

**ELEPHANT BUTTE IRRIGATION DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
June 4, 2014**

A Special Board of Board of Directors meeting of the Elephant Butte Irrigation District was held on Wednesday, June 4, 2014. The meeting was called to order by President James Salopek on a motion by Jerry Franzoy, seconded by Bobby Sloan. Motion carried. Tom Simpson was absent; Marty Franzoy participated via telephonically.

Roll Call

EBID personnel present were Gary Esslinger, Manager; Gail Norvell, Controller; Zachary Libbin, Junior Engineer; Leo Barrett, Maintenance Director; Naomi Ontiveros Executive Secretary; Erech Fuchs, Groundwater Resource Manager; Delyce Maciel, HR/Safety Director; Patrick Lopez; Technology Director James Narvaez, Irrigation System Director.

Also present was Dr. Phil King.

Gary advised the board he called for a Special Board meeting was to discuss several "crises" that have arisen. The first being the unexpected lack of decline in the very high river losses since the May 25th release date. Dr. King advised the board at this time the Rio Grande Project is losing 1,100 cfs due to the river being so dry; at this time last year the losses were at 600-700 cfs. The current instantaneous diversion ratio is about 0.496. It was estimated to be 0.661 diversion ratio for the season, which gave a 91,000 ac-ft allocation to EBID with 50 percent conveyance loss to equal a 6 inch allotment for the season. With the river losses being more than expected, if the seasonal diversion ratio is 0.6 for 79,000 ac-ft allocation, making the deliverable water closer to 5 inches. If the allocation is lowered it will result (presumably) in pumping from the groundwater to increase one inch. Dr. King adds he is looking for any metering errors possible that may affect the outcome. He does not recommend any action be taken at this time. Gary adds the Board of Directors should be patient and hope the river will recover by the regular scheduled board of directors meeting where another river assessment can be made. Robert Faubion asked Dr. King where we were 10 days from this date last year. Dr. King responded that the seepage rate last year had dropped to 500-600 cfs after about 10 days of release.

2014
Irrigation
Season

Gary discussed another crisis this season is the unexpected high temperatures which has resulted in the increase in demand. Dr. King adds he has looked at several scenarios for the district. Willie Koenig explains the farmers can only wait for the water for so long. Jerry Franzoy suggests if the demand is there then it needs to be provided to the farmers. Gary asked Dr. King to present what if a boost was made to meet the demands. Dr. King showed if a boost was made at this time the season would end mid-July roughly 20 days earlier than expected. Jerry, Willie and Robert all agree that an increase needs to be made to meet the demand. All added with the unexpected temperatures at a record high; the farmers need to be provided with the available water. Dr. King advises the board that though a boost would benefit the farmers his concern is it will not be following within the budget set for the season and EP#1 may have a problem with the district shutting down sooner than expected. Willie expressed his frustration in the district trying to make sure that other district and Mexico are kept "happy" when the farmers are suffering and losing their crops. Bobby Sloan agreed with Willie's frustration and misunderstanding on how the budget was made and followed. Bobby adds he was under the impression the budget was flexible and to be adjusted as needed; he had always felt that James Narvaez had the authority to make changes as needed due the demands. Bobby feels the situation at this time is out of control if we cannot control our water allotment and EBID needs to address the concerns of the farmers first, and then adjust the budget to address downstream needs. Dr. King adds he will do as the board directs him and will work his best in making sure he gets the best outcome for the board and the district. It was decided by the board that an increase of the water budget will be made to meet the demands of the farmers. James requested the board give him the authority to increase as needed and that the farmers demand must come first. Bobby Sloan motioned and Willie Koenig second to increase the water budget 200 cfs as needed on top of the 750 cfs already budgeted and to give authority to James Narvaez to increase as needed. It is to be understood by EBID Staff that once the demand decreases; the increase in cfs is also to be decreased. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Jerry Franzoy moved and Bobby Kuykendall seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Adjourn

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, June 11, 2014.