

## **CALL TO ORDER**

At 7:00 PM, President Bailey called the February 14, 2023 Regular Board Meeting of the Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District to order. The record shows President Bailey, Vice President Teals, Director Dexter, 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.

## **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

President Bailey called on the board members to approve the agenda. Vice President Teals made a motion to approve the agenda. Director Dexter 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 01/06/23 Special Meeting and the 01/10/23 Regular Meeting, the Bills/Checks (#18666-#18706) and Voucher #1000257, totaling \$58,661.92. Vice President Teals made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the 01/06/23 Special Meeting and the 01/10/23 Regular Meeting. Director Perry seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The record shows that Director Dexter did not vote on the minutes, as he was not present at the 01/06/23 Special Meeting. Director Perry made a motion to approve the Bills/Checks (#18666-#18706) and Voucher #1000257, totaling \$58,661.92. Vice President Teals seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. President Bailey abstained from voting on anything related to Basin Property Management, Inc.

## **PRESENTATIONS/SCHEDULED GUESTS**

MLIRD Consultant Kaj Selmann reported on his efforts regarding the legislative changes. Letters of support for Senate Bill 5460 and House Bill 1494 have been received by the City of Moses Lake with unanimous council approval, the Grant County Commissioners with unanimous commissioner approval, the Grant County Economic Development Council, the Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce, the Columbia Basin Conservation District, the Grant County Democrats, the Grant County Republicans, the Grant County Treasurer Darryl Pheasant, and Moses Lake resident Mick Hanson. These support letters are important and show the unified local support for SB 5460 and HB 1494. Kaj Selmann believes there will be more letters of support coming in within the next few weeks as well from other entities such as the Moses Lake Downtown Business Association, the Port of Moses Lake and the Moses Lake Association of Realtors. Senate Bill 5460 is sponsored by Senator Judy Warnick (R-Moses Lake) and Senator Kevin Van De Wege (D-Sequim). House Bill 1494 is sponsored by all the local representatives, State Representative

Tom Dent and Representatives Strom Peterson (D-Edmonds), Debra Lekanoff (D-Bow), Kristine Reeves (D-Federal Way) and Alex Ybarra (R-Quincy).

Senate Bill 5460 went through a hearing with the Senate Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources and Parks Committee on February 2, 2023 where President Bailey, Vice President Teals, and MLIRD Consultant Kaj Selmann testified in support of the bill. On February 9, 2023, Senate Bill 5460 was heard in the Senate Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources and Parks Committee Executive Session and was referred to the Rules Committee for a full Senate vote with a “Recommend Pass.”

House Bill 1494 went through a hearing with the Local Government committee on February 14, 2023 where President Bailey and MLIRD Consultant Kaj Selmann testified in support of the bill. House Bill 1494 is scheduled for Executive Session on February 17, 2023 where Kaj Selmann expects a “Recommend Pass” as well.

Kaj Selmann has also been working with the City of Moses Lake administration, water rights consultants, MLIRD Legal Counsel Brian Iller, and President Bailey on MLIRD’s water right. In addition, a letter was drafted and sent on February 3, 2023 to the Department of Ecology asking for technical assistance to re-issue the MLIRD Water Right Certificate. Items discussed in the letter was the acknowledgment of rehabilitation uses, municipal water right, year-round season of use for rehabilitation purposes, and if the MLIRD Board is the body to determine the balance of the uses. The letter is under internal review, and Kaj Selmann expects to have a reply by June 2023.

Kaj Selmann also reported on the Moses Lake Watershed Council meetings. The timing for the \$3.1 million grant earmark has been challenging. The Bureau is looking at increasing the Crab Creek flows next year, which will change the constituency of lake water coming into Moses Lake. Marc Maynard and Clyde Lay with the Bureau will be presenting at the Moses Lake Watershed Council meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 regarding the flow plan for 2024. He also stated the Columbia Basin Conservation District has asked MLIRD about the Comprehensive Lake Management Plan. CBCD will be conducting a map of the lake and wanted to know if MLIRD would like to be a partner agency in the project to make recommendations on the best way to balance the recreational aspect and the wildlife habitat. Vice President Teals stated he believes MLIRD should definitely be a part of the project. Director Perry also stated he agreed and asked what all it would involve. Kaj Selmann said the Columbia Basin Conservation District has received a \$500,000 Department of Ecology grant to help with the project. Potentially, part of the grant money would come to MLIRD to help fund a more extensive weed survey.

### **MLIRD STAFF REPORTS**

- Lake elevation on February 14, 2023 was 1042.81.
- The 2023 Lakeshore Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, March 18, 2023 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM at the MLIRD Office.
- The lock on the connex box at Connelly Park was cut off. MLIRD Staff Chris Wilson has replaced the lock and reported that nothing was taken.

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

The 2023 proposed budget was then discussed. President Bailey stated MLIRD will need to start tracking the expenses as well as the income for both irrigation and rehabilitation categories. Some key budget items in the expense category include an increase in employee wages in accordance with the Teamster Union contract (minimum of 2% - maximum of 4%),

hiring a General Manager, attorney fees, consultant Kaj Selmann, weed treatments for the year 2023, special projects such as mapping and classifications of parcels in the District, and others. If MLIRD adheres to the 2023 budget the way it is now, MLIRD will have approximately \$586,000 in reserves by the end of the year. The 2023 proposed budget is currently set at approximately \$917,000, which is a little more than what was spent in 2022. However, there are a couple of significant expenses for 2023. One of the most essential large expenses in the 2023 budget is the classifications of the parcels in the District. MLIRD has received one possible proposal for this project which could cost more or less than \$70,000, and is still waiting to receive another proposal to compare the two. President Bailey stated MLIRD needs to be prepared if the legislation passes for MLIRD to assess for 2024.

Director Dexter asked if a special meeting could be set up with CIAW/Clear Risk Solutions for a Board of Director training. President Bailey thought it would be a good idea. Interim Manager Beth Yonko said she would schedule it an hour or so before the March Regular Board meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM.

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Bill Bailey, President

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Richard Teals, Vice President

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Kris Dexter, Director

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Chuck Perry, Director

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Jeff Foster, Director

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