

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

June 5, 2024

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
Miriam Garcia
Anna Franz

Visitors present: Clyde Lay and Amy Rodman, USBR; Kevin Brown, WDOE; Kristina Ribellia and Cari Cortez, CBCD; Michele Kiesz, Jennifer Korfiatis, Lynn Olsen, Gavin Johnson, Eli Stahl, Tammie Fetch, and Clark Kagele. Visitors

Visitors via teleconference: Mike Schwisow, Consultant; Jake Wollman, Paul Wollman, Randall Fox, Jamie Balliet, Odelia Linden, Becky Flint, and Kristine Robertson.

Manager Simpson presented Kurt Johnson with an award recognizing his 20 years with the District. Staff Recognition

Minutes of the regular meeting of May 1, 2024, had been mailed to the Directors. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 1, 2024, as written. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried. Minutes Approved

Ms. Tammie Fetch commented on a concern regarding Resolution 2024-02, Requirements for the Subdivision of Irrigable Lands' requirement for release of irrigation water allotments and how this new regulation by the District is impacting landowners and Adams County. Manager Simpson commented on discussing this issue further at the July Board Meeting. Public Comment Period

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

Approved & Issued Permits

a. Paul Wollman	PVC Crossing	Block 390, FU 101-810
b. Philip C Fox	Diversion Meter M&I	Block 47 FU 802-804
c. Grant County PUD	Overhead Power Crossing	Block 41 FU 84/104
d. Grant County PUD	Overhead Power Crossing	Block 41 FU 84/104

Manager Simpson presented the following agreement a. for board consideration:

Agreements

- a. Consent to Water Delivery Changes, Randy and Diana Hafer, Block 49, Farm Unit 232-01

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

Variance

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

Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve variances a. and b., and charge the variance fees. Director Swinger 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 Baker moved to approve for payment check nos. 326138 through 326369 in the amount of \$1,530,692.96 and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of \$847,408.15 for a total of \$2,331,850.61 from the O&M Fund. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Vouchers

Manager Simpson presented Resolution 2024-12, Establishing A Capitalization Threshold For Leases. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to adopt Resolution 2024-12 as presented and discussed. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Resolution 2024-12

Manager Simpson presented Resolution 2024-13, Concurring with the Bureau of Reclamation's abandonment of a portion of the DE 229C. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to adopt Resolution 2024-13 as presented and discussed. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Resolution 2024-13

Manager Simpson reported the temporary water service contract for Round Lake Farms has been executed, signed and sent to Reclamation. He reported water is being delivered currently.

Round Lake Farms Temp WSC

Manager Simpson reported that no objections, neither written nor verbal, had been received and that the following assents from the Bureau of Reclamation to the inclusion for a. Mary Jantz, No. 234, and b. Loewen Farms, Inc. No. 238, a condition precedent to the inclusion of lands within the District, had been received. Director Lyle 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 Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Order for Hearing for Petition for Inclusion of Land

Assistant Manager Andreini requested authorization to advertise an RFQ for Engineering Services for providing and maintaining programming for all OGWRP Delivery Systems and other projects. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to authorize a call for Engineering Services RFQs, as requested. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

RFQ for Industrial Control System Programming

Manager Simpson reported it has been past practice that the NWRA President's entity sponsor at NWRA events. He recommended the board to consider sponsoring the upcoming event, similar to SCBID's support. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve sponsoring \$10,000 for the NWRA Western Water Seminar. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

NWRA Western Water Seminar Sponsorship

Assistant Manager McCourtie reported the board had previously authorized staff to call for the following rebid: Used water truck. He presented the following bids for board consideration.

Quotes & Bids

	Bidder	Bid Amount (basis of award)
1	L&M Truck Sales	\$52,500.00
2	TCI Transportation and Commodities	\$60,395.00
3	L&M Truck Sales	\$75,000.00

It was reported that both L&M Truck Sales' lowest bid and TCI Transportation and Commodities should be declared non-responsive due to L&M Truck Sales lowest bid truck being no longer available and TCI Transportation and Commodities having too many miles on their truck. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to declare the bids from L&M Truck Sales' lowest bid and TCI Transportation and Commodities non-responsive and award the higher bid from L&M Truck Sales, Inc. in the amount of \$75,000.00, plus sales tax. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

District Engineer Gonzales requested authorization to call for bids for materials for the 2024/2025 Conservation Pipelines. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to authorize a call for bids as requested. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried

Manager Simpson reported the 2nd Half Reserved Works payment is due at the end of the month, in the amount of \$1,679,221.65. He stated corrections from the last half have been made, and he will review the billing before payment is made.

2nd Half Reserved Works

Development Coordinator Erickson reported on the upcoming tour with Under Secretary Bonnie on June 6th.

OGWRP

Development Coordinator Erickson reported on five miscellaneous systems not depicted currently on OGWRP maps. He also reported that staff will not be presenting new MOU's for approval of the board at this time. Attorney Franz and staff are working on revising the design services agreement.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported MHB is working with the District and the CBCD to prepare the RCPP application. Mr. Jerry Gross presented a budget proposal for the application of Phase 1 and Phase 2 approach. He will be providing a \$30 million partnership match commitment “placeholder” to support the RCPP application for grant funds but is requesting that the District pledge any available future state capital grant funds as substitution. The RCPP application due date is July 2nd.

[EL11.8 Delivery System Update](#)

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:10 p.m., and the meeting reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

Manager Simpson noted that the RCPP grant application covers additional private improvements beyond the District’s public system. The budget estimate for the public system as presented by MHB and IRZ is \$21 million. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to authorize District commitment of up to \$10 million of any available 2025 state capital budget funds as substitute for MHB’s partnership match funds for the 11.8 Delivery System RCPP grant application, provided the RCPP grant application is awarded in 2024. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

[EL22.1 Delivery System Update](#)

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the 90% design has been submitted for review. The landowners are working toward identifying funding and construction schedules with the District.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the 40.2 landowners met with CBCD to discuss funding opportunities and how to prepare for those. Staff has informed the landowners that the system is not currently under design and recommends no further action until the Board establishes a process to allocate remaining OGWRP acres.

[EL40.2 Delivery System Update](#)

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the two new WHB turnouts have been installed and are delivering water.

[EL47.5 Delivery System Update](#)

Development Coordinator Erickson reported a request has been made for water delivery to approximately 15,000 acres to be delivered from the EL54 Delivery System. He reported the landowner group has executed a MOU and has verbally committed to a \$20/acre deposit to move forward with design.

[EL54 Delivery System Update](#)

Development Coordinator Erickson Staff has informed the landowner group that the system is not currently under a Design Services Agreement and recommends no further action until the Board establishes a process to allocate remaining OGWRP acres.

[EL73.3 Delivery System Update](#)

Assistant Manager Andreini reported the 90% design comments for EL84.7 have been submitted for review and may accelerate the efforts moving forward with the procurement and construction phase. The EL80.6 continues moving forward on their design also.

[EL80.6 & EL84.7 Delivery System Update](#)

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the 100% design was accepted and the start of construction was approved. There was a groundbreaking ceremony on June 10th which was well attended. The landowners were grateful to be moving forward with construction. This is another a huge milestone for the OGWRP.

[EL86.4 Delivery System Update](#)

District Engineer Gonzalez requested authorization to call for purchase for the following bids: CONCRETE-VAULTS-EL86.4-01 and PIPE-EL86.4-03 bids.

	Supplier	Bid Amount (basis of award)
	Engineer's Estimate	\$90,000.00
1	M1 Tanks	\$113,245.00
2	H2 Precast	\$124,710.00

District Engineer Gonzalez reported the Concrete Vaults-EL86.4-01 bid was acceptable from M1 Tanks in the amount of \$113,245.00, plus sales tax as the lowest responsive bid. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to authorize purchase from M1 Tanks. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

	Supplier	Bid Amount (Basis of award)
	Engineers Estimate	\$471,910.00
1	Consolidated Supply	\$417,044.69
2	HD Fowler	\$439,651.40
3	Ferguson	\$508,051.03

District Engineer Gonzalez reported PIPE-EL86.4-03 bid was acceptable from Consolidated Supply in the amount of \$417,044.69, plus sales tax as the lowest responsive bid. Following discussion, Lyle moved to authorize purchase from Consolidated Supply. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

District Engineer Gonzalez requested authorization to purchase Rubicon gates per the sole source resolution previously adopted by the Board. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to authorize the purchase as requested. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

District Engineer Gonzalez requested authorization to purchase a control building for the EL 86.4 Delivery System through Sourcewell. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to authorize the purchase as requested. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the ROD has been signed by Roylene Comes At Night and has been elevated to the national level. FCA is working on a scoping meeting to gather information from the public that will assist in the economical analysis as well as the small watershed plan. There are a few design criteria discussions regarding the plan and NRCS funded projects. These are being discussed with the new WA State Engineer for NRCS. The plan is moving forward and is expected to be completed in the fall of 2025.

Watershed Plan Update

Manager Simpson reported on the potential for in-kind support of WDFW's Artesian and Black Lakes Rehydration Project in order to keep the project alive as WDFW has indicated they may discontinue development of the project. The project serves as a mitigation component for the Odessa Subarea Special Study. The Board provided consensus direction to Manager Simpson to proceed with discussions and discuss additional District support.

OGWRP
Additional
Activities

Development Coordinator Erickson reported staff is suggesting a public meeting to address OGWRP and the allocation of remaining available acres. The dates and location are TBD.

Ms. Jennifer Korfiatis reported on the monthly update of the District's website. There was a spike in website visitors in May. She also reported the e-newsletter is promoting the construction of the EL47.5 and there will be an article coming out in Irrigation Leader later this year.

Public Relations
Update

Special Projects Administrator Bischoff reported that Bernardo Wills drafted a facilities assessment report that staff will be reviewing.

Space Utilization
Study

Special Projects Administrator Bischoff reported that there has not been progress. Neither Reclamation nor the County has helped with resolving the issue of incomplete legal descriptions.

Partial Title
Transfer

Manager Simpson reported there is a draft MOU between Reclamation and the District that has not been reviewed yet.

CBP SCADA

Manager Simpson reported Dan Haller is considering his recommendations for next steps in certificating the water right permit in conjunction with the new conservation authority and will provide a white paper to the Districts.

CBP Water
Rights

Manager Simpson reported a productive Diversion Rate meeting was held where Reclamation presented a different methodology or a tweak to the current one. The next scheduled meeting is June 27th in Boise.

Diversion Rate

Deputy Field Office Manager Clyde Lay introduced a new Realty Specialist, Aaron Ireland. He reported that Reclamation had provided \$50,000 for Soil and Moisture Conservation related weed treatments for 2024. The realty group is ready to start on easement acquisition for the next OGWRP delivery system pending receipt of legal descriptions from the District. He had no update on the Fox land area drainage evaluation.

USBR Report

Safety Supervisor Walraf presented the monthly safety report. She reported on incidents/accidents and the review of job applications. A fire inspection had no findings.

Safety
Supervisor

District Engineer Gonzalez briefly reported on the beginning of the EL86.4 construction. He reported that earlier readings on the ELC monitoring wells were higher than normal but a later reading indicated levels have gone back to normal.

Engineer Report

Assistant Manager Andreini reported his focus has been on reviewing the OGWRP delivery system designs.

Asst Manager
Technical
Services

Treasurer Dekker reported there were no maturities or investments last month, and the District's financial statements have been submitted. She reported all combinations were due on May 31st and we made the bond debt service payment.

Treasurer Report

Assistant Manager McCourtie reported on the Saddle Gap Pumping Plant Pump #3 issue.

Assistant Manager O&M

Manager Simpson reported on previous and upcoming meetings, NWRA sustainability Ag-Viability and the Colville Tribal Council. He also reported the District is in need of more engineers due to more systems being contemplated. He will be reviewing the a WSWRA Wage Data Survey when available to propose adjustments to current wages in the District if necessary. The electrician position is still open and we are considering additional recruitment opportunities and wage adjustments.

Manager Report

Jake Wollman commented on the OGWRP acreage distribution issue and the need to complete the project using return flows and conservation to provide additional water supply

Public Comment

At 3:40 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

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