The Board of Directors for the Roza Irrigation District convened in regular session on Tuesday March 9, 2021. Present were President, Ric Valicoff, Vice-President Jim Willard, Director Jason Don, Director Jason Sheehan, Director Tanner Winckler and District Manager Scott Revell, Engineering Manager Wayne Sonnichsen, Watermaster Clay Bohlke, Maintenance Superintendent Dave Rollinger and Assessment Clerk/Assistant Secretary Kristel Espinoza.

Via telephone conference: District Attorney Brian Iller and Will Jones.

District Manager Revell noted a modification to the consent agenda for item “e”. The District will remove vehicle #78 from the surplus item list.

The acting President called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M. and requested the Board consider the consent agenda as presented:

a. Minutes of February 9, 2021 Regular Board meeting.


d. Claims.

e. Declaration of surplus vehicles/equipment.

The following claims are approved for payment: Payroll numbers 29538-29542 in the amount of $5,636.57, Voucher numbers 65120-65153, 65087, 65203-65221, 65286-65327 and 65330-65395 in the amount of $1,308,427.20 and Electronic payments 01-21, 02-2021, 03-21, 04-21, 21-03, 21-04 in the amount of $279,965.18 from the period of January 14, 2021 to March 9, 2021.

It was moved by Mr. Willard, seconded by Mr. Don and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda as modified.

District Manager Revell updated the Board on the District’s coronavirus emergency operations and reported the District’s total number of employees who have tested positive to date is eleven. The Roza office remains closed to the public and the Board meetings can occur in person with masking and distancing requirements.

District Manager Revell reported that Reclamation issued a full water supply forecast for the proratable irrigation districts on March 4th and noted the snowpack was 122% to 126% of average depending on the location in Basin and water storage is 109% of average.

Engineering Manager Wayne Sonnichsen updated the Board on the contaminated soil monitoring under the north end of the District’s shop. The District enrolled in the Department of Ecology’s Voluntary Cleanup Program and in April 2019, Staff met with a Shannon & Wilson’s representative on site and discussed the contaminated soil. The Board approved to enter into an Agreement for Professional Services. Following the final sampling event, Shannon & Wilson drafted a final report of the groundwater sampling activities, dated July 24, 2019. The report included a discussion noting that the activities suggested by Department of Ecology in working toward “no further action” status had been completed and requested on behalf of the District, for an evaluation of whether Model Remedy 4 would be appropriate for the property. Mr. Sonnichsen noted no further correspondence was received from Ecology until Frank Winslow with Department of Ecology sent an email to Blaine Nesbit, Shannon & Wilson dated February 22, 2021. Staff has directed Mr. Nesbit to proceed with requesting a formal opinion letter from Ecology and a proposal for continued well monitoring and installing an in-well passive remediation system (ORC Filter socks).

Watermaster Clay Bohlke presented, and the Board reviewed the Watermaster’s monthly report.

District Manager Revell presented, and the Board reviewed the District Manager’s monthly report.

Engineering Manager Sonnichsen presented, and the Board reviewed the Engineering Manager’s monthly report.

The President declared the Board to be in executive session for an estimated forty-five minutes beginning at 9:55 A.M. pursuant to:
a. Executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). Potential and pending litigation- State v. Acquavella, Terrace Heights Sewer District and Blasdel.
b. Executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(2)(a)(iii). To evaluate legal risk of a proposed action.
c. Executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(b). Selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate.

President Valicoff returned at 10:40 A.M. and noted the Board would be in executive session for approximately twenty additional minutes.

The President returned the Board to regular session at 10:58 A.M.

Walt Larrick- Roza Consulting Fish Biologist, Mike Livingston- Regional Director for Washington State Department Fish & Wildlife, Jason Romin- United States Fish & Wildlife Service joined the meeting.

District Manager Revell presented to the Board on the mobile bull trout fish ladder/trap. He explained that Bull trout are present in several reservoirs in the United States Bureau of Reclamation Yakima Project, and are listed as threatened species by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act. Roza and other irrigation districts in the basin have been approached by multiple state and federal agencies about partnering financially to construct a mobile fish passage structure called a denil, which would be mounted on a trailer that could be used in several locations throughout the basin. The structure would allow fish to swim from a lake or a creek surface up the flow of water to the top, into the tube and into the trap box. Mr. Revell noted the denil would most likely be fabricated by USBR staff at their shop. Following discussion about the total cost, project timeline, participation by individual irrigation districts and the Yakima Basin Joint Board and available funding sources. Mr. Revell also discussed acoustic tags purchased by Roza and the future participation in the Yakama Nations Bull Trout Rescue Project. Mr. Willard moved, seconded by Mr. Don and unanimously approved to authorize up to $25,000 toward the construction of the mobile fish ladder from the water storage development fund.

No further business appearing and upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Board did there upon adjourn at 11:30 A.M. on Tuesday March 9, 2021.

AKTEST:  

SECRETARY

PRESIDENT