

Greenfields

IRRIGATION DISTRICT



The following are minutes taken from a Regular Meeting of the Greenfields Irrigation District's (GID's) Board on Tuesday, October 22nd, 2025, at 8:30 A.M. Those in attendance were: Board President, Tim Brunner, Board Vice President, Chase Brady and Commissioners, Pat Brosten, Dave Gulick and Chris Ostberg. Also in attendance were District Manager, Erling Juel, Board Secretary, Jenny Gulick, as well as GID Operator Cory Copenhaver and Range Rider, Ron Wilson. Tracy Wendt with the SRWG and Trudy Whitmore with the Fairfield Historical Society were also both present.

President Brunner called the meeting to order at 8:32 A.M. and reminded all present that all public comment is limited to 5 minutes.

The first item of business was to review and approve the September 16th Regular Board Meeting Minutes. There were no discrepancies and Vice President Brady moved to approve the minutes with Commissioner Gulick seconding the motion. All in favor and the minutes were approved. The next item of business was to approve the September Warrants List. Manager Juel explained that the Sun River Electric warrant was for the line work done in July and August and explained the next invoice received from SRE will be much bigger. The Riverside warrant is for the shipping of the gates and rails. The TD&H warrant for \$3,700 is for the design of the building at Arnold Coulee. Commissioner Brosten moved to approve the warrants and VP Brady seconded. All in favor and the warrants are approved for payment.

Parties Presenting Issues: Commissioner Gulick spoke on Tom McInerney's behalf, as he had questioned why there was surveying being done on his land with out any notice from GID. Manager Juel explained that the surveying being done was for cultural resources study of the Mary Taylor site and that GID has an easement through Tom's property along GM 59. Manager Juel will call Tom tomorrow and explain all of this. Dave also talked to Tom's neighbor, Matthew Entz, about the issue. Manager Juel went on to explain that Turnbull Hydro owns a chunk of ground adjacent to the Mary Taylor chute, with the intention that one day, a hydro site will be set up.

Next, Trudy Whitmore with the FHS addressed the Board about the upcoming Centennial Celebration of GID. She explained that meet and greet would begin at 10 A.M. with lunch and raffles to follow, concluding with a program at 2 P.M. She went on to explain that in 1925, the District Court in Choteau authorized GID as its own project, separate from the Sun River Project. She also informed the Board that the Society is preparing to work on 2nd Edition Boots and Shovels books. President Brunner

expressed his desire to see the potential for interested parties and those unable to attend, to have the ability to donate online.

Contracts to Execute: The Intercap Disbursement request has already been processed, and the funds are in our account. The Repayment Contract for Tunnel #3, 1st amendment is then reviewed and discussed. Manager Juel explained that the terms have been moved from 30-years to 50-years, at the same interest rate of 1.8%. VP Brady made a motion to approve the 1st amendment of the contract, with Commissioner Ostberg seconding the motion. All in favor and the contract is approved as a first draft.

The Board then briefly discussed the Neal settlement offer. President Brunner expressed that the Board should demand to see that it is clarified considerably and that rehabilitation monies are outlined in the settlement, as to how they will be used. He also asked that GID's Attorney insist that GID receives a statement stating that Sabatos cannot come back with a claim against GID, as he has already been released. Manager Juel made a quick list of items to be presented to Steph and are as follows:

- 1) Clarification on Sabatos' involvement since they have already been designated as unqualified and should release any future claims.
- 2) Clarification on how the rehabilitation funds are to be allocated and spent.

Manager Juel decided to attempt to call Steph presently, as all Board Members were present. She was unavailable, but her colleague, Kaitlyn Mitcham, took the call and did her best to answer GID's questions and concerns. Manger Juel asked when we could expect to see things finalized, and Mitcham explained likely next week, as we are only waiting for the plaintiffs' acceptance of the settlement offer, at this time.

Manager's Report: Gibson Reservoir Inflows are 77% of normal and the current snowpack is at 533% of normal but is quickly going down. The National Climate Prediction is now predicting well-above normal temps and normal precipitation for Nov-January, with Feb-April expected to be well-below normal temps and well-above normal precipitation. For further Reservoir and River Operations Projected, see the M.R.

GID Staff Updates: Richard Prewitt is GID's newest employee, but we will still need to hire one more ditch rider this Spring.

Office Improvements & General Admin: Manager Juel reiterated on GID's Gala Celebration to be held this Saturday and the Fairfield Community Hall.

Monthly Finances & Budget: Accounts payable for September were \$307,936, with \$57,365 also attributed to payroll.

GID Vehicles: 2 Ditch Rider trucks will be ordered this November, each at around \$43,700, with 4x4, a long-box, V-8 and regular cab, Chevy trucks. We have finalized the sale of the Volvo Tractor and Side-Dump Trailer to Joe Aline and will apply the \$244,000 to pay off the two pieces of equipment, once money has been received.

Pearson Lawsuit, Round II: Nothing new to report, except a trial date has been established for October 2026. We are preparing to submit the 1st round of discovery requests to the plaintiffs.

Hydro Updates: The transformer has been completed, but we are holding off on delivery until we have a place to put it. **PPA:** We have received an email from Basin that stated they are reviewing Manager Juel's letter with GID's proposed terms. President Brunner has also been in communication with NWE. He explained to the representatives that it would be a smart community outreach partnership, if NWE were to choose to want to buy GID's power. **Construction:** See pictures included in the M.R. documenting progress. Manager Juel was informed that we might not be able to get the breaker for 9 weeks. Cory and Erling gave the Board a brief overview of the work that has been done at Arnold Coulee or the past month, as well as the projected work to get done this upcoming month for the next two big concrete pours. Loenbro will give us a bid to help with the concrete work to be done to the walls. We tried to take delivery of the first pieces of penstock pipe, but the tractor-trailer combo was too long to deliver to site, so we will have to unload and make the initial miter cuts at Loenbro's yard in Great Falls. We can haul the smaller pieces to the jobsite then. **Pishkun Inlet Hydro:** Sorenson Engineering is to produce 60% of the drawings for the site, which will then be submitted to BOR and mean that we have 90% of the drawings completed. Cultural Resources Studies have been conducted on all the proposed sites.

GID Infrastructure Projects- Current or Planned:

- 1) Mary Taylor Facility- Manager Juel is still reviewing the draft PER and needs to update the hydropower feasibility analysis, along with filing the FERC form 556.
- 2) Willow Creek Spillway Repair- GID returned \$411,236.70 to BOR on September 30th.
- 3) Tunnel #3 Rehabilitation- The remaining issue is the raised terminus. The contractor will either pay GID to fix or fix the issue themselves next Spring. We will be going out for the bid for Phase II this Fall/Winter, with construction to begin next Fall.
- 4) J-Wasteway Facility, Spring Coulee Headworks- Manager Juel will need to review and submit the start-up paperwork for the \$125K DNRC-RRG grant that was approved by the State Legislature.

Title Transfer: Nothing new to report.

GID O&M Projects: The concrete lining on a portion of the SRS Canal downstream is showing wear and tear, so we will need to develop a repair plan that can be implemented before the next water season. Recent inspections of the PSC Headworks have revealed that the slide gates are in serious need of replacement. BOR and GID will be inspecting trespass conditions at Willow Creek Reservoir today.

Grazing Lease Program: Ron gave the Board a brief explanation that GID was put into a Historic Herding District some time ago. The enforcement officer of the district has left and there seems to be no one left that knows exactly what the rules are for such a district, or the ramifications for not abiding by the rules. Manager Juel explained that he would review the current lease agreements, but that they do little to protect the rights of the lessees. The current leases are to expire on December 31st, 2026.

FCA Modernization Efforts: The bi-weekly meetings with FCA have been suspended due to the government shutdown and there is an uncertainty of reimbursement.

Groundwater Study with MBMG: There has been a presentation of its findings, which Tracy will share the link for those interested.

Public Comment: Tracy with SRWG provided the Board with an update, as well as requested the Fall contribution that GID always donates each year of \$4,000. The Working Group Meeting was held on October 15th, with no FSID or GID representation present. She also informed the Board that they would be moving into an office downtown after the 1st of the year.

Agenda:

- 1) The Board to decide on the request made by Tracy with SRWG for the \$4,000 Fall contribution. Commissioner Gulick moved to approve the contribution and Commissioner Ostberg seconded. All in favor and the contribution is approved.
- 2) The Board decided to approve the initial draft of the Repayment Contract for Tunnel #3.

Board President

Board Secretary