

**Mission Jocko Joint Board**  
**“Mission Jocko Irrigation Districts”**  
**December 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. Lane Harriman moved and Tracy Gardner seconded, motion passed.

**Warrants:** Tracy Gardner moved to approve the warrants, Tim Callahan seconded, motion passed.

**BIA Report:** Some crew are training on dams, the rest of the crew is being furloughed for a couple of weeks. They are starting to plan for their crew come the beginning of the year and the start of irrigation season. Snowpak isn't great, there is no snow right now. Assessment for 2026 will be \$44 per acre. Pumping costs are making a huge impact on FIP overhead. There may be some provisions for that in the Compact but right now those funds are uncertain. They are trying to look at other sources of funding including increasing minimum assessment charges, application fees and dam assessments. In the past it seemed cost was cut by cutting staff which also didn't help. Cal Poly is coming in to set up a flume for B canal as a test to measure flows. Montana Guard Core of Engineers have reached out regarding helping to clean out the ditches. Eric Brugiere has worked with military in the past, it could be a viable option to help cut cost. FIP is working on filling positions and pumping plant maintenance as well. The tribe has stated they want to drain Pablo Reservoir to spray for weeds next year. Some discussion on how Pablo could be refilled and where that lost water would come from. Some new equipment is finally being received. It will cost about \$15,000 annually for tracking equipment and workers via GPS to address concerns on equipment being left and workers being places they aren't supposed to be. Some discussion on possible hiring freezes in 2025. The state is obligated to 55 million, 30 million is to offset pumping costs. The 900,000 interest was an estimate by one person. The state has 5 years from ratification to distribute the 55 million which would be December of 2025. On December 16<sup>th</sup> at the Polson library there will be a grant application workshop from 9:30-2:30, the deadline is January 10<sup>th</sup>, so far they have received 4 full applications.

**Recording Equipment:** Moving the microphones seems to help with hearing the public on recordings, the Board will continue to monitor and see if more microphones might be needed. Renee Roragen will research wireless microphones.

**Community Well Letter:** Ray Swenson had one correction There was discussion on cost and that Mission would absorb the full cost for mailings. Some discussion on how the stock water grant can be used on an existing well to creat new watering systems for stock. Tim Callahan moved to approve the letter with the one correction, Gene Posivio seconded, motion passed. Mailings will start before the end of the year and responses will be evaluated starting in the January meeting.

**MJID 2025 Budget:** Ray Swenson adjusted attorney fees to 150,000, Lane Harriman moved to approve the budget, Gene Posivio seconded, motion passed.

**Water Court Update:** Matt Williams did very well in oral arguments. Per se's went the next day. No action from the water court other then vacating the conference call and January trial date. The Board is waiting to hear from Matt Williams on any further movement.

**Public Comment:** No public comment, some Board discussion on the FIP budget.

**Adjourn:** Tracy Gardner moved, Lane Harriman seconded, meeting was adjourned at 2:26 PM.