

FINAL MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 3, 2021

Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District

Brenda Haynes, President 2810 Silver Street, Anderson, CA 96007
Audie Butcher, Vice President (530) 365-7329 Fax (530) 365-7623
John Currey, General Manager www.andersoncottonwoodirrigationdistrict.org

Tiger Michiels, Director
Ray Eliante, Director
Rick Williams, Director

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 3, 2021**

President Haynes called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Directors present: Michiels, Haynes, Eliante, Butcher
Directors absent: Williams
Staff present: Currey, Loffmark
Staff present via phone:

2. PRESENTATIONS – NONE

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – NONE

4. ACTION ITEMS

4.1 Receive staff report and consider approving the final documents for the Assistant General Manager of Operations, including range of compensation and benefits.

The General Manager started the conversation by explaining to the Board how he wanted to bring out all aspects of hiring for this new position all together with the maximum wage package and benefits. He would like to be transparent with the applicants.

Director Eliante felt his proposal was a nice compensation package and would allow for screening for unqualified applicants.

President Haynes expressed she felt this position had union benefits in a non-union position. The General Manager stated this is an at-will position.

President Haynes asked if the State requires three days sick a year with the GM confirming which is the same as his position. He mirrored this benefit package with the management system as well as looking at what others in the field of water are offering and put together something that is attractive and competitive to hire someone qualified and with expertise.

Director Eliante stated he believed this should be something that is presented in the interview process being made known it is negotiable to which the GM stated absolutely.

President Haynes inquired in regards to the 12 days paid-time-off. The GM wanted to structure the benefits similar to his.

FINAL MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 3, 2021

President Haynes worried that applicants would be slighted if the wage shows \$72,000 and we off them less. Director Eliante believed it all comes down to qualifications. The GM is willing to put is out there and see what comes.

The GM informed the Board ACID is fully staffed and have started implementing the Dichtender day-off.

Board passed with a 4-0 vote to move forward in the hiring process.

4.2 Receive staff report and consider selecting a data management program.

The GM clarified this is only a preliminary conversation but the Board could make a decision about this item if they would like today or wait until the August 12th meeting.

He has two proposals and if he had to choose, he would go with Storm as he has experience with it. On a 1st year cost basis, Latis was about \$55,000 where Storm is anywhere from \$35,000 - \$45000. Latis is cloud based and Storm is a traditional in-house server based that would require us purchasing a server which was quoted to us from AION back in 2020.

Asking for thoughts, questions, concerns which will then be brought back to the August 12th meeting. If there are none, would like to move forward with purchasing a program.

The GM explained Storm was created for water districts where Latis started in oil and gas and has branched out into the water industry.

Director Eliante inquired about other demos that he believed the Board was going to see. The GM admitted he ran out of time and made a recommendation based on knowledge. Storm was demonstrated to staff, but he was unable to schedule the Board demonstration.

Director Eliante asked how the tablets would communicate and we would need to ensure they would never leave the cab of the truck. GM Currey expressed the communication would happen in a web-based app and most definitely the tablets would stay in the truck.

Director Eliante questioned how negotiable these prices were to which the GM stated he was unsure at this time. Director Eliante stated it wouldn't be a bad idea to try.

Director Butcher expressed 10 years ago his company worked with a data management system that cost about \$125,000 which was junked and went with a local company which cost twice as much. GM Currey indicated these programs are more off the shelf then developing.

GM Currey stated Storm runs IOS only where Latis is Android and IOS.

Director Eliante confirmed any updates are included with the annual fee to which GM Currey answered yes.

GM Currey explained this would allow for more modification of Admin internally and more streamlined.

FINAL MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 3, 2021

President Haynes asked if our customers are same year after the year or changing their acreage every time. GM Currey expressed about 80% of the customers are about the same year after year but with the changes we've made, we've been able to get more accurate acreage.

GM Currey reminded the Board whichever program we choose will allow us more options down the road. Being live will have benefits and as things change, we will develop in the process.

Director Eliante inquired to how many prior customers are not using ACID. GM Currey answered it is about 100 but hasn't tried that data set but having been looking and investigating to those we have questions on. With GIS mapping, having current admin data and accurate can identify those outliers.

President Haynes questioned if the program can adjust hours and if so, how does it figure out if schedules need to be adjusted. GM Currey stated we have to preliminarily program it to fit our parameters and make modifications down the line. ACID is unique in where we run on a 14-day time set so would have to tailor how to run the system the way we want.

President Haynes asked if the program will be able to calculate water. GM Currey explained yes it will but that we do that now. If a customer isn't receiving the amount of water they should, we go measure. This data allows us to defend ourselves as we know we will be scrutinized and will need to make improvements.

Director Eliante conveyed if we manage better, we will have water to bring in other customers.

President Haynes spoke of her worry what information will be sent to the Government and wants to protect our District as she is aware of them wanting to start metering. The GM agreed and the only areas he would like to meter is at the Tehama County line and the main laterals for our operational information.

GM Currey voiced for ACID to be efficient in our operations, we need to know what we have. We can either move forward with a selection of a program or bring back to the August 12th meeting.

Director Eliante said ACID should go with Storm but would like to know if there are local vendors who do water management. GM Currey wasn't aware of any, but out of eight programs he has perused, he has experience and has used Storm the most.

Director Eliante believes ACID is better off with a company who specializes in water management.

President Haynes asked if we would have technical assistance and what we will need to moved forward with employees. GM Currey stated our employee base is about 50/50 when it comes to going electronic. This will not be an immediate solution and will need training. Also, next year will be a hybrid year to understand how it all works.

FINAL MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 3, 2021

GM Currey expressed we don't compare acreage with other parcels or customers or what they are or not doing but we do need to memorialize data so that we can start to understand how the different areas of the system operate.

It was suggested to table until the next regular Board meeting on August 12th.

- 4.1 Review and consider preliminary scope for projects at the Dam, Oregon Gulch, Spring Gulch and Dymesich Pond.

Dam Tour:

GM Currey spoke of the numerous amounts of foot traffic that is seen from the cameras in the Dam area. Many people use this as a cut through and have no problem scaling the fences. There have been instances of teens riding the fish sweepers which could lead to major issues if they fall as they will have no way out.

President Haynes inquired if we add more signage would that be a deterrent. GM Currey stated yes that would be possible.

Board members were taken to the area that was recently damaged and copper wires stolen with the GM explaining how this was accomplished by the thieves, how he would like to fix the damage and combat this in the future.

Departed Dam – 8:40 a.m.

Arrived Oregon Gulch – 8:55 a.m.

Oregon Gulch Tour:

GM Currey described how water has eroded the soil and wing wall from storm flows. He clarified how he would like to fix the area with concrete blocks and dirt to reconstruct the canal bank.

Director Eliante asked if there was a possibility of a grant package for the issues we are having at these sites. GM Currey stated it is likely that this site is not eligible for a grant opportunity but Spring Gulch might be.

Departed Oregon Gulch – 9:15 a.m.

Arrived Spring Gulch – 9:35 a.m.

Spring Gulch Tour:

GM Currey showed the Board how the first footing of the flume was exposed and eroded. There have been holes drilled at some locations along the flume to allow rain water to escape from under the pipe.

Staff will be cutting 10 feet of vegetation on each side of the flume for better access but awaiting final approval from Department of Fish and Wildlife.

FINAL MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 3, 2021

The plan is to restore footings and flowlines. There is a three-foot hole of water in front of the footing. The water at the location is from leaks in the flume.

Billy Getchel and Travis Chandler from North Woods Excavating joined the tour to answer any questions the Board may have.

Billy explained how the repairs of Spring Gulch might be completed. The plan is to control the erosion by placing an eco-block wall and reestablish the true flow of Dry Creek with 35 feet of silt netting on each side.

GM Currey expects the ACID staff and a contractor could start in September with completion by October 13th before stormwater rules come in to affect.

President Haynes said this would be our number one priority with the GM confirming along with Oregon Gulch.

Vice President Butcher departed.

Departed Spring Gulch – 10:15 a.m.

Arrived Dymesich Pond – 10:35 a.m.

Dymesich Pond Tour:

GM Currey described how the pond consists of run-off from customers as well as being fed from Lateral 33 partially. This water counts as reused water rather than diverted water but we have a hard time estimating flows.

President Haynes inquired about providing orchards water but are not paying. GM Currey stated these Orchards use groundwater and do not directly receive surface water deliveries.

GM Currey explained how the pump is declining in output and increasing in power usage. We have no indication on when it was worked on last and it would cost between \$20,000 to \$30,000 to rehabilitate it. Declining output is also caused by the pond vegetation.

President Haynes asked how many customers are fed off this pump with GM Currey answering about 10 which is typical for our pumps.

Director Eliante questioned about cost analysis. GM Currey stated many districts have multiple rates and if the Board would like a rate study, one can be done. He explained how one rate covers aggregate costs where customers can receive affordable product per past Board history.

GM Currey informed the Board the Lateral 29 pump and distribution box will be rehabilitated during the winter.

Director Eliante departed.

FINAL MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 3, 2021

President Haynes asked if the parcel the pump is located on is Department of Fish and Wildlife, will the State be able to help with the costs? GM Currey did have the go ahead to start work from Fish & Wildlife and all ACID can hope for is they have resources to help if needed.

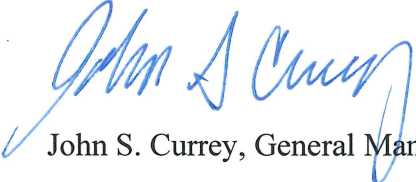
Director Michiels asked if the pump sits on an easement and far does it go. GM Curry answered yes there is an easement and the pond is not deep at all.

President Haynes inquired about seeing water along the road on the drive over to the pond and the possibility of customers overirrigating. GM Currey explained customers can water up to their total acreage and many in the area have just finished watering.

These projects will be brought back to the Board on August 12th along with estimates and talk of prioritizing.

Tour concluded 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted.



John S. Currey, General Manager