

**Mission Jocko Joint Board**  
**“Mission Jocko Irrigation Districts”**  
**September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

1:00 PM Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

All commissioners for Mission and Jocko District were present.

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

**Warrants:** Lane Harriman moved to approve the warrants, Tracy Gardner seconded, motion passed.

**BIA Report:** Eric Bruguere said FIP got an extension for stock water this year, not sure what will happen next year. He originally asked for 2 years but negotiations only managed to get one. Lots of changes at FIP office personnel wise. They would like to bring in dispatch for next year. ISO's are all getting trained for heavy equipment in October. Some new equipment was ordered using WINN money. They are working on auctioning off old trucks and readjusting some personnel positions to help delegate tasks and employees, they have a staff of about 40. Powerpoint for 2026 budget has been done and will be shared. Maintenance crews are set up to begin clean up. Some issues with the Flathead dam will be analyzed in October. Overall, they feel they did well for 60% new employees and working on employee morale. They are creating a “rover” to watch tail ends of the ditch to see where there is waste or room for improvement to allow for adjustments. Dan Olsen is probably retiring in December. Eric is working with lawyers to keep everything legal in regards to the Compact. He has requested a new bi-op as it's been six years and a lot has changed with the Compact, also looking into updating the O&M manual as that hasn't been done since 2008. Addressing some issues with gates that arose this year and looking into color coding gates. Lower J will not run all winter like it has historically, Eric Bruguere said stock water would be delivered until freeze up. Boone Cole asked how freeze up is determined, he stated he doesn't know. Boone Cole brought up concerns with this and that this will have to be an issue addressed further. Some discussion on subsidized pumping costs to Pablo and diverting water that direction. FIP has also rejected wheel costs for 2023 and sent to lawyers, as of now the lawyers have said not to pay it and further research is being done. Some discussion on where the money from the Compact is for certain costs. Eric Bruguere suggested sending a letter that he can push up and try to get answers. There are some farmers selling and lots of questions from new owners. If you notice FIP trucks where you believe they shouldn't be, get the plate or truck number and send it to the office. Some issues with Polson causing Eric to shut off water. Brian Mercier is moving on to a higher position in the BIA so that position will be open for a while. Looking into MoU with Mission Valley Power and BIA to see if shutting off power for irrigation to people that didn't pay O&M fees would be an option like it used to be. Some discussion on TNA properties as well as maintenance on ditches.

**Water Court Update:** September 19<sup>th</sup> is a scheduling conference. October 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> should be oral arguments. Matt Williams believes that the 19<sup>th</sup> will happen but due to budget issues with the state he believes the government might shut down and delay water court proceedings.

**Public Comment:** Some discussion on looking into a community well for various regions and what that would take (for stock water). That process would go through the Flathead Water Management Board as far as figuring out water rights for it. Heather McAdams will do some research on the logistics of completing a project like that.

**Adjourn:** Tim Callahan moved, Gene Posivio seconded, meeting was adjourned at 2:26 PM.