

**Mission Jocko Joint Board**  
**“Mission Jocko Irrigation Districts”**  
**January 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

1:00 PM Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

All commissioners for Mission/Jocko Districts present. Members of the public were Dr. Kate Vandemoer, Gene Erb, Sheilla Vallejo, Roy Vallejo, Merrill Bradshaw, Janette Rosman and Wade Shepard.

**Minutes:** Meeting minutes were approved with no corrections. Gene Posivio moved and Tim Orr seconded, motion passed.

**Warrants:** Ray Swenson explained amount paid to Kelley Connect, Quentin Rhoades and Western States Constitutional, LLC. Tim Orr moved to approve the warrants, Tracy Gardner seconded, motion passed.

**BIA Report:** Some discussion was had about the BIA's budget, and rates raising in 2022 & 2023 so they can hire more employees. Some concerns from the public were raised about BIA's budget already being set for that number of employees, so why the increase. None of these jobs will be open to non-tribal members. General feeling is that the BIA is not planning long term to manage the project. During the meeting with BIA last month Chairman Guenzler asked "how long until the tribe just takes over the project so they can avoid the red tape". BIA admitted that they pass off project to the Tribe in order to avoid the red tape of finding outside contractors, with a lot of dam work being subbed out to the tribe. There is some talk that Trump may have redlined the compact and it did not actually pass, but there has been no confirmation of this or further information.

**Mission/Jocko First ½ O&M Assessments:** For Jocko assessment, Tracy Gardner moved to approve assessments at \$33.50, Patty Hahn seconded, motion passed. For Mission, Tim Orr commented that they are overcharging for what they are accomplishing, and he opposes paying it. Gene Posivio moved to approve assessments at \$33.50, Ray Swenson seconds, Tim opposed, motion passes. Some discussion from public about the assessments.

**Compact Update:** Ray Swenson said Matt Williams hopes to have some legal advice soon. Dr. Kate discussed the compact and that they still need to find the funds for it. Irrigators shouldn't give up and should pursue writing water court and meeting with Lake County to tell them what we expect of them moving forward. Some discussion had about the possibility of hiring our own employees to help manage project, Boone Cole stated that BIA has made clear they won't cooperate with that idea. When this happened in the past special legislation had to be passed in order for it to happen. Tim Orr went over his note he had prepared showing how the compact is unconstitutional and taking away rights.

**Update on Quentin Rhoades:** Ray Swenson gave a brief update that Rhoades has been in trial and hopes to get materials to us on his legal review in time for the February meeting.

**Discussion & Possible Action re Dissolving FJBC:** Some discussion was had by the Board regarding building ownership and forfeiting bank account to FID for waiver of other fees. Some questions were asked about why a judge needs to be involved. Boone Cole and Janette Rosman explained it's because everything is still in the name of Flathead Joint Board of Control and a judge is the only one who can correct that. Board proposes that the joint bank account should be saved and used for maintenance of building. Janette Rosman commented that that isn't feasible but a maintenance agreement could be reached. Renee Roragen will prepare a letter and send to Five Valleys Law with MJID's counter proposal.

**Public Comment:** Some discussion about commissioners up for re-election, Janette Rosman mentioned a resolution is needed if it comes to an election, and will send Renee Roragen her draft resolution. Wade Shepard asked whether the BIA is following their rule of getting 3 bids before they are handing projects over to the Tribe. Some discussion about BIA authority.

**Adjourn:** Ray Swenson moved, Boone Cole seconded, meeting was adjourned at 2:43 PM.