

Mission Jocko Joint Board
“Mission Jocko Irrigation Districts”
April 12th, 2022 Meeting Minutes

1:00 PM Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

All commissioners for Mission and Jocko Districts were present. Members of the public were Janette Rosman, Bill Ostheimer, Tim Orr and Dean Brockway.

Oath of Office (Patty Hahn): Boone Cole swore in Patty Hahn as the election’s office couldn’t locate her Oath of Office.

BIA Report: Not present. Ray Swenson summarized FIP budget. There was 3,000 acres lost in 2021, some questions as to how that happened. Still short about 20 employees. Zim Lytle was hired as fish screen operator.

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

Warrants: Boone Cole moved to approve the warrants, Gene Posivio seconded, motion passed.

Proposed BIA Rate Increase: Discussion about a \$2.00 rate increase for FY-23. FIP is still short many employees. Ray Swenson proposed sending a letter requesting rate to stay the same for 23-24 due to 6 million in savings they have and being short 27 employees. Letter would be sent to Federal Register, Larry Nelson and possibly Portland BIA. Could also be suggested that rate should be cut back and some of the 6 million used up first, but all 3 Districts would have to be in agreement on that. Gene Posivio moves to send letter with the following language:

“Mission Jocko Irrigation District opposes the rate increase for the 23-24 irrigation season, and proposes the rate stay the same at \$33.50 per acre. Due to the \$6,297,549.90 funds in reserve and the Flathead Irrigation Project being short 27 employees, Mission Jocko Irrigation District does not believe an increase is warranted.”

Boone Cole seconded, motion passed.

Secretary of Interior Response Letter: Janet Rosman commented that Tom McDonald (new chairman of Tribal Council) is favorable to irrigators operation the project. Board is in general agreement to table letter for now and wait to see if they hear back from the Tribe.

Public Comment: Tim Orr shared some documents with the Board regarding the Irrigation project and running the Project. Also volunteered to fill out forms with water levels monthly for the Board. Some discussion about where the water levels are currently at.

Adjourn: Boone Cole moved, Tracy Gardner seconded, meeting adjourned at 1:55 PM.