

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

August 7, 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  
Anna Franz  
Jon Erickson  
Julio Gonzalez

Staff

Miriam Garcia

Visitors present: Marc Maynard and Amy Rodman, CBHP; Kristina Ribellia, CBCD; Michele Kiesz, Jake Wollman Jr, Randy Reber; Round Lake Farms, Randy Kiesz, B. Landon Heslop, Brian Kiesz, Ian Eccles, Paul Wollman, Derek Friehe, Berend Friehe.

Visitors

Visitors via teleconference: Eli Stahl, Mark Bonnet, Kirk Rathdrum, Christina Wyatt, Willy Walter.

Minutes of the special meeting of July 2, 2024, and regular meeting of July 3, 2024, had been mailed to the Directors. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve the special meeting minutes of July 2, 2024, and regular meeting minutes of July 3, 2024, as written. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Minutes  
Approved

Derek Friehe wanted to demonstrate engagement and interest by the landowners in the development of the Schrag and Wheeler corridor system proposals; he believes these systems are low-cost systems and close to the canal and the landowners are trying to meet the criteria to be established by the Board.

Public Comment  
Period

Jake Wollman commented that time is of the essence for development of remaining OGWRP systems and landowners are interested in taking advantage of any opportunity to move forward with groundwater replacement and wants to work together with the District.

Ross Fox commented on the ongoing drainage issues on his property and is still waiting for results from the test wells by Reclamation.

Michelle Kiesz commented on behalf of the EL40.2 system that they are working on drafting a letter of intent for the proposed systems as substitute for the suspend MOU process.

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

District Improvements

Contracts

- a. Renewal Interruptible Temporarily Deferred Water Service Contract, Johnson Land Legacy, LLC, 290-009-806, 300 acres
- b. Renewal Interruptible Temporarily Deferred Water Service Contract, Lucy Road Farms, LLC, 290-010-806, 305 acres
- c. Renewal Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract, Kagele-Erickson I, LLC, 190-053-805, 23 acres
- d. Renewal Interruptible Temporarily Deferred Water Service Contract, Ralph S. & Marjorie L Hirz, 190-037-805, 107 acres
- e. Renewal Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract, 11-1 Water Association, 049-802-803, 114 acres
- f. Renewal Groundwater Replacement Water Service Contract, Paul Glasco Farms, LLC, 042-802-803, 500 acres

Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve contracts a. through f., 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

- |                  |                              |                      |
|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| g. Adams Co. DPW | Underground Utility Crossing | Block 45, FU 205/209 |
| h. Adams Co. DPW | Underground Utility Crossing | Block 49, FU 152/153 |
| i. Adams Co. DPW | Underground Utility Crossing | Block 49, FU 152/153 |
| j. Adams Co. DPW | Underground Utility Crossing | Block 49, FU 156     |
| k. Adams Co. DPW | Underground Utility Crossing | Block 49, FU 221     |
| l. Adams Co. DPW | Underground Utility Crossing | Block 49, FU 222     |
| m. Adams Co. DPW | Underground Utility Crossing | Block 49, FU 242/244 |
| n. Adams Co. DPW | Underground Utility Crossing | Block 49, FU 244     |
| o. Adams Co. DPW | Overhead Utility Crossing    | Block 49, FU 155     |
| p. Adams Co. DPW | Overhead Utility Crossing    | Block 45, FU 166/148 |
| q. Adams Co. DPW | Overhead Fiber Crossing      | Block 49, FU 148     |

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

Agreements

- r. Permanent Release of Water Allotment, Refugio J. Rodriguez, Block 49, Farm Unit 088-509-001, 3.4 acres

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

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

Variance

- a. MHB Combination
- b. Jerry Carlson Subdivision

Manager Simpson reported Sid Zackman was the previous lessee for the late combination MHB was requesting. MHB acquired the lease this year and is asking for a late combination, which must demonstrate a history of identical combinations. Staff is asking for clarification of what defines having an “identical combination”. Administratively, staff has been interpreting that “identical” meant lands and applicants. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve variance a., as presented. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Shane Russell and Jerry Carlson addressed the Board and requested an exception under the subdivision policy to allow a common delivery to serve all lots in the pending subdivision. Manager Simpson commented that the issues with common deliveries typically arise after the originating parties transfer their properties to third parties. Director Baker moved to approve the requested exception; motion failed for a lack of a second.

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. 326589 through 326809 in the amount of \$1,805,829.64 and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of \$646,130.48 for a total of \$2,451,960.12 from the O&M Fund. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Vouchers

Manager Simpson recommended an emergency declaration be declared for the ELC 26 Mile canal breach. He reported the canal broke on the evening of August 5<sup>th</sup>. Reclamation was informed at the time the breach was confirmed and immediately began dewatering that canal section. Emergency response was coordinated through the Multi Agency Communication Center (M.A.C.C.), The Bureau of Reclamation and Grant County Emergency Management. Staff continue the dewatering process to assess damage and develop a repair schedule. Staff continues the dewatering process to assess damages and develop a repair schedule. District crews are on two-12 hour shifts at the site to address the repair as expeditiously as practical. Repair materials and equipment have been mobilized.

Emergency  
Declaration for  
Canal Breach

Manager Simpson presented Resolution 2024-14 Declaration of Emergency for East Low Canal Breach Repairs. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to adopt Resolution 2024-14 as presented and discussed. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Resolution 2024-  
14

Development Coordinator Erickson reported on the Columbia River Policy Advisory Group tour of the OGWRP and the VSP technical tour of the EL47.5.

Development  
Office Report

Development Coordinator Erickson reported MHB collaborated with CBCD to submit applications for the RCPP grant. There was a pledged \$30 million as partner contributions and with the Districts commitment to relieve \$10 million if grants are awarded, there will be an additional delivery system initiating a construction phase.

OGWRP:  
EL11.8 Delivery System

Manager Simpson reported that Assistant Manager Andreini is moving the electrical design forward.

Grant PUD Wheeling

Development Coordinator Erickson reported landowners have submitted their RCPP applications to receive funding for construction on their systems. If submitted applications are awarded, all or a portion of the landowners intend to ask the Directors for authorization for the District to construct the facilities.

EL22.1 Delivery System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the EL80.6 moving forward on their design. Assistant Manager Andreini and District Engineer Gonzalez are in the review process of the 90% design for the EL80.6 delivery system.

EL80.6 Delivery System Update

Manager Simpson reported the 34.5kV Power Line Extension is required for the EL80.6 and EL84.7 Delivery Systems. There is an existing agreement between BBEC, Reclamation, and the District concerning the use of power that may need to be amended.

34.5kV Power Line Extension

Development Coordinator Erickson reported design efforts continue moving forward for the EL84.7 and has 90% design submitted for review. This may expedite the efforts moving forward with the procurement and construction phase. He reported there was a 90% design acceptance meeting with Reclamation.

EL84.7 Delivery System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported construction is currently underway. The intake structure is being constructed and HDPE pipe is being welded and installed.

EL86.4 Delivery System Update

District Engineer Gonzalez reported called for bids that will open later this month. He requested authorization from the Board for conditional approval to award the Electrical & Fiber Communications Bid. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the conditional approval to award the bid. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Electrical & Fiber Communications Bid

Development Coordinator Erickson reported FCA held the public scoping meeting for the Watershed Plan. The meeting was a great opportunity for the public to comment on the impact they see the plan has. Development Coordinator Erickson requested authorization to seek additional funding needed for the development of the Watershed Plan that has already been approved by NRCS. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to authorize seeking additional funds for the Watershed Plan. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried

Watershed Plan Project Update

Development Coordinator Erickson presented a memo with a list of potential criteria for determining distribution of OGWRP acres. Manager Simpson reported on items to consider such as O&M costs and the proximity of the ELC. He recommended distributing and delivering up to four miles from the canal. The Board authorized staff to initiate

Remaining OGWRP Acreage

meetings with landowners requesting OGWRP water to discuss what it looks like if the District only builds “up to” 4 miles of public delivery system from the canal.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported on the special board meeting hosted on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. He reported in this meeting that staff gathered preliminary and historical information to help inform the District on the next steps for the addition of eligible acres to OGWRP.

The meeting recessed at 12:35 p.m., and reconvened at 1:35 p.m.

PR Consultant Jennifer Korfiatis gave an update on the website and e-newsletter. She reported since the canal breach there has been an increase of followers on the District’s social media page.

Public Relations Update

Manager Simpson reported there is no information to update. He reported this issue needs to be elevated to the regional director or above.

Partial Title Transfer

Manager Simpson reported Ryan Zane will incorporate more information to the study and will have until the end of the month for the final study.

Space Utilization Study

Manager Simpson reported the District was contacted by USDA and was selected to participate in the development of a pilot program for USDA. The District has agreed to continue to participate in the development of the program but is not formally committed. There will be a meeting later this month with USDA to get a better understanding of the program.

USDA Water Savings Commodity Program

Manager Simpson reported the budget process consists of each department sending their budget proposals before he reviews them and creates the 2025 Budget. Budget proposals are due from departments August 14<sup>th</sup>.

2025 Budget Process

Manager Simpson reported there were no bids received for the regulators and capacitors. Staff will continue to work on the process to purchase the needed equipment.

Quotes & Bids

District Engineer Gonzalez presented the following PIPE-2024-02 bids for board consideration:

	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Schedule A: PVC Total</b>	<b>Schedule B: PVC and FRP Total</b>
	Engineers Estimate	\$540,750.40	
	Engineers Estimate		\$498,850.40
1	Core and Main	\$350,118.84	
2	<b>HD Fowler</b>	<b>\$413,983.07</b>	
3	Consolidated Supply Company	\$414,042.13	
4	Lad Irrigation	\$420,840.65	
5	RJB Wholesale	\$422,219.22	
6	Ferguson Waterworks	\$422,718.42	
7	Irrigation Specialists	\$425,625.68	

It was reported that RJB Wholesale, Inc.'s bid and Core and Main's bid did not include their total amount, therefore should be declared non-responsive for not meeting the District's bid specifications. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to declare the bids from RJB Wholesale, Inc. and Core and Main non-responsive for not meeting District bid specifications and to accept the bid from HD Fowler in the amount of \$413,983.07, plus sales tax, as the lowest responsive bid. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

District Engineer Gonzalez asked for authorization to call for Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) for an update to ECBID's Comprehensive Water Conservation Plan. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to authorize staff to call for RFQs for an update to ECBID's Comprehensive Water Conservation Plan. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Request for Qualification

Manager Simpson reported the continued board meeting for CBHP has been cancelled.

CBHP

Manager Simpson reported there is a MOU being executed between ECBID, QCBID, SCBID and Reclamation. The final package will be sent later this month.

SCADA

Manager Simpson reported the CBP Districts are working with Aspect Consulting. Ultimately, a package will be prepared for Reclamation to request Ecology's approval of necessary extensions, permits and certificates for CBP water rights. He reported the CBP Districts will be meeting with Dan Haller later this month.

CBP Water Rights

Manager Simpson reported the next Diversion Rate meeting will be on August 12<sup>th</sup> after the Reserved Works Meeting.

Diversion Rate

Manager Simpson reported canal shut-off dates will be set at the August 12<sup>th</sup> Reserved Works meeting. Manager Simpson reported staff recommends the District shut-off all deliveries on Monday, October 21, 2024. The last day for delivery changes would be October 17<sup>th</sup>. He noted October 21<sup>st</sup> falls within the range of dates previously determined by the Reserved Works Committee for ELC shut-off. Following discussion, The Board approved shutting down the ELC on Monday, October 21, 2024, at the Manager's discretion by consensus.

ELC Shutdown

Manager Simpson recommended the Board set the last day for Saturday ditchrider service as Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, the last Saturday before Labor Day, would be consistent with past years. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to set August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, as the last day for Saturday ditchrides. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Last Saturday Delivery

Water Records Clerks Linda Sierra and AnneMarie Owensby reported on the NWRA Western Water Seminar. They toured the Ice Harbor Dam, the Kennewick Irrigation District and Lamb Weston. They reported on the seminars they attended and reported on the issues discussed. Executive Secretary Garcia reported the seminar was a great networking opportunity.

NWRA Western Water Seminar Report

EFO Manager Maynard briefly gave a staffing update. He briefly reported on the Fox Farm drainage study. He reported the Reserved Works Meeting is scheduled to be on August 12<sup>th</sup> at the ECBID office. USBR Report

Safety Supervisor Walraf presented the monthly safety report, she reported there were no injuries/accidents this month. She provided a staffing update. Safety Supervisor

District Engineer Gonzalez reported a new Staff Engineer was hired. He reported the engineering department has been busy with the construction of the EL86.4 Delivery System. He also attended the NWRA Western Water Seminar. Engineer

Manager Simpson reported Assistant Manager Andreini's absence due to the canal breach. He has been at the job site working on the repair. Asst Manager Technical Services

Treasurer Dekker reported there were three maturities and seven investments. She requested authorization to hire CLA as a consultant for an audit review and preparation of financial statements. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve engaging CLA as a consultant for the audit review and preparation of financial statements. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried. She also requested authorization to use OGWRP Development funds to pay for development expenses until a reimbursement is issued from Ecology. Following discussion, Director Baker motioned to use development funds to pay for development expenses. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried. Treasurer Report

Manager Simpson reported on Assistant Manager McCourtie's absence due to the canal breach. They have been at the job site working on the repair. Assistant Manager O&M

Manager Simpson reported on last month's meetings, tours, and interviews. He reported there was an upcoming Reserved Works meeting on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Manager Simpson commented on the budget process. He will be recommending adding two administrative FTEs and transitioning current positions for retirements and to address additional workloads in the 2025 Budget. Manager Report

Attorney Franz reported the litigation schedule between the District and the United States has been extended sixty days for discovery. The new due date for the filing of a motion of summary judgment will be in February. Attorney Report

Director Swinger moved to approve the board and appropriate staff to attend the CBP Managers Legislative Trip on September 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> in Washington D.C. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried. Travel Authorization

Mrs. Michele Kiesz acknowledged and expressed appreciation to Manager Simpson for all his work. Public Comment Period

At 2:52 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

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Secretary

**Minutes continue on page -2024-65-**