

## **BOISE RIVER FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT 10**

### **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, July 13, 2023**

The July 13, 2023 Board Meeting / Budget Workshop was called to order at 0908 am by Board Chairman Bill Clayton.

#### **\*Action Items**

#### **ROLL CALL:**

Present were Board Chairman Bill Clayton, Commissioner Tris Yerrington, District Manager Mike Dimmick, Assistant District Manager Mark Zirschky and District Accountant Kathleen Roma, Kathleen Roma & Associates. Also present for the meeting was Troy Pearse with Boise Valley Fly Fishers and District Public Relations Specialist Steve Stuebner. Commissioner Mitch Bicandi joined the meeting at 0912am.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

##### **\*Minutes from May 25, 2023:**

The Board has reviewed the minutes from the May 25, 2023 Board Meeting. With no further discussion, Commissioner Yerrington made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Chairman Clayton seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the May 25, 2023 minutes were approved as presented.

##### **\*Financial Report:**

The financial report will be reviewed during the budget workshop (see below).

#### **DISTRICT BUSINESS:**

##### **River Project Update:**

Troy Pearse with The Boise River Fly Fishers (BVFF) updated the Board on the recent side channel gravel augmentation project at the Dry Creek Diversion. He explained that based upon Idaho Fish and Game fish counts, the Dry Creek side channel had identified increased numbers of fish and spawning areas. Troy indicated that the woody cover and root wads that were placed in the side channel for fish habitat had survived the high flood flows. However, the spawning gravel that was placed had been flushed downstream and partially deposited in areas that are now out of the water, due to high flows. During the gravel augmentation project, a track excavator that was used had broken down and had to be removed from the river. The disturbed area from removing the excavator, just below the inlet of the side channel has shown some erosion and will need some rehabilitation in the form of replanting willows and other native plants. This area will be looked at during winter maintenance this fall for rehabilitation. Troy explained that pedestrian access across the side channel had been improved upon during the project, and now has large flat stones placed strategically to allow people to cross the channel and continue to allow water to flow freely. Troy explained that the BVFF had floated the river last summer and identified areas of spawning redds. These areas were mapped and provided to FCD10

for purposes of avoiding spawning areas during winter maintenance. This worked very well, as the contractor was able to avoid spawning areas while removing fallen trees during winter maintenance. Troy indicated that the BVFF had marked hazard trees last year for purposes of providing FCD10 better data for winter maintenance work. This will continue as it has proven beneficial.

Troy updated the Board on Idaho Fish and Games recent interest and support in reintroducing river flows into two side channels upstream from Glenwood Road, near the fairgrounds. Both of the side channels are collectively the longest side channels in the Lower Boise River, and currently do not have winter flows due to gravel deposits from the 2017 high flood flows. There is ongoing discussions with stakeholders to develop a plan to restore winter flows for purposes of providing valuable wintering and spawning grounds. Troy anticipates that a minimum of 25 cubic feet per second is needed for winter flows in the side channels. Steve Stuebner commended the Boise Valley Fly Fishers, Idaho Fish and Game and FCD10 for great efforts in partnering to create better operations and habitat in the Boise River.

#### **River Maintenance Permit:**

Mike Dimmick updated the Board that FCD10 has a meeting scheduled with Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), to discuss the status and continued need for a multi-year river maintenance permit. It has been just over a year since FCD10 submitted application for a new permit, at the request of IDWR. Due to a new permit not being issued in a timely manner, renewal of the old permit was reissued in order to perform last years winter maintenance. There are concerns about securing contracts for winter maintenance work, without knowing what restrictions may be applied to the new permit. Mike explained that FCD10 will continue to have discussions with IDWR and USACE to negotiate the new permit.

#### **Hazard Tree Removal:**

Mike Dimmick updated the Board on the current status of hazard tree removal following the spring high flows. Mark Zirschky shared a list of trees that have been found and reported by landowners. FCD10 has removed 5 hazard trees at this point that posed a risk of safety due to the majority of the channel being blocked. Signs were created that would be posted upstream of hazard trees and shared with the City of Eagle. Mike explained that we will be having discussions with IDWR, USACE and Idaho Fish and Game regarding a hazard tree plan. Mike shared the contents of our recent hazard tree plan that the Steering Committee has been working on. The current draft discusses three options. 1) Nothing is done and recreationists assume their own responsibility to navigate the unmaintained river. 2) An extreme effort is made to put up signage to warn people of hazards in the river. 3) Identify an entity and funding to take the lead on hazard tree removal. Mike indicated that generally FCD10 does not have the budget or the equipment to manage hazard trees in higher flows and our current permit does not allow river access above 500 cfs.

#### **Brochure Update – Steve Stuebner:**

Steve Stuebner presented two drafts of the current FCD10 Brochure that is being worked on. It was discussed that the Board prefers the version that referenced “Partners in Managing the Boise River”, rather than the “Winter Maintenance on the Boise River” version. It was discussed that the target audience and locations would be at sportsman shows and recreation event locations, as well as handing them out randomly while we conduct normal business and meet with landowners. It was also discussed



that a handout could be given to each participant in local water district and water user meetings. It was discussed that entities that work with FCD10 on operation and maintenance, would be referred to as “Partners and Contributors” in the brochure, as a large portion of operations are funded by grants and stakeholders, rather than landowners through the general operation taxes. It was discussed that we should produce 500 brochures to use as educational materials.

#### **Mapbook Update:**

Mike Dimmick presented the draft mapbook that Greg Carson has prepared. A draft was passed around and reviewed. The lifespan of the mapbook was discussed and Mike indicated that it would be used for multiple years with periodic updating to individual pages, due to it being kept on a hard drive. The last mapbook has been in use for nearly 13 years. It was discussed that a certain amount of money could be budgeted each year for ongoing updates and not needing to budget for a larger expense to overhaul the mapbook on any given year. It was discussed that partner entities and local cities and counties would receive a copy, as well as our winter maintenance contractor and engineers. The draft mapbook had very good detail compared to the old version and very user friendly.

#### **\*Treasure Valley Water Users Association Board Membership Proposal:**

Mark Zirschky updated the Board regarding a recent conversation he had with Roger Batt and Dan Steenson. The TVWUA has extended an invitation to FCD10 to request that Mark Zirschky serve as an Ex Officio Board Member. The TVWUA sees a benefit in having a flood district prospective on the Board. The Ex Officio Board Member will be a non-voting member. Commissioner Bicandi made a motion to accept the offer from TVWUA and have Mark Zirschky serve as an Ex Officio Board Member. Commissioner Yerrington seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### **Handbook/Guide/5-Year Plan Draft Discussion:**

Mike Dimmick presented the Employee Handbook draft and was unable to print a draft of the Operations Guide due to having computer issues. Mike will provide copies to the Board outside of the meeting for further review and comments. Mike indicated that the Steering Committee had been through the documents and had no further changes. The 5-Year Strategic Plan has not been currently adopted by FEMA due to other agencies not submitting their operations guides at this time. We are currently covered by FEMA under our existing Strategic Plan and the new plan will be approved by FEMA at a later date. Mike asked for comments by the Board no later than August 7, so we can approve all three documents by resolution at the August 17 Board Meeting.

#### **\*Budget Workshop:**

Kathleen Roma presented the financial report through July 11, 2023. With no further discussion, Commissioner Yerrington made a motion to approve the current financial report. Commissioner Bicandi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mike Dimmick presented each line item in the draft 2023/2024 Budget. Major changes to the draft budget included changes in District Manager salaries, expenses and benefits due to Mike Dimmick retiring. It is currently planned that Mark Zirschky will take over as District Manager at the August 17, 2023 Board Meeting. A new category for Federal Surplus purchasing will be created for the purpose of purchasing federal surplus property as well as watching for a flood district vehicle. Upon review of current bank repair projects, a new bank repair category will be created for the purpose of assisting in

future bank repairs/expenses. A new category will be created for technical consultants which will allow FCD10 to hire consultants for operations and projects. As Mike Dimmick has extensive knowledge of all operations, any assistance that is needed following his retirement will be budgeted and paid within this category. It was discussed to have Dan Steenson review Statutes and determine eligibility for the Commissioners to receive compensation and benefits. Mark Zirschky will reach out to Dan to look into this matter.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

Nobody had signed up for public comment.

**OTHER PERTINENT BUSINESS:**

**Mason Creek Drain Water Quality:**

Mark Zirschky and Mike Dimmick shared the objective/outcome of a site visit to the Mason Creek Drain at the Wonder/City of Caldwell/Bicandi properties. The objective was for a small group of members of the Lower Boise Watershed Council to brainstorm ideas for a water quality project to achieve removal of sediment within Mason Creek Drain and ultimately the Boise River. Stan Haye, Michael Schubert, Dan Steenson, Dick Bicandi, Mark Zirschky and Mike Dimmick were present for the site visit. There were multiple locations observed for sites for sediment removal. The concept will be reviewed further by HDR and presented to the Lower Boise Watershed Council for further discussion and pursuit of grant funding for this project. Flood Control District 10 supports this project, but funding should likely be from water quality grants that are available.

**BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE:**

The next Board meeting and budget hearing is scheduled for August 17 at the Eagle Sewer District Offices at 44 N. Palmetto, Eagle, Idaho, from 0900-1200.

**ADJOURN:**

Chairman Clayton adjourned the meeting at 11:24am.