

Jeff

BIG FLAT IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
ANNUAL MEETING – APRIL 9, 2019

PRESENT: Jeff Koch, President  
Ruby Chavez, Secretary/Treasurer  
Tom Fedele  
Al Gollwitzer, Ditch Rider  
Clay and Karla Copenhaver  
Roger Austin  
Robert Ames  
D. Glenn Martyn  
Hillary Selvin  
Bonnie Anderson  
Beth Koch  
Julie Merritt

Meeting was called to order by Jeff thanking everyone for coming. He asked for motion to open the meeting. Beth made motion and Mr. Austin seconded.

Jeff explained that the board had a vacancy for a Board Member and Tom Fedele came forward and agreed to join the Board. Jeff asked for motion to administer the Oath of Office to appoint Tom. Ruby made motion and Al seconded.

Jeff opened the meeting to the floor by asking to bring anything of concern for discussion.

Glen Martyn said he is at the end of the ditch and described how he irrigated in the past saying he flood irrigated, explaining the box on the opposite side of the road. Al said he was aware of it and will take a look. Discussion continued regarding flood irrigation regulations with the Board noting flood irrigation not allowed.

Bonnie expressed her appreciation for all the work we do.

Mr. Austin said has no access to the ditch and has an unusual situation. Jeff suggested he contact his neighbor for access and said there will be no new laterals. Jeff explained we don't have a lot of money; approximately \$30,000 comes in which is deposited in to our account.

Ruby gave the Treasurer's Report stating we currently have approximately \$14,000 in the books. We are in line at exactly how we were financially last year at this time.

Julie Merritt, Water Rights Specialist, of WGM gave a very informative presentation regarding legalization of water rights. She explained that property tax records go back to the 1950's and assured us how important water rights are. Jeff asked that she guide us through the process. There are no clear cut explanations what the rights are. There is not a lot of money for irrigation matters including maintaining canals. She passed out a map which depicts the ownership of irrigation water showing members who have access to the ditch and members with possibly no access to the ditch but are paying for water rights. Julie explained that the Grass Valley Ditch has set aside B Shares that other people can purchase. The Bitterroot basin is closed. Many questions and comments were discussed that some of the attendees had which pertained specifically to their situation, and Julie gave them an explanation. She said there are other partners that folks could reach out to for help, such as the Bitterroot Water Forum. Julie ended her presentation by handing out her business card saying she would welcome hearing from us.

Jeff asked for discussion of old business:

He explained the 310 Permit required by DNRC. There are two permits needed; one for a ten year period which applies to work done at the head gate where the canal silt accumulates. This silt needs to be removed by dredging the canal by heavy equipment. The removal of silt is generally done every 2 or 3 years. The second permit is required on a one time basis which we needed in July of last year when we had the major breach on the ditch. With the arduous help of Al and Dennis Chudy the ruptured bank was temporarily fixed until the water was shut off and a contractor was hired to fix it.

Jeff continued saying we now have a web site and an e-mail address. A mass mailing was sent out to all our members last fall. Web site contact information will be updated every 2-3 months.

Al read the ditch report. He explained the routine work the ditch requires. The summer crew will consist of 3-4 people who will help by cutting and burning the weeds on the ditch bank, clearing accumulated debris, and hauling it off. There are 22 weak points on the concrete flume that need patching. This entails using tar and fabric to patch each. Also, repairs at Bradys need done. He reported on the major breach which required many hours to fix.

Jeff made motion to hire Al as ditch rider for the coming season; Tom seconded motion.

Jeff said opening day for the ditch on May 1<sup>st</sup> will not happen and we need to remain flexible.

Jeff asked the Board to allow him to preliminarily look at the By-Laws and Board Policies to update them. Beth made motion and Tom second it. Ruby mentioned also that Beth Day from the Elections Office asked for copies so they could look at them from a legal standpoint. Ruby sent these to her.

The meeting ended and Jeff thanked everyone.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruby Chavez, Secretary/Treasurer/Commissioner