

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 7:00 PM, President Bailey called the January 10, 2023 Regular Board Meeting of the Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District to order. The record shows that President Bailey, Vice President Teals, Director Dexter, Director Foster, and Director Perry were present. Legal Counsel Brian Iller attended via telephone. The record indicates that this meeting was recorded. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

**DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEM(S)**

President Bailey called for discussion on any agenda items, and nothing was brought forward.

**DISCUSSION OF NON-AGENDA ITEM(S)**

President Bailey called for discussion on any non-agenda items, and nothing was brought forward.

**ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS**

President Bailey called on the board members for nominations for the 2023 MLIRD Board President.

Vice President Teals nominated President Bailey for President of the MLIRD Board for 2023. Director Foster seconded the nomination. With no other nominations, President Bailey closed the nominations for President of the MLIRD Board for 2023 and called for a vote. The motion carried with Director Dexter in opposition. President Bill Bailey was re-elected President of the MLIRD Board for 2023.

President Bailey called on the board members for nominations for the 2023 MLIRD Board Vice President.

Director Perry nominated Vice President Teals for Vice President of the MLIRD Board for 2023. Director Foster seconded the nomination. With no other nominations, President Bailey closed the nominations for Vice President of the MLIRD Board for 2023 and called for a vote. The motion carried unanimously. Vice President Richard Teals was re-elected Vice President of the MLIRD Board for 2023.

President Bailey stated Interim Manager Beth Yonko is on vacation this week; however, she has indicated she will continue with her position as Interim Manager and Secretary to the MLIRD Board. Director Dexter made a motion to appoint Interim Manager Beth Yonko as Secretary to the MLIRD Board for 2023. Vice President Teals seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

President Bailey called on the board members to approve the agenda. Director Foster made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of a discussion on a policy for the use of "bonus points" for the MLIRD credit cards. Vice President Teals seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

President Bailey called on the board members to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the meeting minutes from the 12/06/22 Special Meeting, the 12/13/22 Regular Meeting, the 12/19/22 Special Meeting, the 12/21/22 Special Meeting, the Bills/Checks (#18631-#18665), and Voucher #1000256 totaling \$73,393.85. Director Foster made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Vice President Teals seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. President Bailey abstained from voting on anything related to Basin Property Management, Inc.

## **MLIRD STAFF REPORTS**

President Bailey reported the following:

- Discussion took place on prohibiting overnight camping from the Laguna Area to the ORV Park on Sand Dunes Road. All the Board of Directors agreed to support the WDFW, Grant County Sheriff Department, and the Grant County Commissioners to close camping from the Laguna Area to the ORV Park on Sand Dunes Road. President Bailey stated he would contact Chad Eidson with the WDFW and let him know the Boards decision.
- Discussion took place on Harold Hochstatter's letter to MLIRD regarding the winter lake level. President Bailey proposed that he would contact the USBR to see what the positive or negative effects would be if the lake were raised a foot for the winter months.
- Discussion took place on the letter MLIRD received from Dave Cossette regarding a Regatta at Connelly Park. In the letter, Mr. Cossette states items that will need to be discussed will be a rental and garbage disposal fee. Vice President Teals made a motion to approve allowing Dave Cossette to use Connelly Park as the location for his Regatta Boat Race. Director Foster seconded the motion. President Bailey stated he was thinking of approximately \$2,000 for a rental/garbage fee but will be discussed when President Bailey contacts Dave Cossette. The motion carried unanimously.
- Lake elevation on January 10, 2023 was 1041.44.
- Resolution 2023-001 was then discussed. The current authorized limit in the MLIRD bank account is not to exceed \$150,000 and exceeds when MLIRD pays for weed treatments and insurance. Resolution 2023-001 will raise the limit to \$250,000. Director Dexter made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-001 in reference to the checking account. Vice President Teals seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- Discussion on MLIRD's Irrigation account and the Rehabilitation account held by the Grant County Treasurer, Darryl Pheasant, then took place. Currently, all of MLIRD's operating money is coming out of the Irrigation account. MLIRD transferred \$500,000 from the Rehabilitation account to the Irrigation account. Legal Counsel Brian Iller stated because of the assessment structure the District uses, classified spending could be properly categorized as either for irrigation purposes or rehabilitation purposes. There are many dual-purpose activities, such as weed control, algae control, and dredging. These types of water quality projects help with recreational value but also help make the water usable for irrigation; therefore, could be classified under either authority. Legal Counsel Brian Iller stated the State Auditor has never said MLIRD needed to establish separate funds for the two different authorities. However, he also said it would be a good idea for the Board to decide what categories fit with irrigation and rehabilitation authorities.

## **PRESENTATIONS/SCHEDULED GUESTS**

Kaj Selmann gave a report on his efforts regarding the legislative changes. He has had meetings with multiple agencies that have all been well received and have stated their willingness to sign a letter of support. Kaj Selmann and Legal Counsel Brian Iller have drafted a letter of support for agencies to use as a template. Vice President Teals mentioned that the Legislature met yesterday, January 9th, and in the January 10th Columbia Basin Herald, it discusses local proposed bills, and MLIRD's bill is not listed yet. He stated he feels the Board should give Kaj Selmann the authority to move forward. Director Perry said he agrees and that it is extremely difficult to do, and the earlier the bill is introduced in the legislative session, the better. Kaj Selmann stated that draft sample language had been provided to the Legislators, and he hopes the process of drafting it as a bill is relatively easy. He would like the MLIRD Board to give him direct permission to have direct conversations with legislative staff so he can track where things are at in the process and provide the support that will be helpful for the District to move the process along as efficiently as possible. President Bailey said any major change to the language has to come back to the MLIRD Board for approval; however, he does not have a problem with keeping the process moving. Kaj Selmann stated if there were any border-line questions, President Bailey would be the first phone call. Discussion also took place on the draft "Letter of Support."

Kaj Selmann has been working closely with the City of Moses Lake in regards to utilizing the MLIRD water right to address the water crisis in Moses Lake. Kaj Selmann stated there is a meeting on Thursday, January 12th, with Tom Tebb, the Director of Office of the Columbia River, with the Department of Ecology to come up with an understanding of the authorized uses of MLIRD's water right. There was a meeting held last week with the City of Moses Lake, their water experts, President Bailey, Legal Counsel Brian Iller, and Kaj Selmann to discuss plans moving forward. The meeting was very productive and the items discussed were MLIRD's water right. Once there is an understanding with the DOE on the scope of MLIRD's water right, then the City of Moses Lake and MLIRD will discuss the best types of systems to deliver the water, which could lead to possible DOE funding for the planning and implementation process. Kaj Selmann gave a report on MLIRD's water right and what he plans to discuss at the meeting with Tom Tebb, the Director of the Office of the Columbia River with the Department of Ecology. Kaj Selmann stated that going and speaking with the Department of Ecology before making plans moving forward is mainly for the rapidity of implementation. If MLIRD and the Department of Ecology come to an agreement ahead of time, it will potentially save years of litigation before the project slowly gets on the ground. Part of the reason this is important to the City of Moses Lake is that their water right for fossil water has to shut down several wells during the summertime because the wells can not physically keep up with the demand. If the Department of Ecology agrees, water deliveries could be completed within two years versus twelve years. Kaj Selmann stated that Tom Tebb has been focused on groundwater restoration projects, recognizing the problems with groundwater and how to go about solving the problem.

## **WORKSHOP/DIRECTOR QUESTIONS and/or COMMENTS**

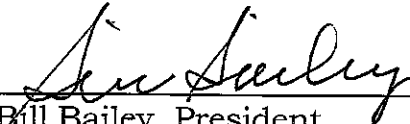
President Bailey stated that as of January 1st, 2023 Washington Trust Bank credit cards will be accumulating "bonus points" and asked Legal Counsel Brian Iller if he had any other organizations that he knows of that have policies regarding this matter. Legal Counsel Brian Iller said he would look into it and draft a policy for MLIRD's credit cards "bonus points."

**ACTION ITEMS**

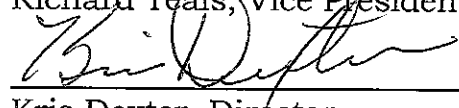
Director Foster made a motion to approve the Albert Byler labor settlement claim for \$5,200. Director Dexter seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

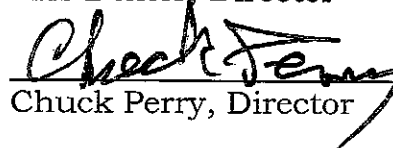
**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM.

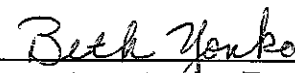
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Bailey, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Teals, Vice President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kris Dexter, Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chuck Perry, Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Foster, Director

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary to the Board of Directors