

**ELEPHANT BUTTE IRRIGATION DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 3, 2020**

A Special Board of Directors meeting of the Elephant Butte Irrigation District was held by teleconference on Friday, April 3, 2020. The meeting was called to order by President Michael McNamee. All Board members were present.

EBID personnel present were Gary Esslinger, Manager; Naomi Ontiveros, Secretary; Gail Norvell; Finance Director; Erek Fuchs, Groundwater Resource Manager; Delyce Maciel, HR/Safety Director; Zachary Libbin, Engineer; James Narvaez, Irrigation Systems Manager; Karen Ray, EBID Media Consultant; Consultant Dr. King and attorney Samantha Salopek were also present.

The Invocation was given by Joe Paul Lack followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Greg Daviet.

Dr. King gave a brief water outlook report to the Board. There is 550 thousand acft in Elephant Butte (EB) and 47 thousand acft released into Caballo. Dr. King advised Caballo's targeted release was 75 thousand acft which was a surprise to him, and the question was asked why to the BOR at the Annual OP Plan mtg no direct response was given. This is the same situation that occurred in 2017. EBID, EP#1 and the BOR are conducting a river loss study. So far, the river is losing 300cfs per day, which is adjusting the diversion ratio the water comes in bringing it down to .88 and brings the allotment to 13.6 inches. He recommends no increase allotment. Dr. King adds the problem is City of El Paso did not take the water when EP#1 opened leaving them with more water than used. Two things could happen or happened. The charged water that EP#1 couldn't use went to Hudspeth and this is not good because EBID could not utilize the water or it did not spill back into the system. Second thing would be the water would be charged and credited back to EP#. Dr. King will do a spill analysis. Samantha advised the Board a letter to BOR regarding the Caballo water levels issues is being worked out and will hopefully be sent out within the coming week.

James Narvaez advised the Board we are still on track to meet the target week of April 13th to begin releasing water for the Hatch/Rincon Valley. 725 acres for unit 1A and 1,472 acres for unit 1B have been ordered; 650 acres are on the Rincon Lateral.

Samantha gave a brief update on COVID-19. 403 cases in NM 21 in DAC and 0 in Sierra County. Ditchriders need to get the water out to farmers in these counties and it is important that we continue to follow the numbers and issues closely. The Governor has issued a Shelter in Place Order requiring everyone to stay at home as much as possible. The order makes an exception for essential businesses and employees, who are allowed to continue to stay open for business and work. EBID is an essential business and will continue to run as always minimizing employee and constituent contact and taking all precautions necessary, most of which were implemented following the March 13 Emergency Board meeting on this subject. In office employees have been minimized with rotating schedules in place so no more than 4 people are in an office with the required 6 feet apart. Employees and Staff that can work from home are doing so. Samantha also gave an update on the congressional bills that have passed and the impacts they are going to make on the District, such as the sick leave and FMLA requirements. Although the District is required to follow these new laws it does not qualify for the tax credit given to other businesses which could make a huge impact on the District's operating funds, and since the new requirements not included in the yearly budget, we may eventually have to revisit the issue funds may need to be adjusted accordingly.

Gary stated Federal and State agencies have complimented the District on its quick action. The procedures and protocols in place are keeping employees and staff safe. Hand sanitizers and other products have been ordered are expected to arrive soon.

Delyce advised the Board two employees are currently out. One was out due to traveling out of the state and is scheduled to return on Monday, April 6th. She is also currently working on policies and protocols for the District in the event an employee is COVID-19 positive making sure to follow HIPPA laws protecting the employees' privacy while also protecting other employees from spread of infection.

Gail advised a process is in place for payroll to track the 80 hours that are available to employees who need to take it. She also adds the Purchasing department is working hard to get sanitation products needed.

Zack advised he has set a schedule for himself and his department. There will be no more than 4 employees at a time working in the office.

James Narvaez added he has set a routine with his employees to clean all equipment and cell phones being shared. He expressed to his employees the importance of what they do away from work can still affect their job and those around them. He is working on a strategy in the event an employee in his department becomes ill and he is short on employees during water season. Greg suggests that since farmers are familiar with the irrigation system they may be of assistance in a shortage.

Greg Daviet commended Samantha on her quick response and aiding the District in handling the current circumstances.

Samantha asked the Board how they wanted to handle the April 15th BOD meeting. She expressed the

Roll Call

COVID-19
Health
Emergency

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importance of having a Board meeting and the District continuing to function as normal as possible not only for its employees but for the farmers. Gary adds that there are many options available to do the meetings via web and teleconference. Naomi added that she would work with each Board member to make sure they are fully prepared before each meeting and Board books will still be mailed out and will be able to follow along if web access is unavailable. All Board members agreed to an April Board meeting via webcast and telephone. Staff and legal added they will keep the meetings short and to the point discussing topics that are necessary for that month.

There being no further business, Steve Lyles motioned and James Salopek second to adjourn the meeting. Motions carried.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held Wednesday, April 15, 2020 beginning at 9 AM.



MICHAEL MCNAMEE, President



SAM SALOPEK, Secretary

Adjourn