

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

October 2, 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 and Amy Rodman, USBR; Paul Wollman, Jake Wollman Jr., Michael Raini, Derek Friehe, Randy Reber and Edward Stahl. Visitors

Visitors via teleconference: Jennifer Hickenbottom, USBR; Mike Schwisow, Consultant; Willy Walter, Eric Weber, Paul Wollman, Kirk Rathdrum and Eli Stahl.

President Anderson opened the hearing of petition for Inclusions of Lands. The hearing remained open until the end of the meeting. Minutes
Approved

Minutes of the regular meeting of September 4, 2024, had been mailed to the Directors. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 4, 2024, as written. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried. District
Improvements

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

Contracts

a. Renewal Interruptible Water Service Contract, Fox Circle, 470-806-803, 265 acres

Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve contract a., 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

a. Adams County DPW Fiber Utility Crossing Block 49, FU 81
b. Adams County DPW Underground Utility Crossing Block 49, FU 181/122

- c. Adams County DPW Underground Utility Crossing Block 49, FU 181
- d. Adams County DPW Underground Utility Crossing Block 49, FU 180/181
- e. Adams County DPW Underground Utility Crossing Block 49, FU 163
- f. Adams County DPW Underground Utility Crossing Block 49, FU 163/164
- g. Adams County DPW Underground Utility Crossing Block 49, FU 31
- h. Adams County DPW Underground Utility Crossing Block 49, FU 151/153
- i. Adams County DPW Underground Utility Crossing Block 49, FU 810
- j. Adams County DPW Underground Utility Crossing Block 45, FU 252
- k. Adams County DPW Underground Utility Crossing Block 45, FU 141

Manager Simpson presented the following agreements a - c., for board consideration:

Agreements

- a. Permanent Release of Water Allotment, Freeman Farms Land LLC, Block 49, Farm Unit 037-483-001, 20.4 acres
- b. Permanent Release of Water Allotment, Adan Garza Jr, Block 45, Farm Unit 208-396-004, 3.1 acres
- c. Permanent Release of Water Allotment, Nathan and Veronica Garza, Block 45, Farm Unit 208-396-003, 3.1 acres

Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve agreements a - c., as presented. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson reported no assents were received from Reclamation nor were any other comments received for the following Petition for Inclusion of Land:

- a. SDB Family Farms, Inclusion No. 239

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. 326985 through 327156 in the amount of \$1,795,141.14 and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of \$622,463.58 for a total of \$2,417,604.72 from the O&M Fund. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Vouchers

Manager Simpson presented Resolution 2024-16, Surplus Equipment for board approval. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to adopt Resolution 2024-16 as presented. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Resolution 2024-16

Development Coordinator Erickson reported on OGWRP related meetings and tours, including a tour with OCR Director Tebb and another with CBDL and Culton Consulting staff.

OGWRP

Development Coordinator Erickson reported staff is still waiting to hear from NRCS about RCPP grant awards. If awards are granted, the landowners have requested the District to manage, facilitate and construct the delivery system.

EL11.8 Delivery System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the 90% design has been accepted. Staff is still waiting to hear from RCPP for grant awards. If awards are granted, the landowners have requested the District to manage, facilitate and construct the delivery system.

[EL22.1 Delivery System Update](#)

Assistant Manager Andreini reported there will be a meeting later this month regarding 90% design and are still waiting for Reclamations' 90% approval letter for the EL80.6.

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

Development Coordinator Erickson reported 90% design is moving forward with both systems. He also reported landowners have agreed to fund the design cost of the EL 80.6 delivery system.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported Water Service Contracts for the EL84.7 delivery system will be executed at the beginning of 2025. CBCD continues to work on transitioning funds from the Technical Assistance to Finance Assistance.

District Engineer Gonzalez gave a construction update. He reported this month's focus is pipe installation and is looking to find alternatives to speed up the process. The system is on track for 2025 water season deliveries.

[EL86.4 Delivery System Update](#)

District Engineer Gonzalez requested authorization to call for coating and lining bids. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve the call for EL 86.4 coating and lining bids. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

[EL86.4 Delivery System Lining and Coating Bid](#)

Development Coordinator Erickson reported staff has been working with FCA to perform an economic study for the watershed plan. Reclamation and NRCS are working to refine their interagency MOU. He reported that access to RCPP funding is bound by certain rules.

[Watershed Plan Project Update](#)

Manager Simpson reported during his Washington D.C trip, he spoke of the dual federal design standards issue with Mr. Kevin Farmer, Director, NRCS Conservation Engineering Division. The Reclamation/NRCS MOU governs all projects, not just OGWRP.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the District held a public landowner meeting on September 13th. This meeting was very informative, and surveys were distributed to gather information to quantify the interest in the program based on a set criteria that the Board had previously directed.

[Remaining Acres](#)

PR Consultant Korfiatis gave an update on the website, and e-newsletter. She requested direction to work on a task order to select a vendor for text alerts. Manager Simpson presented the Jennifer Korfiatis Marketing, LLC Master Services Agreement Amendment for continued public relations services. The changes in the amendment included the date of the renewal contract and an increase rate in the amount of \$60,800. 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](#)

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

Special Projects Administrator Bischoff reported the title transfers are waiting for USBR commissioner approval.	<u>Partial Title Transfer</u>
Special Projects Administrator Bischoff requested direction to work on a task order for the next phase of this project.	<u>Space Utilization Study</u>
Manager Simpson reported the MOU is a requirement to access funds for SCADA. Manager Simpson recommended board approval to sign the CBP SCADA MOU. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.	<u>CBP SCADA</u>
Manager Simpson reported Dan Haller is creating a proposed methodology for CBP water rights to send to U.S Bureau of Reclamation and WA State Department of Ecology.	<u>CBP Water Rights</u>
Manager Simpson briefly reported on the Diversion Rate meeting held at the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District Office on September 12 th . He reported the parties have tentatively come to an agreement for the 2025-2029 Diversion Rate that will be set soon.	<u>Diversion Rate</u>
Manager Simpson presented the 2025 Operation and Maintenance Budget. The budget has been developed by District staff with recommendations from the Assessment Committee and Equipment Committee and presented to the Board of Directors for consideration. The budget estimates the 2025 basic Part 1 O&M expenditures to be \$22,361,000 and the 2025 basic Part 1 O&M income to be \$22,361,000. At this time, it is estimated that the 2024 O&M budget will finish the year with basic O&M expenses of \$39,725,000 and income of \$39,068,000. The 2025 O&M Budget proposes an average O&M assessment of \$79.64 per acre, an average increase of \$1.56 per acre over 2024. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve the recommended 2025 budget, as presented and discussed. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.	<u>2025 Budget</u>
Manager Simpson reported this year's NWSRA Annual Conference is scheduled during the District's November board meeting and suggested changing the date of the board meeting. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to change the November board meeting date to Monday, November 4, 2024. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.	<u>Board Meeting Date Changes</u>
Manager Simpson reported this year's WSWRA Annual Conference is scheduled during the District's December board meeting and suggested changing the date of the board meeting. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to change the November board meeting date to Monday, December 2, 2024. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.	
Manager Simpson reported the District's January board meeting is scheduled during on New Year's Day and suggested changing the date of the board meeting. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to change the January board meeting date to Wednesday, January 8, 2025. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.	

Assistant Manager McCourtie requested authorization to call for 1,000 gallons of Endothal (Cascade) bids. Director Swinger moved to approve a call for 1,000 gallons of Endothal (Cascade) bids, as requested. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Quotes & Bids

Assistant Manager McCourtie requested authorization to purchase (1) ½ ton pickup, (1) ½ 4x4 crew or ext. cab pickups, (1) ¾ ton 4x4 ext. cab pickup through the WA State Department of Enterprise Services. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the above stated purchase requests through the WA State Department of Enterprise Services. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Assistant Manager McCourtie requested authorization to purchase two dump trucks in the amount of \$215,156.12 with the approval interlocal agreement through Houston-Galveston Area Council. Both pieces of equipment are new. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the purchase of two new dump trucks in the amount of \$215,156.12 through Houston-Galveston Area Council. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Assistant Manager McCourtie requested authorization to purchase a new D4-sized dozer in the amount of \$278,186.51 through Sourcewell. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the purchase of a new D4-sized dozer in the amount of \$278,186.51 through Sourcewell. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Assistant Manager McCourtie reported the board had previously authorized staff to call for a dump truck through Special Market Conditions Resolution 2024-05. He reported staff purchased a used dump truck in the amount of \$270,000.

District Engineer Gonzalez presented Amendment No. 1 to the Anderson Perry Associates Task Order No. 3. He reported the task order amendment is in the amount of \$3,591.25 for the conservation pipeline. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve Anderson & Perry Associates Task Order No. 3, Amendment No. 1, as in the amount of \$3,591.25 as presented. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Anderson Perry & Associates Amended Task Order No. 3

As called for in statute and by District policy, Manager Simpson announced that the filing period was now open for Director Division No. 2, Incumbent Reid Baker. The Petition for Nomination, signed by at least 10 qualified voters from the division, must be filed in the East District's main office by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, November 4, 2024. The election date is Tuesday, December 10, 2024. A news release will be sent to area news outlets.

Announcement of Director Elections

As called for in statute and by District policy, Manager Simpson announced that the filing period was now open for Director Division No. 4, Incumbent Duaine Anderson. The Petition for Nomination, signed by at least 10 qualified voters from the division, must be filed in the East District's main office by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, November 4, 2024. The election date is December 10, 2024. A news release will be sent to area news outlets.

EFO Manager Maynard reported USBR staff are working on a SCADA cooperative agreement to allocate all funds to use for design and construction. He also gave an update on the supplemental feed route. EFO Manager Maynard reported Regional Director Carrington will be touring a few sites in the CBP.

USBR Report

Safety Supervisor Walraf presented the monthly safety report. She reported on the staffing of a new employee and will be posting more positions for construction workers and a ditch rider.

Safety Report

District Engineer Gonzalez reported the engineering department has been busy with EL86.4 joint testing. He reported on the tour he and other staff had with Tom Osborne, from BPA, for their ESRP program, which included visits to the EL47.5 and EL 86.4.

Engineer Report

Treasurer Dekker reported there were three investments and eight maturities last month. She also reported she attended the WFOA conference.

Treasurer Report

Assistant Manager Andreini reported on the tours and meetings he attended this month which included the Tri State Meeting and the Ecology tour with OCR Director Tebb. He reported Grant PUD is working on a cost estimate for the EL11.8 pumping plant delivery system. He also reported there will be a meeting with PUD to coordinate remaining issues with RH2 for the EL22.1 system. Assistant Manager Andreini reported he met with Rubicon to go over SCADA and will attend the test demonstration of the pilot program.

Assistant Manager Technical Services

Assistant Manager McCourtie reported on both Watermaster section activities. District crews have been preparing for the upcoming construction season. He also gave an update on the Saddle Gap Pumping Plant bearing issues. He and Safety Supervisor Walraf have been working with CIAW regarding EL 26 Mile insurance claims. Assistant Manager McCourtie requested time in executive session to discuss a tort claim.

Assistant Manager O&M

Manager Simpson reported his focus this month has been on the 2025 budget. He also reported on his tours and meetings this month including a tour with OCR Director Tebb. OCR Director Tebb informed he will be retiring and acknowledged all his support with OGWRP. Manager Simpson traveled to Washington D.C with SCBID Manager O'Callaghan and QCBID Manager Sonnichsen to meet with legislators. In those meetings, there was discussion of Reserved Power Issues and an update on title transfers along with OGWRP language on project completion. He also met with NRCS' Mr. Kevin Farmer and discussed the USDA commodities grant.

Manager Report

Manager Simpson reported NWRA has hired a new EVP and will be attending the NWRA Annual Conference in Albuquerque, NM next month. A new membership structure has been implemented.

Manager Simpson reported Reclamation sent the Kansas-Prairie #1 and Kansas Prairie #2 Siphons O&M transfer letter which requires a signature to formally accept the transfer. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to sign the Kansas Prairie #1 and Kansas Prairie #2 Siphons O&M transfer. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Other

President Anderson declared an executive session at 3:05 p.m., for a total of 15 minutes, to discuss litigation and potential litigation with legal counsel under RCW 42.30.110(i), the sale of property under RCW 42.30.110(c), and to review the performance of a public employee under RCW 42.30.110(g). The meeting came out of executive session at 3:20 p.m.

Executive Session

-2024-77-

At 3:20 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Board at that time, Meeting
President Anderson adjourned the meeting. Adjourned

President

Secretary

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