

Mission Jocko Joint Board
“Mission Jocko Irrigation Districts”
August 9th, 2022 Meeting Minutes

1:00 PM Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

All commissioners for Mission District present, Boone Cole and Patty Hahn absent from Jocko District.

BIA Report: Larry Nelson states they're looking at getting ready to take on billing O&M. They can wait a little while to see what the Districts plans are but have to move on something soon as it's a tedious process. Estimate for water shut off in Jocko District is September 6th for construction, and other areas around end of August/beginning of September. Nick Belcourt reported cattle walkouts are becoming a big problem, and getting clay and material for free is becoming problematic as well. FIP has managed to hire about 5-6 new employees that have made it through the entire process, they are having issues with people passing background checks. CSKT has indicated they are looking at building an Irrigation division in the future, anywhere from 1-5 years from now. Budget meeting for FIP will be held soon.

Minutes: Meeting minutes were approved with no corrections. Gene Posivio moved and Tracy Gardner seconded, motion passed.

Warrants: Tracy Gardner moved to approve the warrants, Gene Posivio seconded, motion passed.

Admin Assessments (Mission/Jocko): Jocko unable to approve at this time as they don't have a quorum. For Mission District, Gene Posivio moved to approve the admin assessment at \$4.00 per acre, Tim Callahan seconded, motion passed.

O&M Assessments (Mission/Jocko): Jocko unable to approve at this time as they don't have a quorum. For Mission District, Tim Callahan moved to approve the O&M assessments at \$35.50 per acre, Gene Posivio seconded, motion passed.

Proposed BIA Letter/Response to County Resolution 21-20: FID passed a letter regarding the county commissioner's decision to not collect O&M assessments. Ray Swenson summarized the County's resolution and the issues with BIA taking that over, including the possible dissolution of the Districts. There would also be possible larger O&M increases due to non-payment since tax liens would no longer be possible. General position is that since water court has not yet weighed in, the County is still responsible until a decision is made. FID felt the letter would have more weight if all three Districts signed it, and requested Mission and Jocko to review it. Gene Posivio moved to have Mission Jocko Irrigation Districts sign the letter, Tim Callahan seconded, motion passed.

Retirement of Capital Credits (Blackfoot): Tim Callahan moved to retire the capital credits for the old Flathead Joint Board of Control Blackfoot account and divide them up according to the Districts percentage, Gene Posivio seconded, motion passed.

Public Comment: Skip Palmer brought up an article written by Dr. Vandemoer regarding consensual agreement. Issues with the form of filing in water court and forcing consensual agreement. People should be filing an objection to the suspension of rules of civil procedure along with their objection regarding the water rights.

Adjourn: Tracy Gardner moved, Gene Posivio seconded, meeting adjourned at 2:34 PM.