AIA Board Meeting – **02/12/2024**

PUD Building, Okanogan, WA

**Present:**

Chad Andreas: Interim President

Kent Kovalenko: At-Large

Cathy Cannon: Treasurer

Shannon Johnson: Secretary

Vice President: vacant

**Call to Order:**

Meeting called to order by Chad at 6:02pm

**Treasurer’s Report –** Cathy

2023 YTD Roll Up Report, will have the full report available on website.

* Excess of $14,065.70 this year due to rebates, Doug is no longer an employee, so overhead reduced.
* OID contract recorded as overhead.
* Admin left for PO box, stamps, etc.
* Administrative costs about 3%, capital expenses at 31% for improvements like sand separator pump, overhead system management like electricity, float installation, filters.
* OID going to manage the system again this year and call them for emergencies.

Motion to approve by member Steve. Seconded by Matt Marsh. The vote was unanimous.

**Allocations**

When yellow flags are out, make sure water usage slows down and use what is allowed for your property, use non-interruptible first, once that is gone then stop using interruptible if yellow flags are out.

29 properties with only interruptible allocations, people are supposed to shut down and had numerous reminders, 83% kept running their water, looking at hefty fines for people using when shouldn’t have been, 14% went over allocation for their water, letters from Department of Ecology went out in June, puts the neighborhood in a bad spot, this year we are at 65% precipitation

Can’t turn a blind eye this year, last year we had a new board and it was the first time this has happened, this year there will be lock outs and no going over allocations

In the bylaws is states that the user is responsible to read their meters and can self-report. We can hire someone to read meters once a month for $125, it takes 3 to 4 hours to completed the 125 houses in the neighborhood.

**Meter Reading**

Jerome volunteered to read meters. Matt Marsh made motion to accept Jerome. Steve seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously accepted. Steve volunteered to train Jerome.

**Lease option**

Dept of Ecology approved our request to lease 30 acre feet of water. This is a buffer for the interruptible properties during a drought. It will be sold in .2 increments, 65, 000 gallons of water at $65. We have paid for the lease whether we use it or not, so we need members to buy it. Members need to decide to purchase it at the beginning of the season when they pay their annual bill. It will be prioritized to people with interruptible water first. Leasing water does not increase your allocation, so people who buy more cannot go over. There will not be a rate increase this year. The current rate is $339/acre ft. Leased water should stop on September 30th or when yellow flags are out. Non-interruptible can go until Oct 15th. Water lease needs to be renewed every 10 years with DOE.

**Drought Year vs. Use It or Lose It**

In UILI year we need to show that we use all of the water, in Drought year, stay within our limits. When there are shut downs by DOE the water rights are off the table, Ecology can shut down at any time, pumps can only go so far, reality is that river gets low enough without ruining our pumps. How do we see the river level? Go the USGS stations and see flow and levels. There are limits to how much pressure we can pull from the river.

**Mailing and Notifications**

Have sent out letters, mailing addresses were wrong and came back to property owners versus the tenants. Contacting new property owners when they move in to educate them about water rights and allowances and usage. Suggested to send everything certified because it might be worth the cost versus paying fines. Look into liens being placed on properties that have failed to pay their irrigation. With leased water we will be in better shape this year.

**Maintenance**

Should there be a capital fee for maintenance? We don’t have the nest egg that domestic water does? Are we able to take loans for repairs if necessary? OID has overall improved how the system operates and there have been far less repairs than in the past. A member volunteered to give his name after the meeting for assisting with repair work.

**Nominations**

Les McKay volunteered to be At-Large position on board. Motion to approve by Michael. Seconded by Matt. The vote was unanimous.

Kent brought on as Vice President. Motion to approve by Ralph Malone. Seconded by Matt. The vote was unanimous.

Board will maintain for 2024.

**Contact preference**

Most people prefer to be contacted by email.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Steve. Seconded by member. The vote was unanimous.