

Greenfields

IRRIGATION DISTRICT



On Tuesday February 13th, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. the Greenfields Irrigation District (GID) held its Monthly Board meeting. The following are the minutes taken from that meeting. Those in attendance were: Board President Tim Brunner, Vice President Bill Norris, Commissioners Chase Brady, Dave Gulick and Pat Brosten. District Manager Erling Juel and Board Secretary Jenny Gulick were also present. Also, in attendance were: GID employees Eric Mayer and Steve Lettengarver, along with Advisory Board member, Chris Ostberg. Tracy Wendt with Sun River Watershed Group and Brian Haynes were also present.

The meeting was called to order by President Brunner.

Approve Meeting Minutes and Monthly Warrants: The first item of business was to approve the minutes from the January 9th Regular Meeting Minutes and Special Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Gulick documented a few minor changes needed in the wording and then moved to approve the minutes with the amendments and Commissioner Brady seconded the motion. All in favor and minutes were approved. The Special Meeting Minutes required no changes and Commissioner Brosten moved to approve the minutes with Commissioner Brady seconding the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried. The Warrants List was then reviewed. The warrants were previously signed and sent out by Office Manager Gulick, as she will be out of the office for the next several days and they needed to be sent out in a timely fashion to avoid any late penalties. Manager Juel gave a brief overview of the warrant paid and a brief discussion followed on the warrant to Ethnoscience and Jon's Automotive. Commissioner Gulick moved to approve the warrants list and Vice President Norris seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Parties Presenting Issues: None.

Contacts to Execute: None.

The next item of business was the Manger's Report:

Reservoir and River Operations: See M.R. for full details. Snowpack levels are at 51% of normal. The National Climate Prediction Center is predicting well-above normal temps and slightly below normal precipitation for February through April, with May through July predicted to be above normal temps and below normal precipitation.

Water Rights: We are still working with BOR and our lawyer to get the GID boundaries corrected. We need to adopt an official Board Resolution for Reclamation and the District Court, to be approved a signed during the Agenda portion of the meeting. The State DNRC is still trying to acquire shared ownership of private water rights which were applied on State Land through the Pettibone ruling. If successful, this could undermine our agreement with DNRC. Manager Juel has been working with the Broken O to reorganize their GID assessment within the District.

GID Staff Updates: GID's newest ditch rider, Ernest Kietzman, was hired and started work on Monday. We also had one ditch rider give his two weeks' notice. We will need to hire one more ditch rider before the water season, and possibly two new weed sprayers, as well. Currently, no

one has challenged Commissioner Brosten or Commissioner Brady and if after 5 P.M. on March 4th there still has been no write-in candidates, the Election Administrator shall cancel the election.

GIS Mapping, Plats, Database & Certification Updates: Nothing new to report as the GIS Specialist has been out of the office for most of January.

Farm Unit Operations: The landowner of farm unit 484 sold a portion of that farm unit to the adjoining landowner of farm unit 485, resulting in an increase in size to FU 485 and a decrease in size of FU 484. See the M.R. for further details. A handout has been provided and shall be approved during the Agenda portion of the meeting.

Monthly Financials & 2023 Budget: See M.R. for details. Cash flow continues to be an issue until the BLM ROW is approved. An updated budget has been provided.

Office Improvements & General Administration: The GID Annual Water Users Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 19th at noon. The office management will soon begin planning for GID's 100th birthday celebration that will take place on May 29th, 2025.

GID Vehicles & Heavy Equipment: A new engine has been ordered and is being installed in the dam tender's pickup truck. We are still looking for one more ditch rider truck, preferably a used 4x4. We have begun the legwork to secure the purchase of 2 new semi-tractors with day cabs. See the M.R. for further details. A cost breakdown will soon be provided to the Board for their input. A brief discussion was held on the specifics of the Bureau job. Commissioner Brosten advised that we inform our insurance provider that this job is taking place. Work to begin in mid-April to build a road into Willow Creek. A motion to proceed with the purchase will be given and voted on during the Agenda portion of the meeting.

Pearson Lawsuit: We still have not heard anything back from the judge on the ruling. A letter was delivered to Manager Juel today from Spencer Pearson, requesting more clarification be given regarding GID's 960-acre limitation policy, see handout provided. Manager Juel will pass the letter on to GID's Attorney to have her respond to it.

Willow Creek Feeder Canal Maintenance & Lawsuit: There is a hearing scheduled on MFSJ on laches for Troy's claims set for March 21st. The plaintiff's expert deposition will be taken on March 29th, with GID's expert deposition to be given on April 16th and 17th. The trial is set for November 4th, 2024.

Hydro Updates: Hydro Development Strategy: Manager Juel will provide the Board with his pre-filed written testimony submitted to the PSC and NWE's attorneys. Arnold Coulee LOPP- The executed LOPP Agreement has been finalized. Transmission Design & Construction- SRE is now getting frustrated with BLM, as well for their role in stalling the project. The state easements have been approved and paid for. Design: The controls designer recently passed away, but his son and Ted Sorenson's son will see through the project design. Easements: Merle Morris wants to finalize the easements, if GID agrees that the grazing leases he currently has secured, will always be leased to him at market value without a rebidding process, and if GID is successful in obtaining title transfer of the District, he would like the first option to buy the pastures. See the M.R. for further details.,

GID Infrastructure Projects: For Current and Planned, see the M.R. Nothing new on the Hwy 89 Ditch Crossings. Willow Creek Spillway Repair- Reclamation is moving forward with Phase 1. GID and FSID would be responsible for 15% of the costs and GID's portion would be around \$120,000, with GID and FSID crews performing the work under contract with BOR. Sun River Bridge Replacement- See the M.R. for the projected schedule. An Open House is planned for February 28th at 3:30 P.M. This will be the final public meeting required. Geotech drilling to be done in April and construction to begin next Spring. SRS 71 Check- Everything has been done, except for putting in the new Smart gate and hooking up the electrical backup to the existing check, which should both be done later this month. Spring Coulee Phase III: A \$15K planning grant was awarded. Tunnel #3 Roof Collapse- The engineer is making edits to address BOR's comments.

Title Transfer: Nothing new to report. We have received a draft MOU and agreement from the USBR to move forward.

GID O&M Projects: O&M Foreman Mayer provided a brief update.

GID Grazing Lease Program: The rebid process has begun on the 2 pastures that were given up in December, with bids due by February 29th. No bids have currently been received. Brian Haynes is interested in leasing a piece of the community pasture that has not historically been utilized. This topic will be addressed during the Agenda portion of the meeting.

FCA Efforts to Modernize GID Infrastructure: The FCA is currently working on a pressurized district study for the Ashuelot Bench with a re-regulation pond above the first drop. There will be a work session scheduled in early June to develop modernization strategies.

Miscellaneous: See M.R. for details. Manager Juel gave a brief update on the Muddy Creek gravel pit closeout.

Short and Long-Term To-Do Lists: See the M.R. for details.

Agenda:

- 1) Brian Haynes has requested approval to lease a small portion of the Community Pasture that is only accessible by entry from his property and has historically not been used, see handout provided. Board asked the Haynes fence off the portion so that it does not affect travel on the ditch rider road. Commissioner Gulick moved to approve the request with the following terms created: A 2-year lease that will expire when the other pasture leases expire on December 31st, 2026 at 1 AUM and \$25/AUM. Commissioner Brosten seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion passed unanimously. Office Manager Gulick will draw up a lease agreement and invoice Haynes.
- 2) Water User request to split FU 484 and move 28.00 acres of assessment to FU 485, Teri Hager, handout provided. The Board found no issues and Commissioner Brosten moved to approve the request with Commissioner Brady seconding the motion. All in favor and the motion passed.
- 3) Resolution 2024-03, Resolution to acknowledge and declare the PSC road as a public road, to be approved and signed by the Board. Vice President Norris moved to approve and sign the Resolution, with Commissioner Brady seconding the motion. All in favor and the Resolution is approved and signed.

- 4) Resolution 2024-04 to adjust/correct District boundaries to include Farm Unit 599.1 inside GID boundaries, to be approved and signed by the Board. Commissioner Brosten moved to approve and sign the resolution and Commissioner Brady seconded. All in favor and the resolution was approved and signed.
- 5) Board FYI regarding a request by Water User to add a separate delivery point for Farm Unit 720, Chapman, handout provided.

Public Comment: Tracy with SRWG gave the Board a brief update on upcoming events scheduled. On April 18th there will be a Water Management Working Group and Board Meeting. There is also a Water Quality meeting planned for March 20th.

Commissioner Gulick moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Brady seconded. All in favor and the meeting is adjourned at 7:35 P.M.



Board President



Board Secretary

Board Action Recap:

- 1) Board voted to approve request to lease a small portion of the Community Pasture that was not being utilized.
- 2) Board voted to approve the request to split FU 484 and move assessment to FU 485.
- 3) Board voted to approve and sign Resolution 2024-03 to acknowledge and declare the PSC road as a public road.
- 4) Board voted to approve and sign Resolution 2024-04 to adjust/correct District boundaries to include FU 599.1.



AGENDA FOR: Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday February 13th at 6 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Board President, Tim Brunner.

Public Comment: Prior to each agenda item...limited to 5 minutes...any Board action necessary will be addressed at the next regular meeting.

APPROVE MINUTES: January 9th Regular Board Meeting Minutes and Special Board Meeting Minutes

REVIEW AND APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT—Approve January warrants and recap list.

PARTIES PRESENTING: None.

CONTRACTS TO EXECUTE: None.

MANAGER'S REPORT

AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1) Brian Haynes is requesting approval to lease a small portion of the Community Pasture that is only accessible by entry from his property and has historically not been used, see handouts.
- 2) Water User request to split FU 484 and move 28.00 acres of assessment to FU 485, Teri Hager, handout provided.
- 3) Resolution 2024-03 to acknowledge and declare the PSC road as a public road, to be approved and signed by the Board.
- 4) Resolution 2024-04 to adjust/correct District boundaries for 599.1, to be approved and signed by the Board.
- 5) Board FYI regarding a request by Water User to add a separate delivery point for Farm Unit 720, Chapman.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- SRWG, Tracy Wendt, handout provided.

9:13 PM

02/06/24

Accrual Basis

GREENFIELDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT
Monthly Warrant List
January 2024

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
Jan 24				
01/03/2024	35912	Shea Ostberg	Ag Scholarship	-750.00
01/04/2024	35913	First Bank of Montana	prin. & int. payment	-45,857.54
01/08/2024	35914	Computers by Sue	computer services	-90.00
01/08/2024	35915	Pacific Steel	rebar	-1,500.00
01/08/2024	35916	Visa	phone, repairs, computer, office	-2,721.24
01/08/2024	35917	3 Rivers Communication	phone	-623.60
01/08/2024	35918	Breen Oil and Tire Company	propane	-492.97
01/08/2024	35919	Republic Services	utilities	-137.01
01/09/2024	35951	Gary Kasper & Company, Inc.	accounting- DEC.	-1,200.00
01/09/2024	35952	Advanced Drainage System	pipe	-6,665.46
01/10/2024	35972	Michelle Lauver-	cleaning supplies	-50.18
01/10/2024	35973	TB - 941	81-6001490	-7,325.62
01/10/2024	35974	TB - SWT	4052635002wth	-818.00
01/10/2024	35975	TB - MPERA	retirement	-5,982.26
01/10/2024	35976	TB - UI Tax	031 1512	-835.39
01/11/2024	35977	Jenny Gulick	petty cash reimb.	-184.13
01/16/2024	35978	Jon's Automotive	#4 Dam Tender truck-engine	-8,396.00
01/22/2024	35979	SUN RIVER ELECTRIC CO-OP	VOID: Arnold Coulee GJE, RGJE created on 0...	0.00
01/22/2024	35980	SUN RIVER ELECTRIC CO-OP	Arnold Coulee	-89,371.50
01/23/2024	35981	Northwest Media	website updates	-67.50
01/24/2024	36000	TB - 941	81-6001490	-7,703.40
01/24/2024	36001	TB - MPERA	retirement	-6,317.07
01/24/2024	36002	TB - SWT	4052635002wth	-890.00
01/24/2024	36003	Western Water Consultants, Inc.	Tunnel #3	-6,332.75
01/24/2024	36004	First Bank of Montana	prin. & int. payment	-300,000.00
01/24/2024	36005	Montana Water Resources Association	annual meeting	-170.00
01/30/2024	36006	MCI	long distance	-141.96
01/30/2024	36007	North 40	shop tools	-184.89
01/30/2024	36008	3 Rivers Communication	phone	-623.60
01/30/2024	36009	BlueCross BlueShield of Montana	health insurance- #247191	-1,658.33
01/30/2024	36010	Teamster's Local #2	union	-872.00
01/30/2024	36011	Uda Law Firm	legal fees for Arnold Coulee hydro	-2,872.50
01/30/2024	36012	Western Water Consultants, Inc.	SRS Reregulation	-508.50
01/30/2024	36013	Montana Water Resources Association	annual meeting	-170.00
01/30/2024	36014	Aflac	insurance	-106.20
01/30/2024	36015	SUN RIVER ELECTRIC CO-OP	utilities	-613.53
01/30/2024	36016	Ethnoscience, Inc	Arnold Coulee	-2,183.47
01/30/2024	36017	NorthWestern Energy	utilities	-1,220.86

GREENFIELDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT
Monthly Warrant List
 January 2024


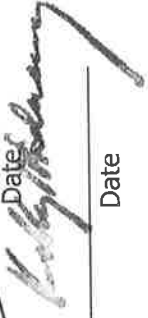
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 02/06/24
 Accrual Basis

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
01/30/2024	36018	Western Water Consultants, Inc.	Pishkun Inlet & grant admin	-5,706.00
01/30/2024	36019	Kelley Connect	1/20 to 4/19 billing	-1,074.66
01/30/2024	36020	Allegra - Missoula	warrants	-191.80
01/30/2024	36021	Victory Insurance Company	7/23 to 7/24 contract	-2,630.00
01/30/2024	36022	Fairfield Sun Times	ditch rider ad	-282.70
01/30/2024	36023	MT Teamsters Employers Trust	health insurance	-21,720.00
01/30/2024	36024	Fairfield Drug, Inc	office	-8.21
01/31/2024	36044	Aflac	insurance	-106.20
01/31/2024	36045	Western Conference of Teamsters Pe...	pension	-2,284.71
01/31/2024	36046	Breen Oil and Tire Company	propane	-1,646.26
01/31/2024	36047	Choteau Acantha	ad	-90.00
01/31/2024	36048	Choteau Ace	shop supplies	-104.97
01/31/2024	36049	Edge Marketing + Design, LLC	monthly web hosting	-425.00
01/31/2024	36050	FAGENSTROM	cement	-2,100.00
01/31/2024	36051	Great Falls Redi-Mix Inc	Lower GSC	-1,968.21
01/31/2024	36052	J & V Restaurant Supply	fire extinguishers	-462.00
01/31/2024	36053	K's Auto Parts	repairs	-35.99
01/31/2024	36054	K's Auto Parts - Choteau	repairs/oil	-61.17
01/31/2024	36055	Macon Supply, Inc	Lower GSC	-349.12
01/31/2024	36056	Mills Motor, Co.	grease/oil/propane	-88.89
01/31/2024	36057	Mountain View Co-Op	gas/grease/repairs	-290.98
01/31/2024	36058	National Laundry	shop supply	-170.09
01/31/2024	36059	Northwest Media	website domain	-131.25
01/31/2024	36060	Pacific Steel	shop supplies/inventory adjustment	-7,484.71
01/31/2024	36061	R&L Eagle Grocery	office/shop supplies	-77.42
01/31/2024	36062	Sun River Electric, Co-Op	repairs	-47,815.94
01/31/2024	36063	Torgersons	utilities/license	-128.25
01/31/2024	36064	Town of Fairfield	repairs	-268.00
01/31/2024	36065	Tractor & Equipment, Co	shop supplies	-1,565.54
01/31/2024	36066	True Value	concrete	-203.88
01/31/2024	36067	United Materials of Great Falls, Inc	phone/office/repair/travel/comp/shop	-1,594.30
01/31/2024	36068	Visa	247191	-1,232.67
01/31/2024	36069	BlueCross BlueShield of Montana		-1,658.33
				-609,594.71

Jan 24

Recap of January 2024 warrants:
 Regular warrants
 January 2024 payroll
 Total

\$609,594.71
 \$ 53,341.49
 \$662,936.20

Approved by  Date _____
 President
 Submitted by  Date _____
 Bookkeeper

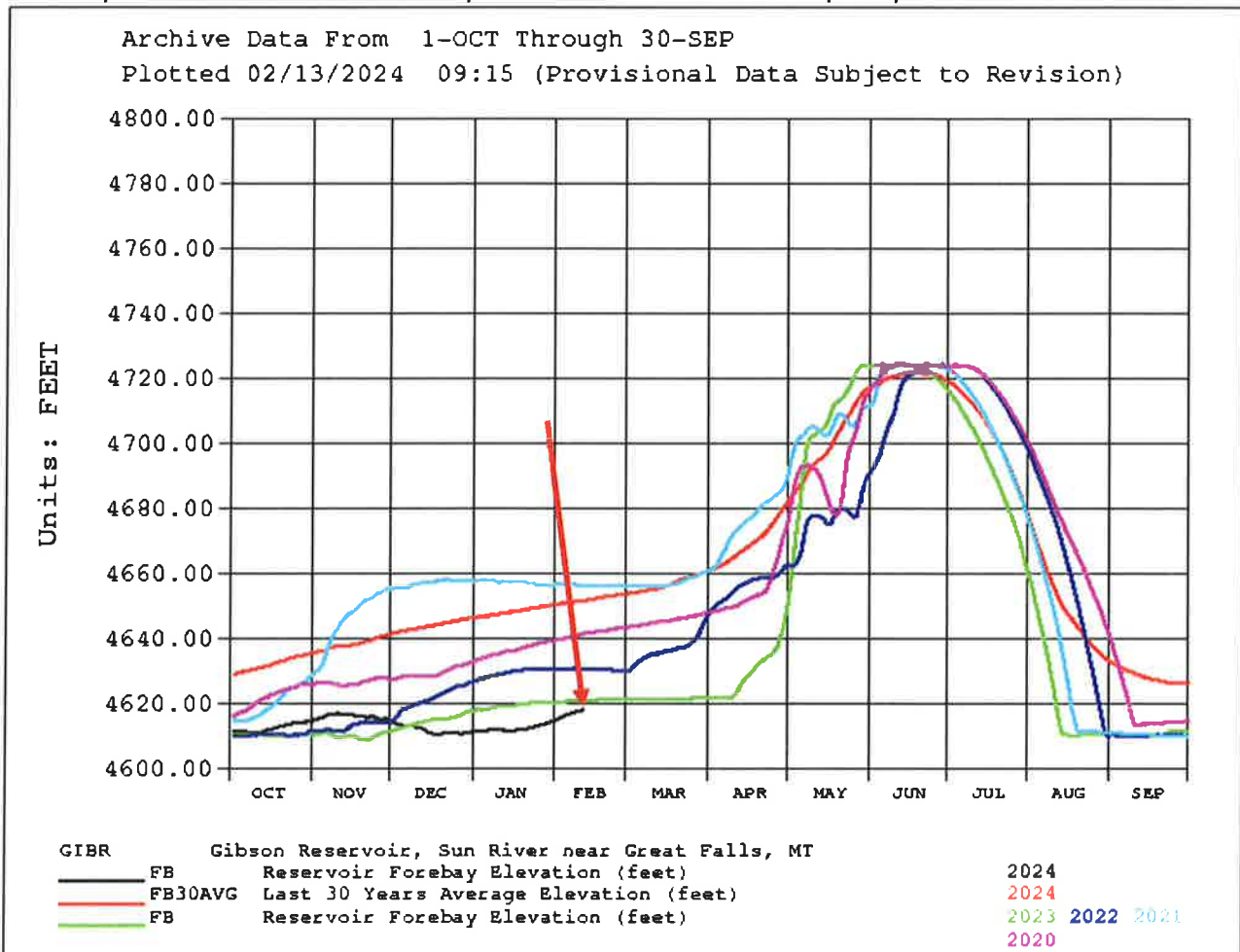
To: GID Commissioners
Jenny Gulick, GID Board Secretary

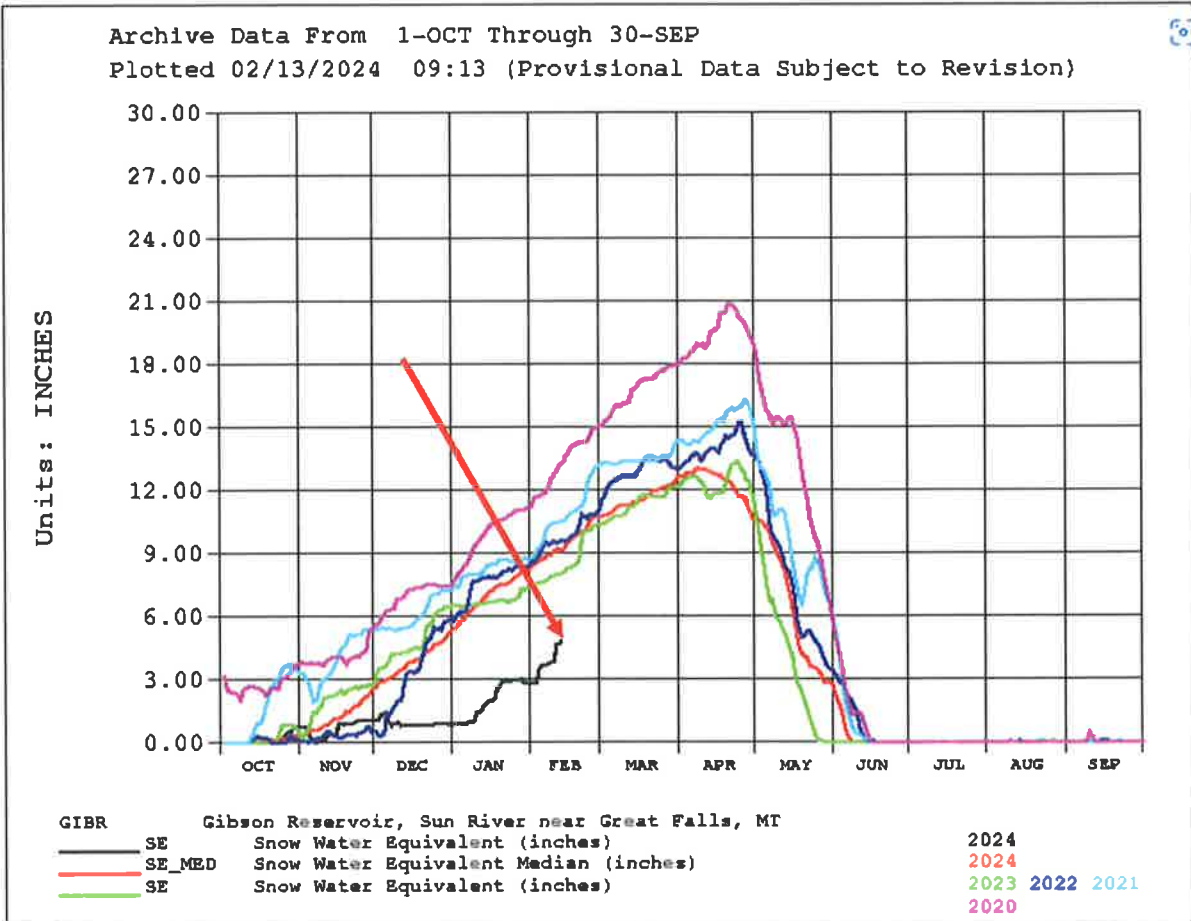
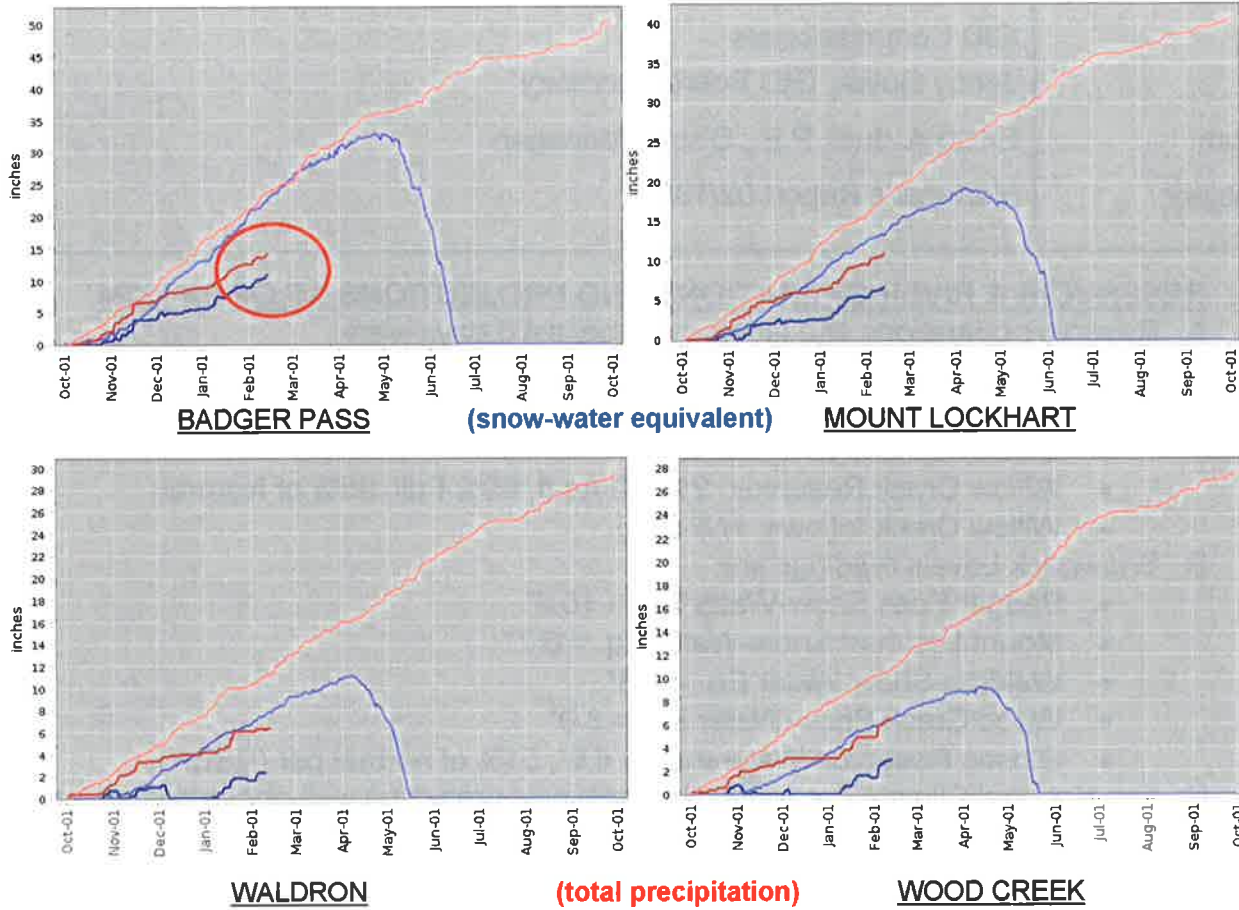
From: Erling A. Juel, P.E., District Manager

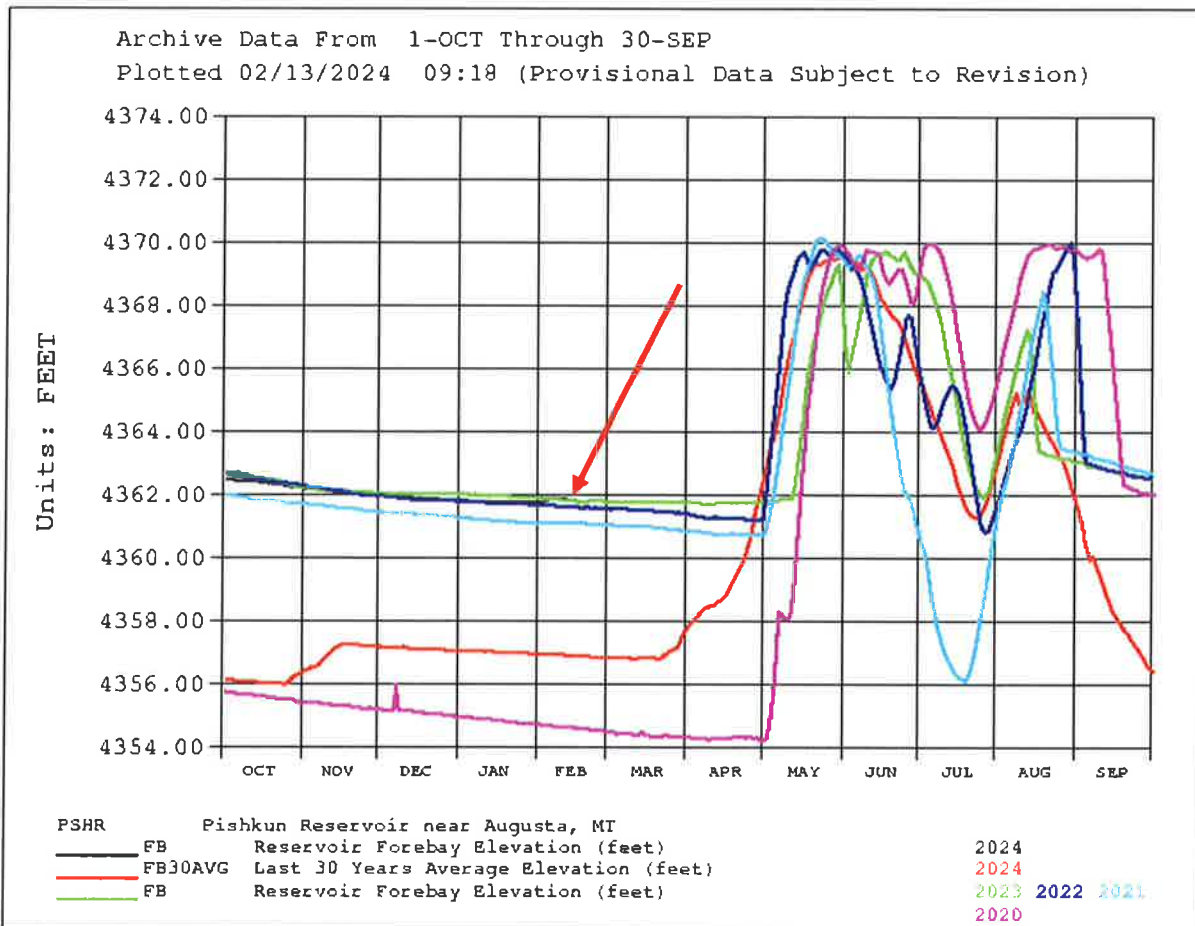
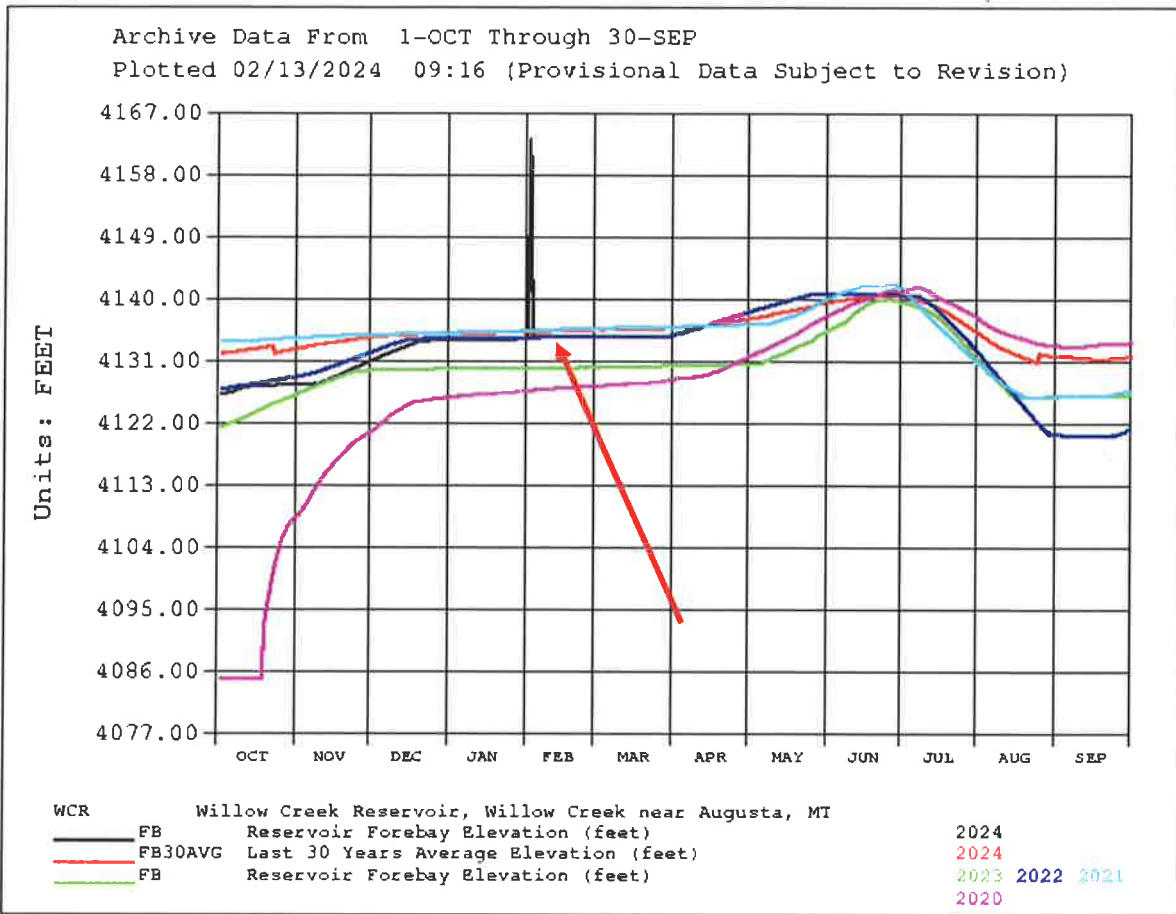
Subject: Manager's Report 02/13/24

1) RESERVOIR & RIVER OPERATIONS AND PROJECTIONS AS OF 02/13/24

- A. Reservoir operations and levels over the last 5 days were:
- Gibson Res: 8,600 Ac-ft, 32% Full & 8.7% of Normal
 - Gibson Inflows: varying from 109 to 140 cfs, 68% to 87% of Normal.
 - Gibson Outflows: +/-118 cfs,
 - Willow Creek Reservoir: 21,890 Ac-ft, 69% Full, 95% of Normal
 - Willow Creek Inflows: +/-5 cfs
- B. Snowpack Levels readings are:
- Badger Pass Snow-Water Eq. = 10.9"
 - Mount Lockhart Snow-Water Eq. = 6.7"
 - Waldron Snow-Water Eq. = 2.3"
 - Wood Creek Snow-Water Eq. = 3.0"
 - Gibson Reservoir Watershed = 4.6", 51% of normal per (USBR)
- C. The National Climate Prediction Center is now predicting well-above normal temps and slightly below normal precipitation for February through April. May to July is predicted to be above temps and well below normal precipitation.







- D. In summary.....
1. All reservoirs are at normal levels except Gibson.
 2. Snow pack is severely lagging.

2) GID WATER RIGHT ISSUES

- A. Still working with BOR and our lawyer to get the GID boundaries corrected. **Need to adopt an official Board Resolution for Reclamation and the District Court.**
- B. The State DNRC is still trying to acquire shared ownership of private water rights which were applied on State Land through the Pettibone ruling. If successful, could undermine our agreement with DNRC.
- C. Working with the Broken O to reorganize their GID assessments within the District.

3) STAFF UPDATES

- A. Hired a new ditch rider, Ernest Kietzman, and he started Monday, Feb. 12th.
- B. Still need to hire one more ditch rider as well as a couple of weed sprayers.
- C. No one has challenged Pat or Chase for this year's Commissioner election.

4) OFFICE IMPROVEMENTS & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- A. Hoping to revisit with potential insurance agents to see if there are additional ways to reduce our premium.
- B. Mark your calendars for the Annual Water Users Meeting which will be March 19th at noon at the Fairfield Community Center.
- C. Need to start planning for GID's 100th Birthday celebration on May 29th, 2025.

5) GIS MAPPING, PLATS, DATA BASE, CERTIFICATION, & ASSESSMENTS

- A. Nancy has been gone most of January.
- B. Nancy is slowly getting ready for this year's irrigation certification process.

6) FARM UNIT OPERATIONS

A. Request to Reconfigure FUs 484 and 485

1. The landowner of FU 484 sold a portion of that FU to the adjoining landowner of FU 485. FU 485 increased in size commensurate with the decrease in size to FU 484. This was accomplished with a BL adjustment. Landowners included easement language in the deed for the stranded Turnout.
2. Other than a change in ownership and the FU reconfiguration, there will be no change in irrigation practice, nor irrigation coverage.
3. With the easement language in place, no water delivery or other issues are known.
4. **Review handout and address during Agenda portion.**

7) MONTHLY FINANCIALS & 2024 BUDGET

- A. The account receivables for January totaled \$4,054.
- B. Accounts payable for January totaled \$609,595 for the warrants as well as \$53,341 in salaries comprising two pay periods.
- C. Cash flow continues to be a concern given the slow progress on the BLM ROW approvals.
- D. Updated Budget handout.

8) GID VEHICLES & HEAVY EQUIPMENT

- A. Had to authorize a new replacement engine to be installed in Dam Tender's ¾-ton. This option was less expensive than buying a new vehicle.
- B. Still looking for a good, used pickup, possibly a 4x4 pickup, to complete the ditch rider fleet.
- C. We committed to buying two new semi-tractors with day cabs, drop axles, and wet packs, as well as two 29-ton side dump trailers after receiving approval from the BOR for the rip rap hauling job at Willow Creek Reservoir. Three GID staff travelled to Bozeman to test drive this particular make and model.

9) PEARSON LAWSUIT

- A. Scheduling Order Set
 1. Attended Hearing/Trial on Jan. 18th in Butte. **Nothing on Judge's decision.**

10) WILLOW CREEK FEEDER CANAL & LAWSUIT

- A. Scheduling Order Set
 1. Defendants' Expert and Liability Disclosures (**DONE**)
 2. Plaintiff's Expert and Liability Disclosures (**DONE**)
 3. Hearing on MFSJ on laches for Troy's claims – March 21st, 2024
 4. Plaintiff's Expert Deposition – March 29th, 2024
 5. Discovery Closes – March 29, 2024
 6. GID's Expert Deposition – April 16th & 17th, 2024
 7. Trial – November 4, 2024
- B. See copies of Plaintiff's Disclosures.
- C. Next on schedule to get expert depositions.

11) HYDRO UPDATES

- A. General –
 1. Regarding GID's fight with NWE's intent to update the QF-1 Tariffs.
 - i. I have provided written (pre-filed) testimony which is what I will say in front of the PSC and NWE's attorneys May 14th & 15th. **This hearing date conflicts with GID's May Board meeting.**
- B. Arnold Coulee LOPP –
 1. ✓ **LOPP** – The Executed LOPP Agreement has been finalized and is done.
 2. **Transmission Design & Construction** – To date on the latest segment...
 - 3.8-miles of Segment #4 and the 1-mile, N-S leg of Seg. #5 are done.
 - The remaining west to east segment (3.6 miles) of Segment #5 move Ken Morris' road to Hwy 289 is now under construction. As of today, approximately 2.0 miles of poles have been erected and transmission conductor has been installed on the 1st mile. Now hanging distribution wire below the transmission wire. The other 1.6 miles of poles are framed out but laying on the ground.



3. **Transmission Easements** – Easement efforts continue to go nowhere.

- The lead BLM biologist has taken a new position, and we are working with another biologist. A new proposed mitigation plan was sent from BLM to SREC. SREC is preparing a response.
- I believe that BLM and BOR basically agree on all other components of the NEPA and NHPA compliance documents. The Tribal input requested on the Cultural studies did not produce any responses.
- Easements across State Trust Lands for Arnold Coulee leg have been approved by the State Land Board and SREC has invoiced GID for the costs, +/- \$4,500.
- The switchyard site will be on State Trust lands 2.6 miles west of Jackson's Corner. This easement has yet to be officially started.
- The lack of the BLM ROW is still impacting GID's ability to finalize our INTERCAP Loan.

4. **BLM Site ROW** –
 - BLM has everything needed to process GID's facility site ROW request. BLM is holding off approval pending approval of SREC's ROW request. Will not grant one ROW without approval of the other.
 - I have reached out to BOR and implored them to permit the on-site construction of the powerhouse, so we don't lose another year.
 5. **SREC Interconnection & Transmission Agreements** – Nothing new regarding this work. Waiting for easements before finalizing Agreements.
 6. **Power Purchase Agreement** – Returned a revised version to NWE addressing their comments.
 7. **Design Drawings** – The foundation block design was reviewed by Reclamation, and they returned their comments and suggestions. Just recently received a new set of construction drawings. Need to forward onto BOR. The HPU design has been finalized. The fabrication of the powerhouse controls (\$600k) is in progress. Unfortunately, our controls designer, Dan Batdorf just recently died from a heart attack.
 8. ✓ **Turbine-Generator Purchase** – Done.
 9. **WEEG WaterSmart Grant** – Nothing new. Next quarterly report is due on 03/31/24. The financial portion of the grant is basically done as we have exhausted the \$2 Million grant allotment as well as satisfied GID's \$2 Million minimum match requirement.
 10. **INTERCAP Loan** – The GID Board has approved the Bond Resolution for the Loan. However, the Department of Commerce is holding off from processing the loan until all the easements/ROWs have been secured. DOC denied my plea to kick loose the loan based on recent easement progress.
 11. **Construction** – Site construction is pending approval of BLM's ROW.
- C. Pishkun Inlet Hydro – **NEPA and NHPA are the critical path.**
1. **Funding** – Nothing new.
 - Still working on the preliminary loan requirements for the \$5.03 million BIL loan guarantee through USBR's Aging Infrastructure Account (AIA) program.
 - Both the WEEG grant and the BIL loan include "Buy America" requirements. Have submitted a draft BABA exemption request waiver addressing the hydropower machine for Reclamation's review. No word back yet.
 2. **LOPP** – Reclamation cashed our check for \$10,000 to initiate the Final LOPP for this site. This will kick start the NEPA and NHPA process.
 3. **Transmission Easements** – **Have not started this task.**
 - Mr. Morris has agreed to the easements across his land along the PSC.
 4. **Transmission Design & Construction** – **Have not started this task.**
 5. **Power Purchase Agreement** – **Have not started this task.**
 6. **Design Drawings** – **Have not started this task.**
 7. **Turbine-Generator Purchase** – Completed the RFP evaluation from 5 turbine suppliers, 2 Canadian, 2 German, and 1 Czech Republic. None are made in the US. Canadian Hydro has the most American-made components, and their proposal was the most cost-effective. RFP looked at the Johnson Drop and A-Drop turbines.
- D. Johnson Drop – **Nothing new.**
1. **Funding** –

- WaterSmart WEEG – Part of the \$4.3 million grant would address finishing Johnson Drop.
- 2. **LOPP** – Need to send a request to Reclamation to initiate the permitting process for this site.
- E. A-Drop – **Nothing new.**
 - 2. **Funding** –
 - WaterSmart WEEG – Part of the \$4.3 million grant would address reconfiguring A-Drop for future hydro.
 - 3. **LOPP** – Need to send a request to Reclamation to initiate the permitting process for this site.
- F. Gibson Hydro – **Nothing new.**
 - 1. Tollhouse Energy, via Whitewater, is getting the remainder of the Reclamation escrow account but Steve Marmon told me that GID will get none of it. He sent me some documentation showing GID did not contribute.

12) GID INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS- Current or Planned

- A. Hwy 89 Ditch Crossings
 - 1. **Nothing new.**
- B. Willow Creek Spillway Repair –
 - 1. Reclamation is moving forward with Phase 1 of the Interim Safety Measures which involves hauling and stockpiling up to 7,000 CYs of Rip Rap to be implemented this Spring. GID and FSID would be responsible for 15% of the costs. GID's cost would be in the range of \$150,000 to \$165,000 depending on the final price tag. GID and FSID will also perform the work under contract to BOR.
- C. Sun River Bridge Replacement –
 - 1. Projected Schedule
 - Environmental Assessment open house set for Augusta on Feb. 28th from 3:30 to 5:30.
 - Geotechnical drilling to take place in April 2024
 - 70% Plans Milestone – April 2024
 - 90% Plans Milestone – July 2024
 - Final Design – Fall 2024
 - Advertise – Spring 2025 (Maybe this Fall)
 - Construction 2025 and 2026
 - 2. Status of Old Bridge
 - SHPO rejected BOR's request for removal from the eligibility list.
 - BOR is petitioning their liaison in DC to have it removed.
- D. SRS 71 Check Replacement and Reregulation, Phase 1–
 - 1. **Everything is done except for installation of the new Smart gate which has arrived in the US.**
 - 2. Working off the \$125K DNRC grant received to do this work.
- E. Phase III J-Waste Way Facility, Spring Coulee Headworks –
 - 1. Executed the Engineering Agreement for the \$15K DNRC RRGL planning grant that was awarded to GID to complete Phase 3. Phase 3 is the confining berms, SCDA, and the re-regulation pond controls. We will pursue a \$125K RRGL grant to help with matching requirements for the SRWG's WaterSmart Grant
- F. Tunnel #3 Roof Collapse –
 - 1. Engineer making edits to address BOR's comments.

2. Again, GID was awarded a \$11.6 million guarantee through Reclamation's Aging Infrastructure Account (AIA) funding program & a \$500K ARPA grant.
3. Strategy-
 - i. Complete final design and finalize environmental compliance documents for Phase 1 construction.
 - ii. Procure materials and solicit by next summer Contractor.
 - iii. Award contract so contractor is ready to roll when PSC shuts off.
 - iv. 1st Phase of Construction to start August 2024.
 - v. Use the ARPA grant & then finalize BIL loan over the next 9 months.
- G. Lower GSC Rehabilitation –
 1. Finished the last pour of the collection box.
 2. Now will focus on the replacement pipeline.
 3. Working off the \$75,000 WaterSmart grant.

13) TITLE TRANSFER

- A. **Nothing new.** Received the draft MOU and agreement from USBR to move forward. Have not had a chance to review.

14) MISC GID O&M PROJECTS

- A. Eric will provide a verbal update if he's here.

15) GID GRAZING LEASE PROGRAM

- A. Still need to follow-up with the restoration requirements for Pasture # 11.
- B. Look at carving off a piece of the Community Pasture
- C. Two pastures have been given up.
 1. Pasture #53, 50 AMUs @ \$15/AUM (F. Ginther)
 2. Pasture #58, 20 AUMs @ \$75/AUM (T. McWilliams)

16) DISTRICT MODERNIZATION EFFORT WITH FCA

- A. Continuing with weekly meetings with FCA.
- B. Working on a pressurized district study for the Ashuelot Bench with a re-regulation pond above the first drop.
- C. Will schedule a work session in early June to develop modernization strategies.

17) MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Working on a proposal to reconfigure the gate operators, controls, and automation at Mary Taylor.
- B. Still no update on the historic Muddy Creek gravel pit closeout. GID received a notification of violation from the MT DEQ. Sent an update to DEQ.
- C. Received another violation notice from DEQ regarding the Kasper Pit just north of Town. Submitted another request for a permit.

18) SHORT-TERM TO DO LIST – MARCH

- Finalize BLM approval for site ROW and transmission line ROW for Arnold Coulee.
- Finalize the DOC-BOI INTERCAP Loan.
- Make progress on the Lower GSC ditch to pipeline project.
- Following BLM approval, order pipe for tailrace channel underpass.

19) LONG-TERM TO DO LIST – APRIL & ON

- Need to find ways to reduce our insurance costs.
- Submit new PPA to NWE for Pishkun Inlet
- Finalize a Systems Improvement Plan (SIP) with FCA
- Finish SRS-71 Headworks
- Finish Lower GSC Pipeline
- Submit RRG Applications for J-Waste Way, Phase 3 and SRS Check, Phase 2

NEXT GID BOARD MEETING MARCH 12th @ 6PM

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