

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

September 4, 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: Marc Maynard, USBR; Kristina Ribellia, Angelique Heinzen, and Audrey Rhodes, CBCD; Ryan Zane, and Chuck Horgan, Bernardo Wills; Gavin Johnson, Michele Kiesz and Derek Friehe. Visitors

Visitors via teleconference: Mike Schwisow, Consultant; Jennifer Hickenbottom, USBR; Randall Fox, Paul Wollman, Jake Wollman, Jr., Kirk Rathdrum, Willy Walter, Randy Kiesz, Eric Weber, Mark Bohnet, and Brian Kuest.

Minutes of the regular meeting of August 7, 2024, had been mailed to the Directors. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 7, 2024, as written. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried. Minutes  
Approved

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

Contracts

- a. Renewal Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract, Stanley C. Hansen, 190-005-805, 213 acres District
- b. Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract, Candy Mountain Farms, LLC, 390-083-811, 358 acres Improvements

Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve contract a., as presented. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried. Director Baker moved to approve contract b., contingent upon the payment of invoice for additional construction. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

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

Agreements

- a. Permanent Release of Water Allotment, Cliff Perez and Eloy Sanchez, Block 40, Farm Unit 40-213-03, 26.4 acres

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

Manager Simpson presented the following Order for Hearing for Petition for Inclusion of Land:

Petition for Inclusion of Land

- a. SDB Family Farms, Inclusion No. 239

Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve the Order for Hearing for Inclusion No. 239 for SDB Family Farms, as presented. Director Baker 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. 326810 through 326984 in the amount of \$1,623,957.10 and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of \$686,958.22 for a total of \$2,310,915.32 from the O&M Fund. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Vouchers

Development Coordinator Erickson reported Culton Consulting from CBDL will be visiting OGWRP on September 9<sup>th</sup>. The District will also be hosting a tour for the OCR staff on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Development Office Report

Development Coordinator Erickson reported staff is working on the 90% design packet. He also reported he has not heard back from CBCD yet for RCPP application awards.

OGWRP: EL11.8 Delivery System

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the 90% design has been accepted. Several RCPP applications for grants have been submitted.

EL22.1 Delivery System Update

Assistant Manager Andreini reported staff is working towards 100% design. He reported there were no bids received for Regulators and Capacitors for the 34.5kV line extension. He requested authorization to make the purchase through Sourcewell. He presented the engineers' estimate in the amount of \$824,000 and reported a quote received from Wesco for \$713,246.76. Following discussion Director Baker moved to authorize the purchase of Regulators and Capacitors through Sourcewell. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

EL80.6 & EL84.7 Delivery System Update

Assistant Manager Andreini requested authorization to amend the RH2 contract to move the pumping plant further back to match the existing canal and work on the redesign of the HVAC system in the amount of \$44,586. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve amend TA #7, Amendment #2. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

**-2024-67-**

District Engineer Gonzalez reported on the update of the EL86.4 construction. He reported that the Electrical and Fiber Communications engineer's estimate given at the August Board meeting was incorrect and presented the correct estimate to be \$1.206 million, therefore has requested to award the Electrical and Fiber bid to Farmers Electric as the lowest responsive bidder at the amount of \$1.082 million plus taxes. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to award the Electrical and Fiber Communication bid. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

EL86.4 Delivery System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the project is moving forward and have been meeting with NRCS to gather plan information. The District is working with FCA on the economic study for the plan. The project is still on track to deliver for Fall 2025.

Watershed Plan Project Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported there is a scheduled meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup> to further discuss the distribution of remaining groundwater replacement contracts. Surveys will be provided to landowners to gather information.

Manager Simpson presented Resolution 2024-15, Policy for Symbols of Employee Recognition. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to adopt Resolution 2024-15 Policy for Symbols of Employee Recognition. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Resolution 2024-15

Ms. Jennifer Korfiatis gave an update on the website, newsletter, and video project.

Public Relations Update

Manager Simpson presented an amendment to the Jennifer Korfiatis Marketing, LLC Master Services Agreement to include an increase of \$10,000. Additional services have been provided for OGWRP and the 26 Mile canal break than anticipated in the Master Service Agreement. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to authorize an increase of \$10,000 to the contract, as discussed. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson presented an amendment to the Jennifer Korfiatis Marketing, LLC Master Services Agreement for continued public relations services to extend through October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to authorize a service extension date through Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> for the agreement, as discussed. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Special Projects Administrator Bischoff reported two legal descriptions were submitted to Adams County for Reclamation parcel to be transferred. He also reported Reclamation is working on title transfers.

Partial Title Transfer

Ryan Zane and Chuck Horgan from Bernando Wills Architect presented their Space Utilization Report. The findings included the facilities are well utilized, concrete structure is sturdy however, the facilities are outdated, and the improvement of these facilities are costly.

Space Utilization Study

Manager Simpson briefly reported details on his upcoming Washington D.C trip with SCBID and QCBID's Managers. Discussion topics for this trip will focus on title transfers, Colville Tribal relations, Reserved Power and OGWRP.

CBP Managers DC Trip

**-2024-68-**

Treasurer Dekker requested authorization to start foreclosure proceedings on delinquent accounts. She reported on attempting to contact the landowners regarding the delinquencies. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to authorize staff to start legal proceedings for delinquent accounts. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried. [Assessment Foreclosure Policy](#)

Manager Simpson reported the SCADA MOU is under review. He also reported the installation of pilot equipment will start soon. [CBP SCADA](#)

Manager Simpson reported there is a CBP water rights meeting later this month. The Districts will be meeting with Dan Haller. He also reported the request for an extension of a permit is included in the process.. [CBP Water Rights](#)

Manager Simpson reported the next Diversion Rate meeting will be at SCBID on September 12<sup>th</sup>. The focus of this meeting will be discussing the difference between existing methodology and an advanced payment model for capital projects. [Diversion Rate](#)

Assistant Manager Andreini requested authorization to change the PIPE-EL86.4-03 Order No. 1 to add an adjustment to the design of the turnout. The redesign will allow flexible underground fittings. The estimate for the redesign is \$42,281.79. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve authorization of the PIPE-EL86.4-03 Change Order No.1. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried. [Quotes & Bids](#)

Manager Simpson reported an ELC turnoff date of October 21<sup>st</sup> 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 gave a brief update on the canal break. He commented on the fantastic support that the District received from landowners and our community. There were reports of illegal water removal from the canal. He also reported the District expects to receive an insurance claim on flooded land. He also thanked EFO Manager Maynard and his team for their help in prompt water management throughout the repair. [ELC 26 Mile Canal Break Report](#)

Manager Simpson requested time in executive session to discuss non-bargaining unit employee's deferred compensation. [Non-Bargaining Unit Employee's Deferred Compensation](#)

Manager Simpson requested time in executive session to discuss the Secretary-Manager employment agreement. [Secretary-Manger Employment Agreement](#)

Deputy EFO Manager Maynard thanked Development Coordinator Erickson and Manager Simpson for the OGWRP tour and shared the compliments received of the EL47.5 pumping plant. He reported Regional Director Carrington will be attending a site visit and will be touring the EL86.4. He also gave an update on the Fox Farm report. [USBR Report\](#)

**-2024-69-**

Safety Supervisor Walraf presented the monthly safety report. She gave appreciation to the crew and reported staff were working long shifts during the canal breach. She also reported a Ditchrider has been hired and the District is accepting canal maintenance applications.

Safety Report

District Engineer Gonzalez reported the engineering department has been busy with EL86.4 construction, inspection, and surveying of the site. He reported staff engineer Hill is adjusting well to the District and has been working on canal inspections. A staff engineer applicant will be touring the Othello and Moses Lake site.

Engineer Report

Assistant Manager Andreini reported he was at the canal breach helping with repairs. He reported on a zoom interview and in-person interview for a potential Staff Engineer.

Assistant  
Manager for  
Technical  
Services

Treasurer Dekker reported she is working on foreclosures. She reported the DRS audit report has been completed. There were two investments and four maturities last month.

Treasurer  
Report

Assistant Manager McCourtie reported on both Watermaster section activities. He reported on the EL86.4 construction.

Assistant  
Manager O&M

Manager Simpson reported he will be absent the majority of the month and has directed Assistant Manager Andreini to be the emergency point of contact while he is gone. An assessment committee meeting will be scheduled this month.

Manager Report

The meeting recessed at 12:15 p.m., and reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

President Anderson declared an executive session at 3:15 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 4:00 p.m., the meeting was extended for 15 minutes. The meeting came out of executive session at 4:15 p.m.

Executive  
Session

Director Swinger moved to authorize a 2% increase to all non-bargaining unit employee's deferred compensation match effective September 15, 2024. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Other

Director Lyle moved to authorize a 5% increase to Manager Simpson's annual salary effective September 15, 2024. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Director Baker moved to authorize extended holiday leave to cover December 23<sup>rd</sup> through December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in appreciation of District employees and their work done for a prompt ELC 26 Mile repair. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Meeting  
Adjourned

At 4:15 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Board at that time, President Anderson adjourned the meeting.

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President

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Secretary

