Call to Order, Welcome & Meeting Chairman Election

Frank Erwin, WD 36A Water Master, opened the meeting at 1:36 pm and welcomed all in attendance. Frank Erwin asked for nominations for a meeting Chairman. **Bud Huntly nominated and John Mavencamp seconded Gary Lemmon as meeting Chair.** No other nominations were received and nominations were closed. **Gary Lemmon was elected 2020 Meeting Chair by voice vote with none opposed.**

Handouts available at the sign in sheet included: Agenda for today’s meeting, Minutes from the January 15, 2019 Annual Meeting, the 2019 Treasurer’s Report and Proposed 2020 Water District Budget, and the proposed 2020 Resolutions. Thirty three people were in attendance representing 31 of the 72 assessed diversions in the District.

Approval of FY 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes

Gary Lemmon asked for a motion to approve the minutes from last year’s annual meeting. **A motion was made by Bud Huntley and seconded by John Mavencamp to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2019 Annual Meeting as written and presented. Motion carried by voice vote, with none opposed.**

Discussion – Hiring a Deputy Water Master for FY2020

Frank lead a discussion on hiring a Deputy Water Master for FY2020, explaining that he was still intent on retiring in 2021 after 25 years as Water Master for WD36A, as he had discussed at last year’s annual meeting, and wanted to use this year to train his replacement. The two options for a Water Master to succeed him were either to hire someone from IDWR or to find someone more local. The Advisory Board met in December and recommended Frank train Matt Doperalski as his replacement rather than an IDWR employee. Frank introduced Matt Doperalski and briefly reviewed his background, pointing out he lived in Hagerman, was President of the Sands Ditch, owned a spraying service, had a background in Agriculture, and had been spending considerable amount of time with Frank, at no expense to the District, familiarizing himself with administration requirements of the District.

Adoption of 2020 Resolutions

Frank Erwin reviewed the handout titled **Water District 36A - Proposed Resolutions for 2020** which described the rules under which the District would operate this year. The proposed resolutions had been reviewed and approved previously by the Advisory Board at their annual meeting in December 2019. Frank explained that proposed resolutions included 3 proposed changes: dates were updated in resolutions 5 & 7, the minimum assessment was increased from $100 to $200 in resolution 11 (this was a typo on the handout), and new resolution 6 was added to give Frank authority to hire a Deputy Water Master of his choosing this year.

Gary added that adoption of the 2020 resolutions also meant that Frank Erwin would serve as Water Master and Linda Lemmon as Secretary/Treasurer for FY 2020, unless changes were proposed to those specific resolutions. No changes were proposed.

In response to a question whether Matt would automatically become the Water Master next year, Frank replied he would recommend Matt to be Water Master, but that it would be up to the membership present at next year’s annual meeting to make it official.

**Tom Van Tassel moved and Bud Huntley seconded that the 2020 proposed resolutions be adopted as corrected (to correct typo in resolution #11).** There was no further discussion. **Motion carried by voice vote, with none opposed.**
(7) **Adoption of Proposed 2020 Budget**

Frank Erwin reviewed the handout titled *Water District 36A Budget Summary (as of 12/31/19)* which included both the 2019 Treasurer’s Report (adopted and actual budgets) and the 2020 Proposed Budget. He explained that the budget needed to be incrementally increased over the next couple of years to support hiring a replacement Water Master, and that he was proposing to add $13,000 to the budget this year for the Deputy Water Master salary while keeping his current salary and that of the Secretary/Treasurer the same as last year. With other expenses being relatively the same as last year, except for the increased withholding taxes, Frank proposed the budget goal could be achieved by tripling the rate charged on the volume diverted from $0.05/24-hr second foot to $0.15/24-hr second foot, in addition to doubling the minimum charged per diversion from $100 to $200. Frank explained that for the past 24 years, he has served the District as Water Master more as a service to the community than as job adequately paid by the hour. He explained that doubling the budget to cover the increased salary requirements would get the District closer to a realistic Water Master salary, and that the final salary could be achieved next year with an additional albeit smaller increase.

Gary asked for a motion to approve the budget. *A motion to accept the proposed budget as presented was made by Bud Huntley and seconded by John Mavencamp.* There was no further discussion. *Motion carried by voice vote, with none opposed.*

(8) **Election of Water District 36A Advisory Board for FY 2020**

Gary Lemmon explained that there was no minimum/maximum number of people that could be on the board and that the current board members represented a majority of the beneficial uses in the district. He noted that Camoran Hollan was moved to out-of-state facility at Evaqua, and that Philip Henderson was willing to serve in his place as the Evaqua rep.

*Bud Huntley moved and John Mavencamp seconded that the Advisory Board members who served in 2019 be re-elected to serve in 2020, with the substitution of Philip Henderson as the Evaqua representative.* No other nominations were offered and the nominations were closed. *Motion passed by voice vote, with none opposed.*

2020 Advisory Board Members are: Skyler Farnsworth, Idaho Fish & Game

Philip Henderson, Evaqua Farms

Bud Huntley, Big Bend Irrigation & Mining Co.

Gary Lemmon, Big Springs Water Users Assoc.

John Mavencamp, Brailsford Ditch

Billy McCarthy, Buckeye Farms (Curren Ditch, Hunt Ditch)

Howard Morris, Hoagland Tunnel

Dan Yore, Buckeye Ditch

(9) **Water Master’s Report & Goals for 2020**

Frank reported that his main goal for 2020 would be to train the new Deputy Water Master. Because of the adopted budget increase, some lateral water user associations within the District will see significant increases in assessments this year. Thus, Frank also offered to attend lateral association annual meetings and assist lateral managers who want to calculate separate fees for seasonal irrigation use and non-irrigation “winter water rights” (those for aesthetics, wildlife, recreation and storage). The District only sends one invoice for the entire amount diverted by the lateral associations, and it is up to the associations to determine how to fairly allocate the total among their members. Frank also reminded everyone to fully complete their annual flow reports forms, and to make sure they are taking accurate measurements. Finally, Frank said that there were still a couple of problems with measuring devices that need to be corrected, and he was working with water users and IDWR on those.
(10) District News
Frank reported that, flows in Billingsley and Riley Creeks increased a bit this year, and that springs were at least as high as last year, perhaps a bit higher in some. Nevertheless, a couple of high springs saw no changes again this year. Overall, the water outlook in WD36A was improving but still had a way to go. Gary responded to a question on injection wells and recharge outlook. Most of the recharge has been occurring at MP31 and AFRD2 basins, with some at the Shoshone site and the Wilson Canyon site. So far this year, there hasn’t been as much water available for recharge as last year.

Meeting adjourned at 2:08 pm. Motion to adjourn was made by Bud Huntley and seconded by Rudy Sholkal.

Minutes recorded by

Linda Lemmon, Secretary

Minutes certified for submission to IDWR by

Gary Lemmon, Meeting Chairman

Attachments: 2020 Adopted Budget, 2020 Adopted Resolutions