

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
EAST COLUMBIA BASIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

March 1, 2023

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Duaine Anderson.

Present were:

Directors

Duaine Anderson  
Kevin Lyle  
Reid Baker  
Don Osborne  
Dennis Swinger, Jr.

Staff

Craig Simpson  
Rosa Dekker  
Jon Erickson  
Wendy Lange  
Anna Franz

Visitors present: Marc Maynard and Amy Rodman, USBR; Kristina Ribellia and Cari Cortez, CBCD; Kristin Alligood, Shane Phelps, Preston Brown and Janelle Gaun, FCA; Christina Wyatt, BBEC; Mike Bromund, Alan Raeder, Ross Fox and Paul Wollman.

Visitors

Visitors via teleconference: Jennifer Hickenbottom, USBR; Mike Schwisow, Government Relations Consultant; Harold Crose, CBCD; Randall Fox, Brian Kuest, Eric Weber, Kirk Rathdrum, Jake Wollman, and Jennifer Korfiatis.

President Anderson opened the hearing of petition for Inclusions of Lands. The hearing remained open until the end of the meeting.

Open CBP  
Inclusion Public  
Hearing

Minutes of the regular meeting of February 1, 2023, had been mailed to the Directors. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 1, 2023, as written. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Minutes  
Approved

Manager Simpson presented the following contracts a. through c., for board consideration:

District  
Improvements

Contracts

- a. Amendment to Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract, Desert Ridge Properties, LLC, 390-070-809, adding 134 acres for a total of 360 acres
- b. Renewal Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract, Marlin HB Trust, 390-004-807, 320 acres
- c. Renewal Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract, Campbell Land Company, LLC, 390-008-807, 307.5 acres

Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve contract a., as presented. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried. Director Swinger moved to approve contracts b. and c., as presented. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson reported staff approved and issued the following permits, consistent with board authorization:

Approved & Issued Permits

- |              |                  |                    |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------|
| a. Grant PUD | Utility Crossing | Block 43, FU 58    |
| b. Grant PUD | Utility Crossing | Block 43, FU 109   |
| c. Grant PUD | Utility Crossing | Block 43, FU 112   |
| d. Grant PUD | Utility Crossing | Block 44, FU 284-2 |
| e. Grant PUD | Utility Crossing | Block 44, FU 285   |

Manager Simpson presented the following Seasonal Change in Place of Use agreement a. for board consideration:

Agreements

- a. Seasonal Change in Place of Use (5), WHB Trust, 390-101, 390-106, 390-107, 390-112, and 390-115

Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve agreements a. as presented and discussed. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson presented the following variances a. and b., for board consideration:

Variance

- a. Friehe Farms Common Delivery Combination Variance Request
- b. Wheeler Trust Common Delivery Combination Variance Request

Manager Simpson reported both combinations exceed the 500 acre maximum of the District's combination policy. He reported, historically the board has approved the variance to the combination policy. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve variances a. and b., and charge the variance fees. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Vouchers audited and certified by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a listing, which has been made available to the Board. After reviewing the vouchers submitted for payment approval, Director Osborne moved to approve for payment check nos. 323032 through 323209 in the amount of \$766,250.03 and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of \$419,718.36 for a total of \$1,185,968.39 from the O&M Fund. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Vouchers

Manager Simpson reported on the following Petition for Inclusion of Land:

Petition for  
Inclusion of Land

- a. Triple C Land Co., ETAL, No. 232

Manager Simpson reported that no objections, neither written nor verbal, had been received and that the assent from the Bureau of Reclamation to the inclusion for Triple C Land Co., ETAL, No. 232, a condition precedent to the inclusion of lands within the District, had been received. Director Baker moved to grant the "Order of Petition for Inclusion of Lands" in accordance with the statutory proceedings for inclusion of lands within a District, pursuant to the order of inclusion, acting in accordance with provisions of the repayment contract and the master water service contracts. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson reported Round Lake Farms has requested a temporary water service contract for the 2023 irrigation season. The request is the same as the 3 prior years. EFO Manager Maynard commented the Potholes Supplemental Feed Route will be running next year and it is unlikely that Reclamation will be able to accommodate the temporary water service contract. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve a temporary water service contract for the 2023 irrigation season for Round Lake Farms, contingent upon available acreage. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Round Lake  
Farms Temp  
WSC Request

Ms. Jennifer Korfiatis reported the website has been revised for online water ordering and announcement of water start-up.

Public Relations  
Update

Manager Simpson reported the Quincy IUG had multiple significant discharge exceedance. He reported this emphasizes the District's concerns associated with non-ag discharges into federal CBP facilities. EFO Manager Maynard reported the City of Quincy will be taking over the water quality testing after discovery of false reporting by the contractor hired to perform monitoring.

Quincy IUG  
Wastewater  
Agreement

Special Projects Administrator Bischoff reported the information sheet has been submitted to Reclamation for their review.

Partial Title  
Transfer

CBHP Manager Fales presented the "Operating Cashflow Compared to Projected Capital Investment Costs" report as requested by the Districts' managers.

Columbia Basin  
Hydropower

Manager Simpson reported on the onsite risk assessment meeting he attended. Members of Reclamation staff from TSC were also onsite. Reclamation will re-evaluate the risk analysis plan to develop a more representative scope of work.

Trail Lake

Water Quality Supervisor Balliet reported The East District is currently operating under a 2012 statewide permit which expired in 2017. This current permit has been under an administrative extension while Ecology worked to draft a new permit and Environmental Impact Statement. Last month Ecology released the new Draft Irrigation NPDES Permit and the Draft EIS, currently in a public comment period which ends March 20<sup>th</sup> at midnight. Ecology plans to re-issue this new permit in June with an effective date coming this July. He reported there are a lot of changes in this permit, a few of the major ones with potential high cost to the District are the main concerns. Those being new sign posting requirements, a community outreach plan, and treatment notification changes.

NPDES Permit

Manager Simpson reported it is time to proof up Water Right Permit S-328586, to get certificated.

CBP Water  
Rights

Development Coordinator Erickson reported Grant County has agreed to install a temporary bridge so the District can widen the ELC at the Road "W" crossing. It is likely the work will be performed in the fall. He reported Adams County has requested a letter of support for the Providence Road Bridge Congressionally Directed Funding request to Senator Cantwell's office. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve staff writing letters of support for funding of all East Low Canal bridges that need replacement. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

OGWRP:  
Bridges

Development Coordinator Erickson reported Grant County has requested use of the District's crane for work on the Road "W" Bridge. This work will be an in-kind assistance for funding purposes. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the District's crane and an operator be used at the Road "W" Bridge subject to an agreement that will be provided to the board for approval. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported on a meeting with State legislators. Requests have been made that the proviso language allow for flexibility with the potential funding to enable Odessa projects to proceed in a timely manner. The legislators were agreeable to the request.

OCR Funding

Development Coordinator Erickson reported IRZ continues to work towards 60% design of the EL11.8 Delivery System.

EL11.8 Delivery  
System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the 60% design of the EL22.1 Delivery System has been submitted to Reclamation for review.

EL22.1 Delivery  
System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported Reclamation has accepted the 30% Design of the EL84.7 Delivery System. The District is moving forward with RH2 Engineering for the 60% design. An easement questionnaire was sent to the landowners for information regarding their intent to donate an easement or be compensated for the easement. RH2 is moving forward with title work for the easements.

EL80.6 & EL84.7  
Delivery System  
Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported design work continues along with obtaining closing documents for easements.

EL86.4 Delivery  
System Update

Ms. Kristin Alligood with Farmer's Conservation Alliance (FCA) gave a history of FCA's beginning and previous watershed plans developed. She commented FCA was contracted by CBCD to develop the Odessa Watershed Plan. FCA is working with NRCS to enable them to adopt the USBR's EIS Preferred Alternative in order to receive PL-566 funding. The watershed plan development is expected to be complete for presentation Spring of 2025.

Watershed Plan  
Farmers  
Conservation  
Alliance (FCA)

Manager Simpson commented the District is fortunate to have FCA developing the Watershed Plan and will be touring Watershed Plan participants around OGWRP projects.

Development Coordinator Erickson requested ratification for Manager Simpson signing the revised grant documents for the Watershed Plan. Following discussion, Director Lyle

moved to ratify Manager Simpson signing the revised grant documents as requested. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:20 p.m., and the meeting reconvened at 1:20 p.m.

Manager Simpson briefly reported on the Family Farm Alliance Conference he attended in Reno last month. He reported on a meeting with USBR RD Carrington and his participation in a PL-566 panel discussion. Family Farm Alliance Report

Treasurer Dekker briefly reported on the Northwest Irrigation Operators tour she attended along with other District staff in Sacramento, CA, last month. Manager Simpson commented he would have liked to have less classroom presentations and more touring of the area's facilities. NIO Tour Report

Manager Simpson reported three submittals have been received by SCBID and reviewed by the Districts. Interviews with the consultants will be held on Friday. Assistant Manager Andreini reported the Communication Department, and a District Electrician attended the SCADA training course last month and read Communication Supervisor Meseberg's report to the Board. SCADA

Manager Simpson reported some District staff have been required to have their landline number listed in phone books for emergency contact numbers. The District reimburses those employees for their landline phone charges. He reported landline phones are no longer a necessity for emergency contact since they are more readily available on the District's website. The District's Personnel Practices & Procedures Manual will be updated to remove the landline requirement. Landline Phones

EFO Manager Maynard briefly reported on closing documents for the EL47.5 Delivery System, the PEC started today, and the Main Canal will start on March 6<sup>th</sup>, physical modeling of the EL80.6 sump at TSC and that the drainage study assessment for the Fox land should be complete in May. USBR Report

Assistant Manager McCourtie presented the monthly safety report. Safety Supervisor

Assistant Manager Andreini presented a slide show of the corbel repair work at the EL71.5. He reported the Friehe's new pump plant request hasn't been field checked at this time. He believes the drain can handle the overflow and will report back next month. Asst Manager Technical Svcs

Treasurer Dekker reported a clean audit exit was held, assessments have been coming in and the financial reports have been sent. There were no maturities or investments to report. Treasurer Report

Assistant Manager McCourtie reported the crews have been dealing with maintenance difficulties due to weather conditions. The ELC will begin priming on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and be at full elevation on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Assistant Manager McCourtie presented a slide show of the Canal Operations Training he attended with other District staff. Assistant Manager OM&

Manager Simpson reported the District will have seven new Ditchriders at start-up this year, that is 1/3 of the total Ditchriders. He also reported that conversations have begun with USBR RD Carrington regarding CBP completion. Manager Report

Mr. Ross Fox asked if it was possible to get the whole EL85E lateral fully piped. Assistant Manager Andreini commented there wasn't enough grant funding to fully pipe the lateral. Public Comment Period

President Anderson declared an executive session at 2:40 p.m., for a total of 10 minutes, to discuss potential litigation under RCW 42.30.110(i). The meeting came out of executive session at 2:50 p.m. Executive Session

At 2:50 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Board at that time, President Anderson adjourned the meeting. Meeting Adjourned

  
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President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary