**EVIG Meeting Minutes**

**First Annual Meeting Leavenworth Fire Hall**

**April 17, 2019**

**Members Present:** Scott Schimelfenig, Camp Fuller, Dan Nelson, Marcia Patten, Carolyn Lord, Steve & Patty Varner, Harry Lindsey, Paula Strozyk, Dave & Sally Sebring, Tom Wolfe, Richard Smith, Mark Reis, Randy Alexander, Brian & Suzanne Vanderwerff, Kari Bloss & Sue Howard, Rich & Penny Aliulis, Jay Jerome, Callie Baker, Rich & Judy Winklemann.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

**Introductions**

Scott Schimelfenig introduced the Board of Trustees and the members of the Steering Committee, with special thanks to Steve Varner for getting the Steering Committee together and getting the process started.

**History**

Scott explained briefly what Clennon’s decision to relinquish control over our irrigation system means for us as a group of 46 property owners. He emphasized the importance of our irrigation rights as part of the value of our land. He also pointed out that if we were on City water, we could easily be paying as much as $150 each month.

Scott further described the process of how the Steering Committee organized, gathered information from other irrigation groups, and came to the recommendations they did.

**Finances**

Scott reiterated that the $120 we recently paid to Clennon was for the 2018 season. He pointed out that our annual fee to Clennon probably only covered his costs for electricity and labor. In researching expected costs for 2019, it became clear that Clennon absorbed a lot of other costs for our system into his orchard business, with no additional charges to us.

Scott explained that, of the $225 we are charging this year, a little more than half will cover the costs for electricity and labor. The remaining money will be held in reserve for repairs and emergencies. The first expected repair will be some sort of security around the concrete cistern. Research is continuing into the best method to accomplish that.

**Organization**

Scott explained how EVIG came to be officially designated as a Block Association, defined as “…made up of neighborhood residents who combine to promote the safety and general welfare, and work to preserve and improve the quality of life in their immediate community”, and that our principle service is to “administer the neighborhood irrigation system”.

The current Board will serve for one year, then two positions will be up for election (or re-election) next Spring. The following year, two more positions will be up for election. The remaining position will be up for election in the third year. After this initial staggering of Board members over the first three years, members will serve two-year terms. The plan is that there will always be at least three “old” Board members and only two “new” ones, to provide continuity from one election to the next.

It was pointed out that all the members of the Steering Committee and the current Board of Trustees are volunteers. It would be appreciated if everyone would be willing to take a turn being on the Board or volunteering for other duties.

**Work Yet To Be Done**

There are still a number of items that need to be worked on or finalized as the season goes on:

* Prepare a document indicating final transfer of “administration” of the irrigation system from Clennon to EVIG. This will need to be recorded with Chelan County and provided to all property owners. This will probably require the assistance of an attorney.
* Set up an ongoing maintenance schedule for the pump and other parts of the system.
* Decide how and when to pressure owners who do not pay. This may include liens on property and/or installing lock-out valves to individual properties. Peer pressure from neighbors may be the first step.
* Joe Wood and Leo Sarabia will be helping us create detailed maps of the main distribution lines and shut-off valves, to help us with future maintenance. Scott has already acquired maps of the area that encompasses our 46 properties. He will work with Joe to accurately mark locations of lines and valves.

The bottom line is that we are all on a learning curve and that, to some extent, everything will be a “work-in-progress” for this first year.

**Questions from the Members** (to be researched)

Do we need liability insurance on the cistern?

How do we drain (or blow out?) the main lines before winter?

Is there a possibility of automating or improving the system, to minimize the need for a maintenance person or at least reduce the costs for daily maintenance?

**Final Thoughts**

We need lots of people to learn the start-up and shut-down procedure, so that we can quickly address problems at times when Leo is not immediately available.

We need everyone to be on the look-out for leaks or damage. It is important to let someone know as soon as possible when there is a problem, so that we can shut off the nearest isolation valve and prevent flooding.

**Vote to Ratify**

Scott called for a vote to ratify the proposal outlined in the information letter. The proposal was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Patten