

# Water board steps aside in dispute

**By Jeanette Johnson**

*Staff Writer*

WORLAND – Questions about repair work and the possibility of joining the BHRJPB brought Gene and Catherine Stuber as well Kirby Mayor Don Larsen to the meeting Wednesday night.

The Stubers told the board the people from American Infrastructure want to come in and do repair work in the area where the pipeline is on their property while the Stubers are trying to irrigate.

Director John Joyce told them the contractor is about to close out the project and is responsible for getting the work done.

“I’m not sure I understand what the problem is,” Joyce said.

When the repair work was done on their property, Stuber said the contractor put all the gravel underneath the top soil — just the opposite of how it was supposed to be done.

“I understand you have the ability to flood and keep him out but there’s a question to finish the work,” Joyce.

Before the discussion went any further, the board’s attorney Virgil Kinnaird said the issue is now between the Stubers and the contractor to resolve.

“Until the contractor is done, we should not be interjecting into the issue,” Kinnaird said. “I’m going to stand pat on this. I’m going to advise the board not to go any further with this. Being before the board is not appropriate right now.”

Acknowledging Mayor Larsen, Chairman Phil Juillard suggested Larsen should consider attending the meetings in an advisory capacity rather than taking on the burden of joining the board.

“It cost Thermopolis \$15000 to get out of it,” Juillard said. “It would cost that much to get back in. We’d rather have you come as a representative of the town (of Kirby).”

While he wouldn’t have voting rights, he could participate in the discussions. Kinnaird said the Kirby mayor could be put on the advisory board like Gene Cliame. Juillard told him Kirby is being looked after by Lucerne board member Tony Day.

“He’s been fighting for you guys,” Juillard said. “He’s very vocal about sending water down to you guys.”

During the meeting, Joyce went over the budget, reserve accounts and brought to the board’s attention a banking and RUS mistake that forced the JPB to make a \$33000 payment for three months on a loan which RUS neglected to set up an account for.

The money was budgeted for, Joyce said.

As a result, the board passed a motion at Kinnaird’s request to ratify and accept the deal with Pinnacle Bank “because it’s a little out of the ordinary.”

The board also discussed putting a system in place to institute a purchase order system. Joyce said the board may be able to get one from Greybull or the EPA.

