to review how they have implemented their policies and procedures for development plan review. They had a Board resolution to implement the fees and he highly recommended being able to justify the fees other than engineering and attorney fees. Luke, Cheryl and Seth will meet with Mr. Meyers to get more information. Andy stated Pioneer Irrigation's policies and procedures are also posted on their website if the Board wants to reference those.

DITCH RIDER REPORT

Seth reported Logan Rice started today. They are burning and cleaning the canal.

Andy stated the Caliber Cove license agreement is out for their signature and he has not heard anything back. Seth reported work on the project has begun. They filled in the canal so they can still cross to access the house and rebar is in for the pour in place box culvert. The Board directed Seth to communicate to them that all work is to stop until the license agreement is signed.

Seth said he has been on the Scenic View jobsite several times within the past couple of weeks. He asked the Board to set a cutoff date for work to be done by March 1st on all projects going forward. Andy said the policies need to be posted in writing as notice.

Seth spoke to the Water District 63 River Master, Daniel Hoke and other irrigation entities are aiming for a turn on date of April 13th. Andy said the Project Board of control is pushing for a turn on date of April 22nd due to the lack of snowpack in an effort to sustain natural flow in the river. The day of allocation could be as early as May. Andy reported snowpack is at 71% of median and reservoir contents are in the 80th percentile but there is no low or mid elevation snowpack. The Board will make a decision at the next meeting.

Seth reported the price of Copper Sulphate has doubled because it is also used in something to do with A.I. The Board will need to keep that in mind when budgeting for 2027.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Andy drafted a license agreement for the property owner at 5245 W Homer Road to install pavement within the Farmers Union easement from Homer Road to the wooden bridge and from the bridge to a concrete pad by the house. It is not invasive and Seth is fine with the work being done within irrigation season. Andy will forward the license agreement to Aaron Dubie for signature. Seth informed him they will be driving over it with large equipment and there may be damage. Andy said the license agreement covers that.

Corey received the construction notes from the City of Boise on the commercial grade gate design. He will forward to Andy to attach to the license agreement.

The Bureau of Reclamation typically sends the Lucky Peak bill breakdown out in November. This year they did not. Andy reported he heard from them that the bills are almost finalized and irrigation entities should be receiving a copy soon.

The redlines on the Eagle Sewer District letter have been approved by the Board. Andy will sign the letter and send it tomorrow.

Rosalie reported there is approximately \$750,000 in the checking account and suggested some of those funds could be moved to the money market savings account until the Board is comfortable making a decision on a CD. The Board approved Luke to move \$400,000 from the checking account to the money market savings account.

Luke reported the septic test hole dig at the shop site is complete and testing was done on both sides. Will Mason's report said the test holes indicated sandy soil on the east side of the building and clay loam on the west side which means a bigger septic drain field on the west side but he thinks the east side will still work with the proposed finished floor elevation of the shop. Luke said the west side is the better side because of the level of the pad. There is less work involved in getting it to grade. The only issue is the potential road in the future. Luke recommended moving the septic to the west side. The Board is in agreement and Corey will communicate to Will Mason so he can finalize the plans and submit the permit.

The Board agreed to leave discussion items not addressed on the agenda for the April meeting. Jacob would like to add discussion regarding Seth Kettering's job title.

Seth spoke to Will Mason regarding the ACHD roundabout at Pierce Park. Will is communicating with them on that project.

Luke Erlebach made a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion was seconded by Cheryl Bloom. Motion was unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.