

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

September 6, 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.
Reid Baker

Staff

Craig Simpson
Rosa Dekker
John McCourtie
Nate Andreini
Jon Erickson

Staff

Julio Gonzalez
Bobby Bischoff
Wendy Lange
Anna Franz

Visitors present: Clyde Lay, Amy Rodman and Jennifer Hickenbottom, USBR; Darwin Fales, CBHP; Kristina Ribellia and Cari Cortez, CBCD; Paul Wollman and Lynn Olsen.

Visitors

Visitors via teleconference: Mike Schwisow, Consultant; Randall Fox, Jake Wollman, Jr., Michele Kiesz, Kirk Rathdrum and Brian Kuest.

Minutes of the regular meeting of August 8, 2023, had been mailed to the Directors. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 8, 2023, as written. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Minutes
Approved

President Anderson presented Moses Lake Watermaster Whitaker with a 10 year pin recognizing his 10 years with the East District. President Anderson also presented Othello Assistant Watermaster Hernandez with a 10 year pin recognizing his 10 years with the East District.

Staff Recognition

Manager Simpson presented the following contract a., for board consideration:

District
Improvements

Contracts

- a. Reclassification of Land and Transfer of Water Allotment, Trooper, LLC, Block 49, Farm Unit 34-1, 63.9 acres

Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve contract a., as presented. Director Swinger 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 Fiber Crossings	Block 42
b. Grant PUD	Buried Fiber Crossing	Block 42, FU 1
c. Grant PUD	Buried Fiber Crossing	Block 42, FU 55
d. Grant PUD	Buried Fiber Crossing	Block 42, FU 57
e. Grant PUD	Buried Fiber Crossing	Block 42, FU 62
f. Grant PUD	Buried Fiber Crossing	Block 42, FU 217
g. Grant PUD	Buried Fiber Crossing	Block 42, FU 317
h. Grant PUD	Buried Fiber Crossing	Block 43, FU 12 & 13
i. Grant PUD	Buried Fiber Crossing	Block 43, FU 35
j. Grant PUD	Buried Fiber Crossing	Block 43, FU 36
k. Grant PUD	Buried Fiber Crossing	Block 43, FU 39
l. Grant PUD	Buried Fiber Crossing	Block 43, FU 206
m. Grant PUD	Buried Fiber Crossing	Block 43, FU 306

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 Lyle moved to approve for payment check nos. 324191 through 324436 in the amount of \$777,323.94 and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of \$500,282.54 for a total of \$1,277,606.48 from the O&M Fund. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Vouchers

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the pipeline route is outside of the OSSS boundary and will require separate environmental review. More discussions regarding this topic are expected.

OGWRP:
EL11.8 Delivery System

Development Coordinator Erickson reported final designs are expected by the end of the year. He reported the landowners have shown interest in requesting the District to go to the bond market as a potential funding source.

EL22.1 Delivery System Update

Assistant Manager Andreini reported the EL22.1 landowners had requested to have no building around the pumps due to the cost of the elaborate cooling system in the current designs. He reported District staff analyzed the use of exhaust fans to cool the building, similar to other District pumping plants. Reclamation has reviewed the District's analysis and confirmed it is a method that can be used. Assistant Manager Andreini reported IRZ will need to be informed that staff would like to use exhaust fans to cool the building. He reported staff maintains the recommendation of keeping a building around the pumps. Following further discussion, it was the consensus of the board to continue to require a building around the pumps and to allow the use of exhaust fans as the method of cooling the building.

Assistant Manager Andreini reported that last year Reclamation sent the District preliminary notice they don't intend to take ownership of the EL47.5 Delivery System. Reclamation has since continued to review the construction record of the EL47.5 Delivery System, with assistance from Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region. Staff from California were sent to the plant for a site visit. Their report is expected to be submitted to the Regional Director for review at the end of the year.

EL47.5 Delivery System Update

At 11:00 a.m., Director Baker joined the meeting.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported RH2 is working on the preliminary title reports for the easements for both systems. He reported Grant County still intends to replace the Road "W" bridge this winter.

EL80.6 & EL84.7
Delivery System
Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the 60% design has been submitted to Reclamation for review. He reported Assistant Manager Andreini is reviewing the cultural resources report. Ephrata Field Office staff are looking into which parcels have 1890 reservations on the titles in order to expedite the easement acquisition process in certain cases. Deputy EFO Manager Lay commented as long as the District's intent is for Reclamation to take title of the facilities they are in agreement to exercise Reclamation's 1890 reservations as an avenue for easement acquisition.

EL86.4 Delivery
System Update

District Engineer Gonzalez reported four firms had submitted SOQs for materials testing services and those have been reviewed by staff. He requested authorization to enter into contract negotiations with All-West Testing as the most qualified submittal. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to authorize staff to enter into contract negotiations with All-West Testing for materials testing services. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Materials Testing
Services Approval

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the project is moving towards the Notice of Intent for the adoption of Reclamation's EIS for the Odessa Subarea Special Study. He reported two endangered species issues are slowing the process, impacting the schedule of the Watershed Plan. The two endangered species are the White Bluffs Bladderpod and Yellow-billed Cuckoo which were listed after the OSSS EIS was issued.

Watershed Plan
Project Update

District Engineer Gonzalez reported the District has been awarded a BPA Energy Smart Reserve Power incentive for the installation of conservation pipelines.

BPA ESRP
Incentive
Application

Ms. Jennifer Korfiatis gave an update on the website, newsletter, and video project. Manager Simpson presented the Jennifer Korfiatis Marketing, LLC Master Services Agreement Amendment for continued public relations services. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to authorize execution of the Jennifer Korfiatis Marketing, LLC Master Services Agreement Amendment, as discussed. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Public Relations
Update

Special Projects Administrator Bischoff reported the District has received space utilization study SOQs from 9 firms and have been reviewed by staff. Three firms have been chosen to interview later this month. Manager Simpson requested authorization to enter into contract negotiations with the staff selected firm in order to present the contract for board approval at the October board meeting. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to authorize staff to enter into contract negotiations with the staff selected firm, as requested and discussed. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Space Utilization
Study

CBHP Manager Fales requested time in Executive Session to discuss the Banks Lake Project.

Columbia Basin
Hydropower

Assistant Manager Andreini reported the three Districts have met with Casne Engineering to review options to rebuild the SCADA system as an upgrade to the system.

SCADA

Manager Simpson reported the next Diversion Rate meeting will be up at the Grand Coulee Power Office on September 21st. The capacity demand study and net benefit study are currently being discussed.

Diversion Rate

District Engineer Gonzalez presented the following pipeline materials bids for board consideration:

Quotes & Bids

	Supplier	Bid Amount
	Engineer's Estimate	\$561,049.20
1.	RJB Wholesale, Inc.	\$420,628.20
2.	LAD Irrigation	\$429,088.40
3.	Skone Irrigation	\$431,296.20
4.	DSG Waterworks	\$431,338.40
5.	HD Fowler	\$432,083.74
6.	2M Company	\$463,793.00
7.	Core and Main, LP	\$467,254.45
8.	Irrigation Specialists	\$470,201.27
9.	Ferguson Waterworks	\$482,197.54

It was reported that RJB Wholesale, Inc.'s bid included additional required terms and conditions in the language of their submitted documents and therefore should be declared non-responsive for not meeting the District's bid specifications. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to declare the bid from RJB Wholesale, Inc. non-responsive for not meeting District bid specifications and to accept the bid from LAD Irrigation in the amount of \$429,088.40, plus sales tax, as the lowest responsive bid. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Assistant Manager Andreini reported the ELC turnoff date of October 23rd was set at the Reserved Works meeting. Other topics of discussion were planned maintenance and winter projects, Main Canal floor panel repair, budget review and Keys Plant updates.

Reserved Works Meeting Report

Manager Simpson requested authorization to provide Life Flight membership to District staff including Directors as a benefit rather than a payroll deduction. Life Flight is an emergency air medical care network. The District's expense would be \$65/annually per employee and director. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve Life Flight membership as an employee and director benefit, as discussed. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Employee Life Flight

Deputy EFO Manager Lay briefly gave a brief update on easements and an upcoming tour of OGWRP with Reclamation staff later this month.

USBR Report

Safety Supervisor Walraf presented the monthly safety report.

Safety Report

District Engineer Gonzalez reported the engineering department has been busy with EL86.4 designs, conservation pipelines, and permits. Engineer Report

Treasurer Dekker reported online payment is now available on the District's website. There were no investments or maturities last month. Treasurer Report

Assistant Manager McCourtie reported on both Watermaster section activities. He reported an insurance claim has been submitted to CIAW by the District for damages to District facilities occurred during the electrical storm. Assistant Manager O&M

Manager Simpson reported the Family Farm Alliance (FFA) is hosting a dinner and tour in the area on September 13, 2023. He reported both Quincy and South Districts are sponsoring a table. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to sponsor three tables at \$350 per table at the upcoming FFA event, as discussed. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried. Manager Report

Manager Simpson reported he is expected to be elected as the NWRA President in 2024.

Mr. Randall Fox read from talking points claiming years of canal and lateral seepage have caused flooding and swamps on the Fox Family land. He stated he would email the full report along with pictures to the board. Public Comment

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

President Anderson declared an executive session at 1:20 p.m., for a total of 45 minutes, to discuss litigation and potential litigation with legal counsel under RCW 42.30.110(i) and to review the performance of a public employee under RCW 42.30.110(g). At 2:05 p.m., the meeting was extended for 35 minutes. At 2:40 p.m., the meeting was extended for 15 minutes. At 2:55 p.m., the meeting was extended for 25 minutes. The meeting came out of executive session at 3:20 p.m. Executive Session

Director Baker moved to authorize a 3% increase to all bargaining unit employee's wages effective September 7, 2023. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried. Other

Director Swinger moved to authorize a 7% increase to Manager Simpson's annual salary effective September 7, 2023. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

At 3:25 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Board at that time, President Anderson adjourned the meeting. Meeting Adjourned



Secretary



President