

Wednesday, July 11, 2023

Farmers Union Ditch Meeting

Board Present:

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

Seth Kettering, Sean Kettering, Dale Wood – Ditch Riders

Rosalie Cope, Secretary/Bookkeeper

Andrew Waldera, Attorney for FUD

Guests: Ron Sedlacek & Roger Foster – New Dry Creek Ditch Co.

Sam Rosti called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Ron Sedlacek explained New Dry Creek is having a hard time finding a reliable Ditch Rider and asked if Farmer's Union would consider entering into a maintenance agreement to provide maintenance and cleaning of the canal and manage the water season. There are 9 miles of canal and 8 are maintained with 58 headgates. It takes 2-3 hours a day to run the canal. Spraying and application is additional time. They are in the process of re-numbering and mapping the headgates. Ron said the road is accessible but has not been well maintained and will need to be cleaned up. The Board has discussed identifying sections of the canal each year and hiring a contractor to clean up trees and brush and do any major work in the canal that is needed.

The Board asked to see the budget for Ditch Rider, chemicals and maintenance. Ron is going to take Seth, Sean and Dale on a tour of the canal and the Board will discuss again at the August meeting.

DITCH RIDER REPORT

Seth reported June 28th was the day of allocation. The canal is running at 170 cfs with Farmer's Union at 121 cfs, Boise Valley at 45 cfs and Capital View at 3 cfs. There are 18,010 acre feet in storage and Farmer's Union is not using storage water yet.

In the process of redoing Beacon Light Road ACHD broke a lateral pipe which they then repaired. They decided to replace the lateral pipes under Beacon Light Road all the way to the headgates on the canal. Seth said he was not notified of the work and when he went through that area in the morning they were nowhere near the easement. By afternoon they were digging to the canal by Corey's driveway. Seth and Corey informed ACHD they would not be doing any work in the easement during water season. They stopped 25' from the canal and replaced the pipe. ACHD will do the remainder of the work in the fall. A replacement headgate box also needs to be installed downstream to service the new subdivision. Seth will install the box and

ACHD will need to tie into it. Corey suggested the developer pay for the cost of the new box.

Seth would like to install a gate above Roselands at the toe of the bank where the City's water tank is in order to keep trespassers off the canal road. John Schram also suggested installing gates that would remain open during water season on a few of the major roads that cross the canal such as Can Ada. The gates would be closed during off-season with signage to further secure the idea that the canal road is not open to the public. Seth stated there are a few problematic areas including Dry Creek Cemetery where there are foothill trails along Seaman's Gulch.

BRAD CANDAU – CANDAU ESTATES SUB.

Andy reached out to Mr. Candau regarding the license agreement and has not received a response. Andy explained Mr. Candau no longer wants an addendum to the license agreement. He is going to wait until the water is out of the canal to do any modifications. Andy thinks he is of the mindset that any work Farmer's Union wants done in order to retrofit the utility trench will be the responsibility of Farmer's Union. He has stated the work was done according to the plans that were approved by the Board. In this instance the area is high fill and there is nowhere but downhill for the water to go. Farmer's Union will need to do the work to avoid liability associated with seepage water running downhill into Cresta Del Sol. Plans for the work will need to be drawn up and approved by an engineer and the work will need to be done this fall. Idaho Power will still need an addendum to the original license agreement to utilize the utility sleeve. Sam thinks a wall needs to be poured on the south side and maybe a fabric liner backfilled with clay and Bentonite would work on the north side.

Seth has not had any further conversation with the property owner who has a vinyl fence on the canal on the east side of Park. Bert Browen is going to reach out and try to have more conversation about removing the fence.

GREEN MEADOW SPILL

Andy was contacted again by Lynette Davis regarding the Green Meadow Spill. ACHD is proposing to clean up the trench and get rid of the eroded concrete. The Erpelding's would like to have the ditch relocated and install pipe. They asked if Farmer's Union would be willing to dig the trench so ACHD can lay the pipe. Paul reiterated that Farmer's Union offered to Quit Claim deed the property to the Erpelding's. Seth stated there is an iron fence on each side as well as sheds which make it difficult to get in there with equipment.

Minutes from the May and June meetings were e-mailed to the Board for review. John Schram moved to approve the May and June minutes with corrections; motion was seconded by Bert Browen. Motion was unanimously approved.

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

John sent in the application in to NRCS and has a meeting with them tomorrow to review the application.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Andy is still working on drafting the Capital View agreement. Capital View questioned who would be responsible for the legal fees associated with drafting the agreement and Andy is of the opinion the cost should be split.

Andy reported there is proposed legislation in place to address the authority of local advisory committees/water districts. There is legislation on the books that says the local water district governing bodies is authorized to adopt the water bank rental rules for their basins.

Jerry is still working with Susan Buxton on approval of the record of survey.

John Schram moved to adjourn the meeting; motion was seconded by Paul Akins. Motion was unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.