

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:00 PM, Vice President Teals called the March 14, 2023 Regular Board Meeting of the Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District to order. The record shows Vice President Teals, Director Dexter, Director Perry, and Director Foster were present. President Bailey's absence was excused due to just undergoing heart surgery. 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)

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

DISCUSSION OF NON-AGENDA ITEM(S)

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Vice President Teals called on the board members to approve the agenda. Director Foster made a motion to approve the agenda. Director Perry seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Vice President Teals called on the board members to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the meeting minutes from the 02/14/23 Regular Meeting, the Bills/Checks (#18707-#18734), and Voucher #1000258, totaling \$73,892.88. Director Foster made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Director Perry seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS/SCHEDULED GUESTS

MLIRD Consultant Kaj Selmann reported on the legislative changes. Senate Bill 5460 passed the Washington State Senate unanimously 48-0. Washington State House Bill 1494 passed through the House Committees on Local Government and Finance, and on the final vote in the Rules Committee, HB 1494 was pulled from the vote since SB 5460 was still alive to act on. SB 5460 will now go through the House Committees even though the language is the same for both bills. However, if SB 5460 does not pass this legislative session, HB 1494 would not have to revisit the House Committees again come the next legislative session in January 2024. As of today, March 14, 2023, SB 5460 is expected to pass through the House Committees. Kaj Selmann stated there was a Columbia Basin Herald front page news article published on March 9, 2023 stating the bills are facing a glitch. At the end of Representative Tom Dent's testimony for HB 1494, he made a comment about how this is probably the only time you will see me asking for a tax. Grant County Treasurer Darryl Pheasant read the transcript of the hearing and thought the bill had been substituted to a tax and not an assessment. He then called the local paper, Columbia Basin Herald, stating his concerns. Kaj Selmann called Darryl Pheasant and reassured him the language had not been substituted. Grant County Treasurer Darryl Pheasant realized he was in error and set up a meeting with Senator Judy Warnick and State

Representative Tom Dent to let them know he had misread the transcript and apologized.

MLIRD Consultant Kaj Selmann reported that the Department of Ecology reviewed the letter sent from MLIRD and the City of Moses Lake about MLIRD's water right and would like to have more conversations regarding the topic. There is a meeting scheduled on March 30, 2023 with DOE, the City of Moses Lake, water rights consultants, and MLIRD regarding this matter.

MLIRD Consultant Kaj Selmann reported that at the last Moses Lake Watershed Council meeting, Marc Maynard and Clyde Laye with USBR attended and spoke on the increased flows through Crab Creek that will be happening in 2024. The flows will increase to 150 CFS with surges up to 500 CFS.

MLIRD STAFF REPORTS

- Lake elevation on March 14, 2023 was 1042.98.
- The 2023 Lakeshore Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, March 18, 2023 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM at the MLIRD Office.
- The 2023 proposed budget is ready to be reviewed.
- King County Labs has informed MLIRD that they are not able to renew the microcystin testing contract for 2023. MLIRD Staff has been researching other possible laboratories for this year.
- Welbourne Geographical Services and FCS Group are two proposed contractors being reviewed for the MLIRD parcel analysis. Legal Counsel Brian Iller stated he is almost finished with a memo that discusses the benefits issue that lays out the WA state case law and what constitutes benefits with benefit assessments. The memo will then be discussed with the two potential contractors.
- Connelly Park will open on Wednesday, April 12, 2023
- The annual carp tournament will be held on May 20, 2023
- The Columbia Basin Conservation District was awarded the FY 2023 Community Project Funding grant for \$3.1 million from Congressman Dan Newhouse's office. The FY 2024 Community Project Funding grant became available last week, and after a meeting with the Columbia Basin Conservation District, it was decided that MLIRD would apply for it. The turnaround time for getting the application for the grant turned in was less than 24 hours. The grant would be approximately \$5 million for in-lake treatments. Director Foster made a motion to ratify the decision made by President Bailey and Vice President Teals for MLIRD to apply for Congressman Dan Newhouse's FY 2024 Community Project Funding grant. Director Perry seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.


WORKSHOP/DIRECTOR QUESTIONS and/or COMMENTS

Director Foster made a motion to execute a new WA Trust Bank signature card to add the newly elected Board of Director, Mr. Chuck Perry. Director Dexter seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

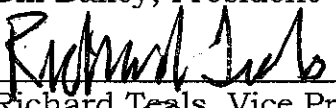
The 2023 proposed budget was then discussed. Director Foster made a motion to approve the 2023 Budget. Director Perry seconded the motion. The motion carried with Director Dexter in opposition.

ADJOURNMENT

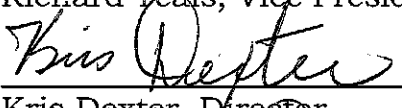
The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.



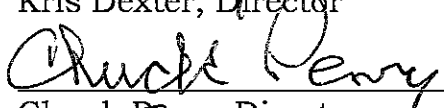
Bill Bailey, President



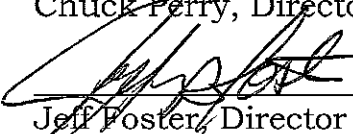
Richard Teals, Vice President




Kris Dexter, Director



Chuck Perry, Director



Jeff Foster, Director

By: 

Secretary to the Board of Directors