

Monday, Feb. 3, 2025

Farmers Union Ditch Meeting

Board Present:

Sam Rosti, Paul Akins, John Schram, Bert Browen

Seth Kettering, Sean Kettering, Dale Wood – Ditch Riders

Rosalie Cope, Secretary/Bookkeeper

Andrew Waldera, Attorney for FUD

Sam Rosti called the meeting to order at 5:27 p.m.

Annual Meeting minutes were e-mailed to the Board for review; John Schram moved to approve the minutes from the Annual meeting; motion was seconded by Bert Browen. Motion was unanimously approved.

Minutes from the January special meeting were e-mailed to the Board for review. John Schram moved to approve the January minutes with corrections; motion was seconded by Paul Akins. Motion was unanimously approved.

DITCH RIDER REPORT

Seth reported the eco block wall for the ACHD crosswalk at Floating Feather is complete. He is meeting with an ACHD representative on-site tomorrow.

Idaho power is now revisiting the option of replacing the poles in place – same hole and not a foot or two outside of the original hole upstream of Seamans Gulch and Hill Road. Andy communicated to Idaho Power that when this option was discussed in December the Board wanted a Geotech report conducted and reviewed by Ardurra. Seth explained that in order to replace the poles in the same hole a much larger hole would need to be excavated then they would install a steel sleeve and concrete around the pole. The Board does not like this idea and agrees that a Geotech study would still be necessary in order to even consider it.

Healthy Tree completed the work at Big Gulch and is working on the section from Castle to Pierce Park now.

The excavator is on-site at Dry Creek and they are working on cleaning up some brush. The Dodge has an oil leak and the transmission seems to be slipping. It is in the shop and they are going to replace the valve covers and oil pan and re-program the codes before doing any major work.

Steve Bruneel at 4952 N Gooder John Lane is in the process of developing his property and put in a new road with a culvert that appears to drain into the canal. Bert explained the road is on the north side of the canal where there is a big curve and the pipe is outside the Farmer's Union easement but will collect runoff from a draw that goes up the hill. The old driveway followed the natural terrain and the water more than likely used to go down the side of the gravel driveway. Andy asked Seth to send him some pictures.

Derek Cooper at 7129 W Goodale Trail Road installed a temporary fence across the canal for his horses to cross onto Bob Hanson's property. The horses are tearing up the canal bank. Also, Andy still has not received more detailed plans for the bridge he wants to install. Andy will get in touch with him regarding the license agreement and damage.

Landon Cooley sent an email requesting to build a bridge over the canal. He is under contract to purchase 5 acres off Wing Rd. and Scenic View. Mr. Cooley stated there is an easement that includes a bridge over the canal and said there is some question about the language associated with the canal. He asked if the Board had any information regarding the easement and provided a map outlining the location of the property along with documentation for the easement. Mr. Cooley did not attend the meeting.

Rosalie reported in June of 2023, while making a 943 tax deposit the amount of \$3,789,080.00 was typed instead of the actual amount due of \$3,789.80. This payment was submitted through EFTPS. Shortly after the error was caught she contacted EFTPS and they said they would try to stop the transaction but instructed her to go ahead and make the regular payment. They said if they couldn't put a stop on the payment it would be refused as we do not have millions of dollars in the checking account. In July of 2023 a notice was issued stating Farmer's Union had incurred a bad check penalty of \$75,781.60. Upon receipt of the notice Rosalie placed a call to EFTPS and the IRS to explain what had happened and was told to wait and it should be cleared up. A second notice was received in March of 2024 still showing a dishonored payment penalty of \$75,781.60 plus interest charges. At that time Rosalie filed a form to have the penalty abated and just received a letter stating they were not going to remove the penalty. Ripley Doorn said the next step would be to file for a taxpayer advocate to assist with the case. That has been done and we are waiting for a response from them.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Andy received an inquiry from a utility contractor requesting to run fiber optic through a PVC conduit on an already existing ACHD bridge crossing. The Board does not see any issues. Andy will issue a license agreement.

Andy reported there was a presentation to the Idaho Water Resource Board by members of the Idaho Water Resource Board regarding the Anderson Ranch dam raise. They are at the 60% design completion interval and the current cost projection

per acre ft. is \$4,500. Based on these projections the \$6-\$9,000 Westwater Research was thinking for the purchase of existing storage water seems in the ballpark.

Veolia is in discussion with New Dry Creek to purchase storage water. They earmarked \$2.5 million to purchase 250 acre ft. which works out to \$10,000 per acre ft. New Dry Creek is holding firm at \$10,000 per acre ft. which will set the market.

A number of the executive orders issued by President Trump dealt with hydropower protection and the lower Snake dams along with other things in the Columbia Basin. The new administration is tasked to review what it would take to get out of the Federal commitments document implemented under the Biden Administration.

Andy reported Mr. Beyerly who drove through the gate near Stilson and Veteran's memorial Parkway around the 1st of December has paid the \$2,750 owed to replace the gate.

Andy found out the case number provided by Boise P.D. to Rosalie regarding the accident at State Street and Wiley Lane is not a case number, but a police report number. He has been trying to track down the case number and has had to do a public records request to get the police report. The driver was not cited which means getting reimbursement for the stop logs will be a civil matter. Andy has been in touch with ACHD. They will have to replace the hand rail so they will need to be involved also. Farmer's Union will have to make a claim with the insurance company for replacement of the stop logs.

Bert Browen moved to approve the financials; motion was seconded by John Schram. Motion was unanimously approved.

John Schram moved to adjourn the meeting; motion was seconded by Paul Akins. Motion was unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.