

# **WESTERN MEADOWS IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

## **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

January 6, 2025  
7.00 PM

**Location: Board Members House: 4142 W Topeka Dr**

Board Members Present: Ray Davis, Scot Reemelin, Troy Kelley

Meeting Call to Order: 7:15 PM

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve by Ray, second by Scot, Approved unanimously.

New Business:

- 1) Motion to discuss and appoint new board member positions. Scot nominates Ray as President, Troy seconds. Ray is the new Board President. Ray nominates Troy as secretary, Scot seconds. Troy is the new board secretary.
  
- 2) Board to review Zanjero reports with possible actions concerning reports. No Action.
  
- 3) Board to discuss Harrelsons complaint about cats in irrigation system. Ray motions to attach Terry's explanation letter to the minutes, after discussion. Scot seconds.
  
- 4) Call to the public: In accordance with open meeting law individuals will be given 5 minutes to be heard. No Response.

Meeting Adjournment: 7:45 PM

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## Concern over animals in irrigation

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**From** Terry Cheryl Sills <tcsills2004@gmail.com>  
**Date** Thu 1/2/2025 7:55 AM  
**To** officemgr wmid.org <officemgr@wmid.org>

WMID Board of Directors,

In order to address the concerns raised by Mr. and Mrs. Harrelson reference animals in our irrigation system and "sealing" or "enclosing" our irrigation system. I would like to address the following for consideration.

1. A couple of years back, WMID took the bold step to cover the main OPEN ditch between 35th Ave. and 37th Ave. on Yorkshire. We were looking at environmental issues concerning evaporated water and other issues. This was completed at a cost of over \$100,000 from our budget. After completion, we have experienced numerous challenges with the "sealed" system that make it less desirable for future open ditch coverings in the same manner. One REAL problem is if in fact something is caught in the sealed area, WMID must cut into the pipe to remove the clogged article which is very expensive. The sealed pipe has absolutely no guarantees that items or animals are prevented from getting in, however, getting items out is extremely difficult and expensive.
2. In order for WMID to completely seal our entire irrigation system we would need nearly Two million dollars \$\$\$\$ to complete the project with no guarantees of a complete enclosure. Our rules state that homeowners are responsible for maintaining the ditch on their own property. In order to do a complete enclosure WMID would have to change our rules and regulations and homeowners (if approved) would be subjected to very expensive and unnecessary costs to comply with these regulations.
3. Most of our customers have irrigation ditches that run along the rear of their property. If we enclosed the entire system, these customers would be forced to move their fences and erect new ones that did not cross the irrigation easement. This would mean customers like Mr. and Mrs. Harrelson would have to move their block fence that blocks the irrigation easement. They are but one example of more than 100 customers who would be affected by this requirement.
4. One other way to resolve the issue is to OPEN all our ditches like the ones on Yorkshire and Wescott so that any item could be seen in the open ditch. This has several drawbacks, one of which would be many very unhappy customers. Costs would compare with that of sealing the ditches along with the inconvenience to all our customers. Delays in getting water would be necessary.

I have tried to address the concerns raised on enclosing or covering our irrigation system. Although our system is not perfect, it works for the vast majority of our customers who appreciate the rare privilege they have to irrigate their property. We are a small irrigation company that operates under the principle that we deliver water at a minimal cost and try not to infringe on everyone's right to have their irrigation ditches fit their needs within the guidelines. Yes, we have those who don't completely

comply with the rules (fences across easements, ditches that are not cleaned properly, and forgetting to irrigate on time ) but these are rare. For the most part our system runs very smoothly and unfortunately we do have an occasional animal get into the system and what happened to the Harrelsons is disturbing. We cannot totally stop ANYTHING from getting into our irrigation system but do our best to make our system as safe as we can within the rules we have established.

Terry Sills  
Maintenance Foreman