

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

July 3, 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
Anna Franz

Staff

Miriam Garcia
Bobby Bischoff
Julio Gonzalez
Jon Erickson

Visitors present: Amy Rodman, USBR; Kristina Ribellia, CBCD; Kevin Brown, Scott Turner, Phil Lefler, OCR; Dennis James, Jamn Water Assoc.; Larry Besherse, Gavin Johnson, Michael Rainis, Tammie Fetch, Steve Gross, Phillip Gross, and Jake Wollman, Jr. Visitors

Visitors via teleconference: Jennifer Hickenbottom, USBR; Mike Schwisow, Consultant; Jennifer Korfiatis, Michele Kiesz, and Willy Walter.

Minutes of the regular meeting of June 5, 2024, had been mailed to the Directors. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 5, 2024, as written. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried. Minutes Approved

Manager Simpson reported the March minutes should be amended to reflect a correction approving travel for Director Swinger's out of state travel expense approval to Washington D.C by the District. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to amend the March 6, 2024, minutes to reflect the corrected action as follows: "Director Lyle moved to authorize the Board and appropriate staff to travel to Washington D.C. and cover all out of state expenses. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried." Minutes Amended

Kevin Brown introduced Scott Turner and Phil Leffler. Phil is the new Columbia River Water Master. Tammie Fetch addressed the board regarding the subdivision policy. Public Comment

President Anderson presented Safety Supervisor Walraf with a longevity pin recognizing her 10 years with the District. Staff Recognition

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

District
Improvements

Approved & Issued Permits

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| a. Adams Co. DPW | Underground Utility Crossing | Block 45, FU 253 |
| b. Adams Co. DPW | Underground Utility Crossing | Block 45, FU 202-203 |
| c. Adams Co. DPW | Underground Utility Crossing | Block 45, FU 140 |
| d. Adams Co. DPW | Underground Utility Crossing | Block 45, FU 137/140 |
| e. Adams Co. DPW | Underground Utility Crossing | Block 45, FU 137 |
| f. Adams Co. DPW | Underground Utility Crossing | Block 45, FU 202/204 |
| g. Adams Co. DPW | Underground Utility Crossing | Block 45, FU 204/205 |
| h. Adams Co. DPW | Underground Utility Crossing | Block 45, FU 141 |
| i. Adams Co. DPW | Underground Utility Crossing | Block 45, FU 253 |
| j. Adams Co. DPW | Underground Utility Crossing | Block 49, FU 79 |
| k. Adams Co. DPW | Underground Utility Crossing | Block 49, FU 202 |
| l. Adams Co. DPW | Underground Utility Crossing | Block 49, FU 77/202 |
| m. Adams Co. DPW | Underground Utility Crossing | Block 49, FU 128 |
| n. Adams Co. DPW | Underground Utility Crossing | Block 49, FU 237 |
| o. Adams Co. DPW | Underground Utility Crossing | Block 49, FU 116 |
| p. Adams Co. DPW | Underground Utility Crossing | Block 45, FU 202 |
| q. Adams Co. DPW | Underground Utility Crossing | Block 45, FU 209 |
| r. Adams Co. DPW | Underground Utility Crossing | Block 45, FU 144 |

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

Agreements

- a. Consent to Water Delivery Changes, Basic American Inc, Block 421, Farm Unit 015-000-000-01

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

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. 326370 through 326588 in the amount of \$2,708,998.80 and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of \$464,560.05 for a total of \$3,136,881.46 from the O&M Fund and \$171,329.60 from the Construction Fund. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Mr. Shane Russell spoke on behalf of Jerry Carlson who is requesting an encroachment permit from the Board to approve an access road within Reclamation's easement parallel to the current O&M road. Reasonable alternatives were identified by District and Reclamation staff and the Board took no action.

Jerry Carlson
Subdivision

Manager Simpson reported the District plans require release of irrigation water supplies being used for municipal purposes at some point in the future but there is no current timeline. Landowners can opt to continue receiving CBP water by obtaining a M&I contract. Subdivision Policy

Development Coordinator Erickson briefly reported on OGWRP related meetings and the OGWRP tour with Undersecretary Robert Bonnie. He reported that being a success. OGWRP: Undersecretary Bonnie Tour

Manager Simpson recommended the Board change the Development Fee to equal the Construction Debt Service Charge (CDSC) or \$120/acre, whichever is less. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the Development Fee to equal the CDSC or \$120/acre, whichever is less. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried. Development Fee

Assistant Manager Andreini reported to the board on long lead time electrical items needed for the EL 80.6 and EL 84.7 delivery systems. The items that will take the longest to get are the voltage regulators and capacitor banks for the 34.5 kV line extension. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to authorize the call for bids for voltage regulators and capacitor banks. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Ms. Jennifer Korfiatis reported on the monthly update of the District's website. There was a decrease in website visitors in June and reported the e-newsletter will be promoting future meetings later this month. Also, she reported Manager Simpson will be filming for a tv show on the OGWRP EL86.4 site. Public Relations Update

Manager Simpson requested authorization to sign the data sharing agreement which allows the District to be audited by the state. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve Manager Simpson to sign the agreement. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried. Data Sharing Agreement

Special Projects Manager Bischoff reported Architect Bernardo Wills sent the finalized reports of all three sites. Space Utilization Study

Special Projects Manager Bischoff reported there is no activity from Reclamation to update. Partial Title Transfer

Special Projects Manager Bischoff reported he attended the meeting for Trail Lake. Reclamation conducted a No Action analysis and has concluded No Action be taken. Trail Lake

Manager Simpson presented the ECBID Fee Schedule for board review. He reported the \$500 inclusion fee doesn't cover current administrative costs, including statutory publication fees, and requested raising the fee to \$800 per inclusion. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve raising the inclusion fees to \$800. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried. ECBID Fee Schedule

Manager Simpson reported there have not been any new meetings lately. There is a MOU between the three Districts (East, South, and Quincy) and a MOU between the Districts and Reclamation that are being developed. SCADA

Manager Simpson reported there have not been any CBP Water Rights meetings but has received a draft memorandum from Aspect Consulting.	<u>CBP Water Rights</u>
Manager Simpson reported attending WSWRA retreat with President Anderson. It was the first retreat held and reported 2024 was Mike Schwisow's last legislative session before and is now retiring. He reported WSWRA dues have been paid.	<u>WSWRA Update</u>
Manager Simpson reported the NWRA Western Water Seminar will be held in Kennewick July 23 rd -25 th .	
Manager Simpson reported California and Texas have recently dropped out of the NWRA so a sustainability committee was created in early 2024 to address association issues. He also reported the NWRA Executive Vice President has resigned and two of the twelve remaining state executives will be retiring this year. NWRA will also be working on finding a replacement for the EVP open position.	<u>NWRA Update</u>
Manager Simpson briefly reported on the Diversion Rate meeting in Boise, ID and talked about ongoing issues. The next meeting is scheduled for August 12 th .	<u>Diversion Rate</u>
Manager Simpson reported Project Power Use discussions held at the regional office in Boise. Reclamation previously authorized the District to use Project Use Power for the OGWRP and SCBID for a pumping plant. Reclamation and QCBID have recently been discussing the availability of Project Use Power for the proposed Homestead pumping plant. The Districts and Reclamation have some disagreement on the limitations of Project Use Power availability under the 1939 Reclamation Act authority.	<u>Project Power Use</u>
Manager Simpson reported on the Tri-State meeting and tour he, Assistant Manager Andreini, and Treasurer Dekker attended. The group toured some dams and other facilities on the Snake River. The meeting included issues between groundwater and surface water users and also included discussion on aquifer problems.	<u>Tri-State Meeting Report</u>
Manager Simpson requested time in executive session to discuss non-bargaining unit wages.	<u>Personnel</u>
EFO Manager Rodman briefly gave a staffing update and gave a brief update on Trail Lake.	<u>USBR Report</u>
Safety Supervisor Walraf presented the monthly safety report. There are scheduled interviews within the next few weeks.	<u>Safety Supervisor</u>
District Engineer Gonzalez briefly reported on the Engineering Department's activities last month. He reported there's a crew working on the EL 86.4 system. Staff encountered concrete issues on the first placement. Trucks carrying the concrete did not arrive as scheduled which led to a cold joint in the concrete. Staff decided to reject the slab due to the poor-quality concrete and required demolition of the slab. A replacement slab was installed without issue. Staff will discuss remedies to the inferior concrete delivered with the concrete supplier. He also reported the delivery of materials, including pipe.	<u>Engineer Report</u>

Assistant Manager Andreini reported his focus last month was on the OGWRP delivery systems. He reported on the coordination of the final design on the EL 80.6 and EL 84.7 systems. He also attended the Tri State Meeting and Diversion Rate meeting. Asst Manager Technical Services

Assistant Manager Andreini reported the District will be working with WSU on an engineering capstone project.

Treasurer Dekker reported there were thirteen maturities and six investments last month. She briefly reported on the annual GFOA conference she attended with Accounting Assistant Garza. Treasurer Dekker also attended the Tri State Meeting and Diversion Rate meeting. Treasurer Report

Assistant Manager McCourtie reported on both Watermaster sections' activities and that June was a busy water delivery month. He reported ISCO is offering fusion welding training. Assistant Manager O&M

Manager Simpson reported on last month's meetings, tours, and interviews. Manager Report

Manager Simpson recommended the elimination of water cards after the end of the year. Landowners can use Water UI to sign up and access more timely info. Following discussion, Director Baker motioned eliminating the use of water cards. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson reported on the concerns of Snake River Dams removal.

Director Swinger moved to authorize the Board and appropriate staff to travel to the NWRA 2024 Annual Conference and Leadership Forum from November 6-8, 2024, in Albuquerque, NM. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried. Future Meetings

President Anderson declared an executive session at 12:45 p.m., for a total of 20 minutes, to review the performance of public employees under RCW 42.30.110(g). At 1:05 p.m., the meeting was extended for 15 minutes. The meeting came out of executive session at 1:20 p.m. Executive Session

Director Swinger moved to approve Manager Simpson's non-bargaining unit salary wage recommendation to increase wages by 3.2% for non-bargaining employees with additional spot adjustments. Director seconded, and the motion carried. Non-Bargaining Unit Wages

At 1:30 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Board at that time, President Anderson adjourned the meeting. Meeting Adjourned

President

Secretary

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