

Wyoming Association of Irrigation Districts (WAID)

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday February 19, 2025

Lunch at 12:00 p.m. Meeting at 1:00 pm

Rusty Truck, 400 N Federal Blvd. Riverton WY

Attendance:

Steve Lynn, Ric Herman, Brian Duyck, Trent Reed, and Gail Whitman. Keith Kennedy joined the meeting via zoom.

Meeting was called to order by President, Steve Lynn at 1:00 pm.

Steve opened the floor to approve today's meeting agenda. The agenda was approved without opposition.

Approval of Minutes and Treasures Report:

Brian made the motion to approve the Monthly Board Meeting Minutes for Jan. 14, 2025, at 1:00 pm via zoom. Ric 2nd the motion, the motion carried unopposed, and the minutes were approved.

Gail gave the attached Treasurer's Report consisting of the Voucher List, Deposit Lists and the Statement of Account for January to date. Brian made the motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Trent 2nd the motion, the motion carried.

Updates:

Ric reported that two new Districts had contacted us to join the Association. Big Horn Canal Irrigation District and the Nowood Watershed Improvement District. The Big Horn Canal Irrigation District was sure they wanted to join. Ric reported that Nowood Watershed Improvement District is concerned over their state funding being taken away and they are having easement issues with their project. The Nowood Watershed Improvement District does deliver water to their Stare Water Righted acres. Both districts found us through the Irrigation Leader Magazine.

Old Business:

Committee Reports:

Moving Water Rights: Discussion was had on the current Subdivision Laws pertaining to attached water rights and the disposal of water rights. Currently there are no teeth in the law giving Irrigation Districts the right to protect their Administered Water Rights and Easements. The Developers' "Good Faith Effort" is not enough, signatures should be required from the Irrigation District's Board in approving the Water Rights disposal plan prior to getting the State Engineers' Approval on any new Platte. This is

a topic of discussion we need to have with the State Engineers office before taking it to the Select Water Committee. There was discussion on broadening the language to include all Water Distribution Districts. It was then noted that the different districts differ in their structure, thus this may not be a concern for them.

Protecting Irrigated Farmland: Brian reported that the local legislature that he has been talking to has completely forgotten about the State Resolution that would be sent to Washington DC, promoting the idea of no capital gains tax on ag land sold to young producers. Keith said State Resolutions are not very effective anyway. It was then decided that Capital Gains Tax is a federal issue and therefore should be brought before the Wyoming Federal Congressional Delegation. This issue needs to be a part of the Farm Bill in promoting America First in Food Safety, Food Security, and Food Supply. Steve suggested we craft our own letter to be sent to Washington DC.

State Statutes: Steve reiterated with Keith our stand on Draft Bill HB0070 where both Statute 41-7-412 and Statute 41-7-813 need to be at \$75,000.00 and asked that he lobby for this. Keith then gave a report on relevant Bills currently before Congress.

Joining NWRA as a member:

Steve spoke with Kris Polly regarding the cost of membership. Kris said he is Okay with us being a \$3000.00 member for life if that is all we can afford. There is no time limit on that. Kris reiterated what our membership was purchasing for us: Place to stay in Washington DC, Representation, Staffers, Introductions, and appointments to Testify before Committees. Trent made the motion to join the NWRA as a member for the rate of \$3000.00 annually. Ric 2nd the motion. The motion passed unopposed. Discussion was had on being able to attend the NWRA Meetings that are held across the United States.

Joining Wyoming Water Association for the 2025 Annual Meeting:

The discussion on sharing our annual meeting and conference with another entity resulted in the conclusion that our annual meeting is focused on our concerns and that sharing the floor with another entity would detract from that. Brian made the motion not to join the Wyoming Water Association as a cohost for the 2025 Annual Meeting and Conference. Trent 2nd the motion. The motion passed unopposed. However, we do welcome their members' attendance in the sharing of ideas and information. This is a topic we should ask our members at this year's annual conference and get their feedback. Steve suggested we have round-table discussions on this and other topics at the Annual Meeting.

Sign New Signature Page:

The Signature Page was signed by everyone in attendance. Joan, Nathan and Jim still need to sign.

New Business

Vendor Rates for the Annual Convention:

Brian Butters shared the Nebraska's Annual meeting and Four States Meeting charges for vendors. It was noted that they include one registration per Exhibitor space and additional registration comes at a different price. Exhibitors are listed in the printed program. Sponsorships are tiered into four categories, listed in the printed program and their websites are linked to the conference website. It was noted that we should be charging more, however, vendors from last year's conference told us they really enjoyed our conference and learned a lot from it. Therefore, we would like to keep it simple and affordable to continue to increase their numbers in attendance. The first step is to do a cost analysis on a per person basis with last year's data. Then examine where we should go with our Exhibitor rates. With more information, the topic will be addressed at a future meeting.

Set Dues for the Three types of Membership:

Prior to the change to the Constitution, there were only two Memberships, Voting Member and Associate Member. The Voting Member dues were \$500.00, and Associate Member dues were at \$200.00. During discussion it was noted that this is another topic for the round table discussion at the next Annual Meeting. Brian made the motion that Voting Member dues be \$500.00, Associate Member dues be \$250.00 and the Individual Member dues be \$150.00. Trent 2nd the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

Upcoming Events for Calendar

Ric stated he is going to set up a meeting with Brandon at the State Engineers' Office.

Establishing WAID Objectives, Resolutions, & Position Statements Committee meeting following today's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday March 18th at 1:00 pm via Zoom.