

Monday, April 7, 2025

Farmers Union Ditch Meeting

Board Present:

Sam Rosti, Paul Akins, John Schram, Bert Browen, Corey Blaine

Seth Kettering, Sean Kettering– Ditch Riders

Rosalie Cope, Secretary/Bookkeeper

Andrew Waldera, Attorney for FUD

Sam Rosti called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

MARK BECKMAN - 3050 W Floating Feather Rd.

Mr. Beckman is at the end of lateral 75 and has plans to develop his property. Andy is currently representing him in a dispute with Canterbury subdivision. The dispute involves headgate 75 and 78. Canterbury is diverting water from lateral 78 into their lower pond which is an amenity pond, not used for irrigation. The lower pond was designed to be for overflow. The elevations of the ponds in Canterbury effect flow to water users downstream. Lateral 78 may overflow from the pond into New Dry Creek. The Board agreed to authorize Andy to send Canterbury a letter informing them it is illegal to use irrigation water for an amenity pond. Andy previously sent an email to Canterbury's Council asking how their new system is going to work. If they have a good explanation he won't send the letter regarding the amenity pond. John Schram made a motion to have Andy send Canterbury a letter regarding the amenity pond; motion was seconded by Corey Blaine. Motion was unanimously approved.

RUSS CAMPBELL & JIM ESCOBAR – Pump #35

Mr. Escobar lives at 3090 Aspen Ridge Lane. The original 10 acre parcel was subdivided into two 5 acre parcels. Mr. Escobar has a pump in the canal and the pipe runs up Beacon Light Road to his property. Mr. Campbell could never get permission from Fisher to run a pipe underneath his property and has not previously had access to his water. Mr. Campbell and Mr. Escobar have come to an agreement and are proposing to tie into Mr. Escobar's pipe and run the pipe to Mr. Escobar's property. They would share the pump. The existing pump will need to be replaced with a larger pump because of the elevations. The Board will require installation of a flow meter and asked for a copy of any agreement between the two water users for sharing the pump and maintenance. Sam suggested they have a pump person look at their system and make a recommendation on pump size.

NEIL JENKINS & JAMES GRUBER, CHAIRMAN - Eagle Sewer District

Neil, Corey, Bert and John met with a reporter from KTVB at the Eagle Water Treatment Plant in an effort to better educate them on the reuse agreement. Farmer's

Union received an email inquiry from KTVB asking about the agreement to release "Class A sewage" into the Boise River. John stated the reporters seemed to be doing information gathering and had no understanding of water use. Neil said they did try to educate the reporters about where drinking water comes from and where irrigation water comes from. He provided the Board with a poster of the Treasure Valley water reuse map Eagle Sewer is using to help educate the public. It shows which Cities are already utilizing reuse water in the Valley. Neil reported the reuse permit was submitted on March 28th. The approval process takes anywhere from 6-18 months. He thinks they have gone above and beyond to communicate with DEQ prior to submitting the application which should cut down on the time it takes for permit approval. They would expect to start receiving questions and comment any time. Eagle Sewer District has added information to their website with 10 frequently asked questions. The Board will add a link to the Eagle Sewer District website on the Farmer's Union website. Mr. Gruber spoke to the Mayor of Eagle and the Mayor's office is in full support of the project and is directing questions to the Eagle Sewer District office. Neil said there is a video with the Mayor on their website also.

DITCH RIDER REPORT

Seth reported they will turn water in tomorrow, the 8th. They are going to keep flow pretty low for a few days so they can clean up weeds and debris as it goes along.

The City of Boise did not complete the Phase II modifications of the Whitewater Park. They may have to divert water again next year to complete the work. The system is set up to function this year. Seth reported the dams did not hold up and water was backing up toward Farmer's Union headgates. The Parks department does not clean up trees in the spillway. Seth said they were diverting 300 cfs. and before the dams were fixed water was running down the canal. It went as far as the Boise Valley diversion. Seth said he and Dale spent a lot of time monitoring. The city opened the new FUD headgates all the way. It took Seth about ½ day to get them closed. Old grease dried and they couldn't crank them back down. Sam thought those gates were automated and said they need to be. Seth spoke to the Wave Master about automating the gates and he thought it was a good idea also. It would help him maintain the pool better. Seth said another potential problem is Shane Livingston works for the Bureau of Reclamation and may be laid off with the government layoffs. He is concerned about who he will be able to get to help with automation problems.

Flatline Construction is done with the work to raise the pipe and install eco blocks. Corey ordered seed and will hire someone to hydroseed.

Andy received an email from Chris Hopper with Canyon Highway District informing him Thunder Ridge subdivision is being revived. Canyon Highway District is working on a realignment of Willis Road across the Foster property based on some adjustments to the preliminary plat for Thunder Ridge Subdivision. Andy will invite him to the May meeting. Corey asked if Will Mason should be included and will also invite him to the meeting.

Idaho Power is done with the project at Seamans Gulch and Hill Road.

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

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

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Senate bill 1018 passed Senate and was tabled in the House. It then evolved into House bill 445 which is \$30 million in recurring funding however it will go through the JFAC budgeting process on an annual basis. House bill 445 passed and is now on hold waiting for the Governor to sign.

Periodically IDWR and the DEQ go through a negotiated rule making process. A year or two ago DEQ did a review of their recycled wastewater rules which would be the rules Eagle Sewer District is progressing under. Andy reported DEQ recently started negotiated rule making revamp on municipal waters.

Negotiations on the Nez Perce Agreement continue between Water Users and the Bureau of Reclamation. Part of the review is the ability to exchange storage water leased for flow augmentation through basin rental pools between basins. The three basins that provide the most water for flow augmentation are Water Districts 1, 63 and 65. Water District 63 is the smallest and there is enough local demand to keep the water in-basin. Water District 1 wants the BOR to back off of flow augmentation leases in Basin 1 to free up the water for use within the district. If BOR can get more flow augmentation water from District 65 there would be some irrigation entities willing to lease from District 65 and credit to District 1. It is worth something to District 65 to leave more water in District 1 because private interests in District 1 might be willing to pay twice what the Bureau is paying to lease water. There is more of a need than ever to keep as much water available in your district to solve your own problems. The exchange provision in Nez Perce agreement needs to continue in the next generation of the agreement.

Bert Browen made a motion to lease 1,000 acre ft. of storage water to Veolia; motion was seconded by John Schram. Motion was unanimously approved.

Bert Browen moved to adjourn the meeting; motion was seconded by Paul Akins. Motion was unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.