

Mission Jocko Joint Board
“Mission Jocko Irrigation Districts”
February 11th, 2025 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. Tim Callahan moved and Gene Posivio seconded, motion passed.

Warrants: Lane Harriman moved to approve the warrants, Tracy Gardner seconded, motion passed.

BIA Report: Eric Brugiére was present. USA jobs are frozen, 12 positions didn't get hired prior to the freeze. They are trying to use a waiver for temporary positions, working on that with HR. The Tribe has also frozen hiring, FIP has at least 10-16 positions that are retiring or took the furlough package. Emergency hires are asking for more money due to increased need for overtime. If they are short handed they may not be able to do maintenance. All travel and out of town training has been cancelled. They are fairly close to finishing the pumping plant. It is still unknown what monies are affected by the budget freezes. FIP is working on letters of obstruction for properties that have built on or over certain canals and ditches. Jeannine Padilla will not be returning to FIP. They have been working on BiOp meetings and sending the report, they are also revamping their operation maintenance guideline (OMG). FIP is going to become more strict about green sheets for ordering water. There was 87 irrigators that received letters because there isn't an EIN or SSN on file, they have received a few responses so far. Skye Cooley explained BiOp and what that means (biological opinion). Some discussion on the wildlife fencing being put in and blocking some of the irrigation access roads and easements. Some discussion on the Mission Dam being drained.

Community Well: Ray Swenson explained the reasoning behind thoughts on a community well. Some discussion on possible use of the well at the Saint Ignatius airport. So far responses have been leaning towards not in favor by irrigators. Gene Posivio moved to table the discussion until the fall, Ray Swenson seconded, motion passed.

Potential Lobbyist: It is looking less likely that the Board will need a lobbyist. The two possible proposed bills haven't been introduced yet, and there is only about 3 weeks left to do so. A couple of potential lobbyists (including John Metropolitous) withdrew due to conflicts. Some discussion on language differences in state compact vs federal. Personal injury due to the compact will be addressed in water court. Scott Richner (lobbyist) called in to meet with the Board. Ray Swenson summarized what the Board is looking for and the two bills the Board would be keeping an eye on, the main focus would be on the bill that is requesting to amend the language of the compact. Scott recommended to stay away from the bill trying to reverse the compact as it is dead in the water. He recommended a retainer to do research for the next two weeks and figure out if there is a lane to pursue offensively. It would \$5000 to start, and if there are options it would be \$10,000 per month for the remaining session (two months). Boone Cole suggested to table the topic and speak with Keith Regear about what he can offer to the Board before moving forward, the rest of the Board agreed.

Office Manager Position: Renee Roragen has accepted a new position and gave notice to the Board prior to the meeting. She did offer to stay on until the Board found a replacement. Denise Marks attended the meeting as a possible candidate for the position, some discussion on training and time frame. Tim Callahan moved to hire Denise Marks on a 30 day trial to train with Renee and determine whether it was a good fit by the next meeting, paying both employees for half time which is 15 hours per week at \$18 per hour, Gene Posivio seconded, motion passed.

Office Equipment: Renee Roragen gave a summary of cost for a new computer and new conference phone. Tracy Gardner moved to approve a new computer tower purchase from Kelley Create between \$600-1000, and a new conference phone if Kelley Create has one for \$3-400, Tim Callahan seconded, motion passed.

Water Court Update: Some discussion about timeline in court.

Public Comment: Some discussion on lobbyist and options.

Adjourn: Tracy Gardner moved, Lane Harriman seconded, meeting was adjourned at 2:49 PM.