

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

May 3, 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  
Don Osborne  
Dennis Swinger, Jr.

Staff

Craig Simpson  
Rosa Dekker  
John McCourtie  
Nate Andreini  
Jon Erickson  
Wendy Lange  
Anna Franz

Visitors present: Marc Maynard, Clyde Lay, and Jennifer Hickenbottom, USBR; Kristina Ribellia and Cari Cortez, CBCD; Gavin Johnson, Jennifer Korfiatis, Lynn Olsen, Orman Johnson, Eli Stahl, Edward Stahl, Jake Wollman, Jr., Drew Scott, Sarah Fraser, and Brian Kuest.

Visitors

Visitors via teleconference: Melissa Downes, WDOE; Kirk Rathbun, Randall Fox, Michele Kiesz, Fred Ziari, and Paul Wollman.

Minutes of the regular meeting of April 5, 2023, had been mailed to the Directors. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 5, 2023, as written. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Minutes  
Approved

Ms. Michele Kiesz congratulated the District on receiving grant funding from the State.

Mr. Drew Scott with CAD Homes commented he has requested a temporary permit for two culvert crossings. He stated District staff had informed him that he would be allowed to install temporary culverts but then was told he would have to install bridges instead. Mr. Scott stated the request for temporary culvert crossings is for one irrigation season. Manager Simpson commented temporary culvert crossings historically have turned into permanent crossings. Manager Simpson stated he wanted board approval before a permit will be drawn up for culverts. Attorney Franz stated the District can require security through bonds or other conditions for removal of the temporary crossing.

Public Comment  
Period

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

District Improvements

Contracts

- a. Amend First Phase Continuation Acres Interruptible Water Service Contract, Getzinger Land, LLC, 190-014-805, 290 acres
- b. Amend Interruptible Water Service Contract for Temporarily Deferred Lands, WHB Trust, 290-011-805, 1106 acres

Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve contract a., as presented. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson reported contract b. solves the combination and other delivery issues for WHB Trust and the District by combining multiple contracts into one contract. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve contract b., as presented. Director Lyle 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 | Buried Utility Crossing | Block 40, FU 22-1  |
| b. Grant PUD | Buried Utility Crossing | Block 42, FU 109   |
| c. Grant PUD | Buried Utility Crossing | Block 43, FU 51    |
| d. Grant PUD | Buried Utility Crossing | Block 44, FU 112   |
| e. Grant PUD | Buried Utility Crossing | Block 44, FU 264-2 |

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. 323442 through 323592 in the amount of \$1,800,642.43 and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of \$548,764.80 for a total of \$2,135,904.57 from the O&M Fund and \$213,502.66 from the Construction Fund. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Vouchers

Manager Simpson presented Resolution 2023-07, Revising the District's Personnel Practices & Procedures Manual to address eliminating the requirement for certain staff to have home phones. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to adopt Resolution 2023-06 as presented and discussed. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Resolution 2023-07

Manager Simpson reported last month the board authorized a temporary water service contract for Round Lake Farms. Staff has determined there is enough acreage available to fulfill their request. Reclamation will provide the cost for the water, and we will execute the contract.

Round Lake Farms Temp WSC

Manager Simpson reported no assents were received from Reclamation nor were any other comments received for the following Petitions for Inclusion of Land:

Order for Hearing  
for Petition for  
Inclusion of Land

- a. Loeffelbein Family Trust, Inclusion No. 235
- b. Kevin J. Lyle, Inclusion No. 236

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the State legislature has appropriated \$32.8M grant for design and construction of OGWRP delivery systems, in the capital budget. This is still awaiting the signature of the Governor. This grant will allow the District to use the funds towards multiple delivery systems, if awarded by OCR to the District. Additionally, the State awarded \$4.5M as matching funds for the upgrades to the Grant and Adams County bridge improvements.

OGWRP:

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 accepted by Reclamation and the system is now moving forward to 90% design. He reported the landowners have requested to remove the requirement that the pumps be within a building. Staff will discuss the request and is not presently ready to present anything to the board at this time.

EL22.1 Delivery  
System Update

Assistant Manager Andreini reported Grant PUD is proceeding with the power supply for early 2024. Although the pumping plant won't be ready for power in 2024, the District has not requested Grant PUD to pause. Grant PUD is wanting direction on how to move forward at this point. Assistant Manager Andreini reported on costs and timing associated with delaying the construction of the substation expansion and storing of the transformers. He reported Grant PUD will need authorization to purchase the land to put the transformers in place. Manager Simpson recommends authorizing purchase of land and installation of the transformer and request Grant PUD pause remaining work until the pumping plant construction is more defined. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the board to authorize Grant PUD to purchase the land for the transformers, as discussed.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the District is moving forward with RH2 Engineering for the 60% design. 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 title documents for easements and is setting up the closing of the Sec. 30 property.

EL86.4 Delivery  
System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported FCA is continuing their efforts on the project and there have been several discussions focused on public outreach and public hearings.

Watershed Plan  
Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported there has been a request for a public water system for 1,250 acres. The land lies east of Billy Clapp Lake and is within the Odessa Subarea Special Study area. He requested board direction to move forward with a MOU. Following discussion, Director Lyle authorized staff to begin MOU discussions for a

Public Water  
System Request

public water system for 1,250 acres, as requested. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Ms. Jennifer Korfiatis gave an update of the District's website and presented the "Waiting For Water" video produced by CBDL to indicate the type of video we could produce for the OGWRP. [Public Relations Update](#)

Manager Simpson reported Conifer Infrastructure Management Company, LLC, was chosen to move forward with the Banks Lake Project. He reported there will be a tour of the Main Canal and Summer Falls on May 17<sup>th</sup> with Avista representatives [Columbia Basin Hydropower](#)

Manager Simpson reported Casne Engineering is under contract for the SCADA upgrade project and participated in site visits in April. Assistant Manager Andreini reported he also attended the site visit along with the District's Communications Supervisor Meseberg. He reported a kickoff meeting with all three Districts and Casne is expected in the next couple weeks. [SCADA](#)

Manager Simpson briefly reported on Reclamation's Water Right Permit S-328586, to be proved up to a certificated water right. He reported a meeting is scheduled later this month with Reclamation. [CBP Water Rights](#)

Treasurer Dekker presented the Health Care Authority Contract renewal for board approval. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the Health Care Authority Contract as presented. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried. [Health Care Authority Contract Renewal](#)

Manager Simpson briefly reported on the NWRA Federal Water Issues Conference he attended last month in Washington, D.C. Some topics of discussion were PL-566 funding, congressional approval for the Watershed Plan, Farm Bill funding, CBP completion and the Columbia River Treaty. [NWRA FWIC Report](#)

Manager Simpson requested time in executive session to discuss the Scroggins tort claim. [Scroggins Tort Claim](#)

EFO Manager Maynard gave a brief report on a Trail Lake site visit with staff from TSC present. He reported the Fox drainage study report is expected to be ready for peer review in a couple weeks and will be reviewed by EFO Manager Maynard before it's made publicly available. [USBR Report](#)

District Engineer Gonzalez reported the District was awarded a \$500,000 WaterSMART grant for conservation pipelines. The District will be responsible for a 50% match. He also reported engineering staff is currently working on grant applications for 2024-2025 projects. [Engineer Report](#)

Assistant Manager Andreini reported his focus last month was on the OGWRP delivery systems and he also attended the Columbia River Initiative meeting. [Asst Manager Technical Services](#)

Treasurer Dekker reported the 1<sup>st</sup> Half Reserved Works payment has been made in the amount of \$927,596.39. There were two maturities and nine investments last month. She reported the District has earned \$200,000 in interest so far this year. [Treasurer Report](#)

Assistant Manager McCourtie reported a lateral overtopped near Road 16 NE in Moses Lake, District crews did a great job managing the issue. There was very little damage, and the lateral was making water deliveries later that day. He reported staff will be discussing the issues with Rubicon automated gates responsible for the event.

Assistant  
Manager O&M

Manager Simpson briefly reported on last month's meetings and activities. He reported the 1<sup>st</sup> Half Reserved Works payment made was relatively low due to a large credit, the 2<sup>nd</sup> half payment is expected to be closer to \$1.6M.

Manager Report

Director Swinger moved to authorize the Board and appropriate staff to travel to the GFOA Conference, May 21-24, 2023, Oregon Convention Center, Portland, OR and the NWRA Western Water Summit, August 2-4, 2023, Medora, ND. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Travel  
Authorization

President Anderson declared an executive session at 12:16 p.m., for a total of 10 minutes, to discuss potential litigation with legal counsel under RCW 42.30.110(i). The meeting came out of executive session at 12:26 p.m.


Executive  
Session

Director Lyle moved to approve payment to Eleesa Scroggins in the amount of \$7,998.76, to resolve the filed tort claim. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Scroggins Tort  
Claim

At 12:30 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Board at that time, President Anderson continued the Hearing for Petition for Inclusion of Lands to the next regular meeting and adjourned the meeting.

Meeting  
Adjourned

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary