

-2025-01-

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

January 8, 2025

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  
Reid Baker  
Don Osborne  
Dennis Swinger, Jr.

Staff

Craig Simpson  
Rosa Dekker  
John McCourtie  
Nate Andreini  
Anna Franz

Staff

Bobby Bischoff  
Julio Gonzalez  
Jon Erickson  
Miriam Garcia

Visitors present: Marc Maynard and Amy Rodman, USBR; Kristina Ribellia and Audrey Rhodes, BBEC; Michael Rainis, Friehe Farms; Randy Kiesz, Gavin Johnson, Willy Walter, Keith Gross, and Olga Montoya, Larry Thomas, Alan Lackner Visitors

Visitors via teleconference: Jennifer Hickenbottom, USBR; Mike Schwisow, Government Relations Consultant; Eric Weber, Michele Kiesz, Mark Bohnet, Harold Crose, Raquel Ferrell Crowley, and Jake Wollman.

President Anderson opened the hearing of petition for Inclusions of Lands. The hearing remained open until the end of the meeting. CBP Inclusion Public Hearing

The Oath of Office has been administered to re-elected Reid Baker and Duaine Anderson. Oath of Office

President Anderson appointed Attorney Franz as temporary chair for the organization of the 2025 Board. Organization of the 2025 Board

Acting Chairwoman Franz opened nominations for President. Director Swinger moved to nominate Director Anderson for President, close the nominations, and direct the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot. Election of Officers

President Anderson assumed the chair and opened nominations for Vice-President. Director Swinger moved to nominate Director Baker for Vice-President, close the nominations, and direct the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot.

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

Minutes  
Approved

CBHP O&M Manager Larry Thompson introduced Alan Lackner, the new CBHP Manager.

Public Comment  
Period

Mrs. Olga Montoya requested a waiver for excess water billed. She explained that she and her husband are new tenants and that the landlord did not explain the process for ordering water. They last turned the water on in May and did not turn it off until September. She claims not to have used all of the water. The excess bill is in the amount of \$5,588.74. Director Osborne asked if there was any proof of power usage activity. President Anderson requested any consideration of the request wait until the tenant could provide the requested power usage information and any supporting documents for board review.

Approved & Issued Permits

- |                       |                            |                  |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| a. Jess Vanlandingham | Encroachment Road Approach | BLK 45, FU 252   |
| b. Adams County PW    | Utility Bore Crossing      | BLK 49, FU 37    |
| c. Adams County PW    | Utility Bore Crossing      | BLK 49, FU 73/76 |
| d. Adams County PW    | Utility Bore Crossing      | BLK 49, FU 224   |
| e. Adams County PW    | Utility Bore Crossing      | BLK 49, FU 810   |

District  
Improvements

Manager Simpson presented contract a. for board consideration:

Contracts

- a. Termination of Irrigation Water Service Contract, Gustavo and Arailia E. Martinez, 049-810-803-06, 3.7 acres

Manager Simpson reported this contract was approved by the Board in 2019, following a subdivision of land. The recording fee was never paid by the landowners, and therefore not recorded. Additionally, the landowners have not paid any assessments for the contract and haven't responded to billings or correspondence, and are therefore, delinquent and in breach of the contract. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to terminate contract a., as presented. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson presented agreement a. for board consideration:

Agreements

- a. Seasonal Change in Place of Use, Ralph Hirz, 190-030

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

Vouchers

the vouchers submitted for payment approval, Director Baker moved to approve for payment, check nos. 327545 through 327823 in the amount of \$1,521,994.19 and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of \$956,812.07 for a total of \$553,580.98 from the O&M Fund, \$848,774.38 from the Debt Service 2006 Fund, \$720,688.40 from the Power Fund, and \$355,762.50 from the 2016 Debt Service Fund. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson reported there were no proposed revisions to the Bylaws or to the current Rules and Regulations proposed at this time. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the board to reaffirm the Districts Bylaws. Changes to the Rules & Regulations were requested to address online water ordering. Reaffirm Bylaws and Rules & Regulations

The Board discussed the appointment of District personnel and Board members to committee positions. There were no changes to committee appointments. Director Baker moved to confirm the committee appointments. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried. Committee Appointments

**COMMITTEES**  
**Reserved Works**

**2025 APPOINTEES**  
Duaine Anderson  
Don Osborne  
Alternate Kevin Lyle  
Alternate Dennis Swinger, Jr.

**Power Authority**

Duaine Anderson  
Don Osborne  
Alternate Reid Baker  
Alternate Kevin Lyle

**Power Steering**

Anna Franz  
Duaine Anderson  
Alternate Don Osborne

**Quincy Chute &  
PEC Headworks Advisory**

Anna Franz  
Duaine Anderson  
Alternate Don Osborne

**Assessment Study**

Reid Baker  
Duaine Anderson  
Alternate Dennis Swinger, Jr.  
Alternate Kevin Lyle

**Equipment Committee**

Don Osborne  
Reid Baker  
Alternate Kevin Lyle  
Alternate Duaine Anderson

**Diversion Rate**

Anna Franz  
Craig Simpson  
Duaine Anderson

-2025-04-

Alternate Reid Baker \_\_\_\_\_  
Alternate Kevin Lyle \_\_\_\_\_

**Finance Committee**

Duaine Anderson \_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Lyle \_\_\_\_\_  
Alternate Reid Baker \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Hydropower  
Development Committee**

Don Osborne \_\_\_\_\_  
Craig Simpson \_\_\_\_\_  
Alternate Duaine Anderson \_\_\_\_\_

**2nd Half Planning**

Dennis Swinger, Jr. \_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Lyle \_\_\_\_\_  
Alternate Duaine Anderson \_\_\_\_\_  
Alternate Reid Baker \_\_\_\_\_

**Trail Lake Committee**

Craig Simpson \_\_\_\_\_  
Duaine Anderson \_\_\_\_\_

Director Swinger moved to adopt Resolution 2025-01 appointing the District's delegates and alternates to the Project Reserved Works Committee. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Resolution 2024-01

Manager Simpson presented Resolution 2025-02, Requirements for Municipal and Industrial Contract Water Deliveries from OGWRP Delivery Systems. The resolution addresses supply of M&I contract water from an OGWRP delivery system and how that contract would pay its share of the capital costs for the program up front. He reported landowners can request to receive an M&I water supply from Reclamation. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to adopt Resolution 2025-02, M&I Contract. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried

Resolution 2024-02

Assistant Manager McCourtie presented Resolution 2025-03, Declaration of Special Market Conditions. Similar to previous circumstances of the availability of used equipment, the Equipment Committee approved purchases of the following used equipment: (1) Tractor (lowboy) in the amount of \$120,000.00, plus sales tax, (1) 22T Boom Truck in the amount of \$200,000, plus sales tax, (1) water truck in the amount of \$45,000.00, plus sales tax, and (1) forklift in the amount of \$45,000.00 plus sales tax. The resolution declares the special market condition for the purchases. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to adopt Resolution 2025-03. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried

Resolution 2024-03

Manager Simpson reported the current Resolution 2019-02, Travel Expense Reimbursement Policy limit for meals is due for review and possible adjustment. He verbally provided the range of updated state and federal limits. An updated resolution will be presented at the next board meeting.

Travel Reimbursement

-2025-05-

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

Petition for  
Inclusion of Land

- a. SDB Family Farms, Inclusion No. 239
- b. Janice K. Williams Etal Inclusion No. 240

Ms. Carolyn Kadyk from Ag-Forestry gave a brief presentation and discussed the status of the Ag-Forestry foundation and program.

Ag-Forestry  
Presentation

Treasurer Dekker presented the following active District Bank accounts for ratification:

Ratify District  
Bank Accounts

Institution	Account No.	Type of Account
US Bank	xxxx xxxx 6314	Checking Account
US Bank	xxxx xxxx 6892	Municipal Investor Account
STCU	xxxxxx0818	Money Market Account
Banner Bank	xxxxx4815	Public Funds Deposit Account

Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to ratify District bank accounts as presented. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson reported as of today, not all association dues invoices have been received and requested authorization to pay dues as budgeted for in 2025. Manager Simpson recommended the District become an individual member of NWRA for an amount of \$3,000. It would provide the District, and Washington State, the opportunity to run for one of four recently established seats on the NWRA Board. Director Swinger moved to approve payment of the District's dues and memberships as budgeted and to become an individual member of NWRA for an amount of \$3,000. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Association Dues

Manager Simpson reported that during the December Board Meeting, the Board authorized him to travel to D.C the first week of February to meet new congressional appointees and their staff at the beginning of the new Congress to start advocacy for NWRA's 2025 priorities. This would conflict with the regularly scheduled February board meeting and recommended it be changed. Manager Simpson recommended the board to change the February Board Meeting Date to Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve the February Board Meeting date change to February 10<sup>th</sup>. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

February Board  
Meeting Date  
Change

President Anderson suggested changing the Board Meeting start time to 9:00 am. Director Lyle suggested a compromise to change the start time to 9:30 am. Following discussion, Director Baker motioned to change the Board Meeting start time to 9:00 am starting at the next Board Meeting. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Board Meeting  
Start Time

District Engineer Gonzalez presented the general service agreement with Control Systems Northwest (CSNW). He recommended approval of the agreement with Control Systems Northwest for programming services. Assistant Manager Andreini mentioned the general service agreement will provide the District with a unified programmer working for the District and not a contractor. Following discussion, Director Baker moved

OGWRP:  
Development  
Office Report

-2024-06-

to approve the execution of a service agreement with Control Systems Northwest. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported MHB are working on executing a task order with IRZ Engineering. They are still willing to use \$30 million as

EL11.8 Delivery System Update

a match to State funds to the remaining amount. Assistant Manager Andreini reported he has not seen any design updates of the EL11.8 for a couple of months now.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported staff continues to work with the landowner group on design efforts for the EL22.1 delivery system. Development Coordinator Erickson reported he met with the EL22.1 landowner group executive committee. The landowners are being assisted by a lobbyist who is working on gaining access to the Climate Commitment Act money. He also reported on plans to build the system in a phased funding approach in order to spend current grant funds and will be evaluating the benefit of this approach to the District.

EL22.1 Delivery System Update

District Engineer Gonzalez reported the District staff have provided their comments on the 100% design to RH2 Engineering. Development Coordinator Erickson reported NRCS and CBCD are working to get supplemental agreements completed for the financial assistance of the delivery systems. There is a meeting scheduled with CBCD later this month to discuss the interlocal agreement that reimburses the District. NRCS is still working on the details for providing reimbursements with grant funds. Equipment must be installed and accepted but the details of this requirement are still unclear.

EL80.6 Delivery System Update

Assistant Manager Andreini reported he needs to talk to Reclamation regarding a late design change and needs to schedule a meeting for Reclamations 100% approval of the delivery system.

EL84.7 Delivery System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the District has provided our comments on the 100% design to RH2 Engineering. He reported there was a landowner meeting held on January 7<sup>th</sup> where they collectively expressed interest in paying a per acre charge to fund the remaining amount of capital needed for the system. Landowners are eager to start the procurement and construction process due to the escalating increase in cost of materials and labor.

District Engineer Gonzalez gave a construction update. He reported the control building has arrived and pipeline continues to be installed. There are scheduled road crossings this month. The system is on track to be completed for the 2025 water season.

EL86.4 Delivery System Update

District Engineer Gonzalez presented CSNW Task Order No. 1 for programming services of the EL86.4 delivery system for board approval. He reported the task order is in the amount of \$74,706.00. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve CSNW Task Order No. 1 in the amount of \$74,706.00 as presented. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

CSNW Task Order

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

-2024-07-

Development Coordinator Erickson reported NRCS has granted additional funds for the continuation of the Watershed Plan. He and Manager Simpson have met with NRCS, OCR, and Reclamation to discuss acreage options. He reported the project is moving forward and completion is scheduled for late Fall 2025/early Winter 2025.

Watershed Plan

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the additional acres request application was sent to all landowners. The deadline for the application, with its \$2/acre fee, is

Additional Acres

January 17<sup>th</sup>. He reported some landowners have expressed interest in creating their own design for delivery systems.

On behalf of PR Consultant Korfiatis, Manager Simpson presented the "Year in Review" report. He gave an update of the vendors for push notifications and recommended subscribing to Tixedley for a trial period. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve subscribing to Tixedley for push notifications for one year. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Public Relations Update

Special Projects Administrator Bischoff reported he continues to meet weekly with Bernardo Wills and is working on estimating costs of constructing a new building based on the District's needs. The next step in this phase is for staff to identify potential locations.

Space Utilization Study

Special Projects Administrator Bischoff reported the briefings regarding the title transfers have been approved at the commissioner level. EFO Manager Maynard reported the commissioner has signed approval to proceed with the title transfers.

Partial Title Transfer

Special Projects Administrator Bischoff Manager reported the Water Savings Commodities Grant agreement was finalized and signed which secured the \$15 million grant allocated to the District for conservation projects. There are indications that there maybe is an additional \$10 million available. He reported he turned in the work plan to USDA but has not received comments or approval yet.

USDA Water Savings Commodities Grant

Manager Simpson reported the SCADA plan is moving forward, work is still being performed on the pilot phase. He reported the draft SCADA cooperative agreement is out for internal review. This is a funding agreement between ECBID, QCBID, and SCBID. There is a meeting next week to discuss comments. He requested conditional approval to sign the SCADA cooperative agreement at the Manager's and Attorney's discretion. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to authorize conditional approval of the SCADA cooperative funding agreement. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

SCADA

Manager Simpson reported there was a meeting held on January 6<sup>th</sup> with consultant Dan Haller to go over water right requests and their authorities for the Columbia Basin Project. District Managers and consultant Haller are working on a proposal to present to Reclamation. EFO Manager Maynard reported there will be a meeting held on March 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss water rights and the CBP Districts' proposal.

CBP Water Rights

Manager Simpson reported the diversion rate setting transmittal letter was received. The rate is as discussed, and Reclamation has allowed a 6% escalation factor for the rate

Diversion Rate

over the 5-year rate period. EFO Manager Maynard reported this was a positive step towards the Diversion rate but will increase budget planning for the Districts as they move forward with the proposal to separate out capital cost funding from the diversion rate.

District Engineer Gonzalez requested conditional approval to award EL 26-mile repair bids. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to authorize the Manager to award the EL 26-mile repair bid for a bid price not to exceed 120% of the engineer's estimate for repairs. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

[Quotes & Bids](#)

Assistant Manager McCourtie presented the following bids for 3,960 gallons of Polyurea sealant for board consideration:

Supplier	Amount
Estimate	\$633,600.00
Matheson Painting, Inc.	\$453,380.40
Columbia Industrial Coatings	\$487,080.00

It was reported that Matheson Painting, LLC had incomplete bid submittals, and therefore should be declared non-responsive for not meeting the District's bid specifications. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to declare Matheson Painting Inc., as non-responsive for not meeting District bid specifications and to accept the bid from Columbia Industrial Coatings in the amount of \$487,080.00, plus sales tax, as the lowest responsive bid. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Assistant Manager McCourtie requested ratification of the purchase of the second trench compaction roller from Sourcewell in the amount of \$43,897.82. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to ratify the purchase of the second trench roller in the amount of \$43,897.82. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson reported on the large attendance at the conference, workshops, and that Attorney Franz was a speaker. He also reported he and staff met with Regional Director Carrington and Reclamation staff during the conference. President Anderson, Directors Swinger and Lyle, Assistant Manager Andreini, District Engineer Gonzalez, Special Projects Administrator Bischoff, and Executive Secretary Garcia also briefly commented on the conference.

[WSWRA Annual Conference Update](#)

Manager Simpson reported the City of Othello Parks & Recreation is seeking support from the community through sponsorships for the 2025 sports season. They have requested the District consider donating to make this year's sports season a success. We have not donated to similar local requests in any of our service area's communities historically. He reported, as a public agency, the District cannot legally sponsor these events. He brought the request to the Board's attention to confirm that he had the authority to decline requests when they would violate the prohibition on gifting of public funds. The Board concurred.

[City of Othello Parks and Recreation Sponsorship](#)

Manager Simpson reported there is a quote for asbestos abatement for the Warden House. Historically, rent collected from District housing is used towards the maintenance

[District Housing](#)

-2025-09-

of the buildings. Manager Simpson requested the Board's input on continuing to spend money on the rehabilitation of the houses. The Board discussed the benefit of providing low cost housing for employees, even if repairs increased rental rates. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the abatement from AMS Asbestos and Mold Solutions in the amount of \$29,423.94, plus sales tax. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson reported that canal start-up dates will be set at the upcoming Reserved Works meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Manager Simpson recommended a start-up date of Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, for the East Low Canal. This date falls within the March 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> window previously established by the Reserved Works Committee. Deliveries would begin the following Monday. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the board to set the ELC start-up date for Thursday, March 20, 2025.

ELC Start-up  
Date

EFO Maynard gave a brief update on the SCADA cooperative agreement and commented on the upcoming Reserved Works meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>. He reported a water rights meeting will be scheduled with USBR Odessa Project Manager Hickenbottom.

USBR Report

Safety Supervisor Walraf presented the monthly safety report and gave a staffing update. She reported there is a communication technician position currently open. She reported the L&I factor had an increase of 3.8%.

Safety Report

District Engineer Gonzalez reported the engineering department has been busy with EL86.4 construction, surveying, inspections, and conservation pipelines. He reported he attended a supervisor training at SCBID. EFO Manager Maynard commented on the WaterSmart grant regarding the conservation pipelines. He reported that Reclamation is working on the NHPA documentation and it will be sent out at the end of the following week. The review period will continue for another thirty days due to the tribe not concurring with the comments.

Engineer Report

Assistant Manager Andreini reported he has been working on the EL 26-mile repair plan. He reported three 100% design review of OGWRP delivery systems are completed, and the SCADA master plan review.

Technical  
Services Report

Treasurer Dekker reported the administration department has been busy with segregations, water allotment releases, and 10(d) transfers. She reported there were 7 maturities, and 9 investments placed, and the audit began last month.

Treasurer  
Report

Assistant Manager McCourtie reported both Watermaster sections continued winter projects. He reported Reclamation inspected a list of O&M facilities requested previously. He gave a brief update on the EL 26-mile breach and its repair plan. He also reported there is a tort claim resulting from weed rack burning.

O&M Report

Manager Simpson reported he will be traveling to D.C the first week of February during the new congressional session and may meet with the department of agriculture staff. He hopes to meet with NRCS regarding advance payment and anything relevant towards NRCS funding of the OGWRP systems. Manager Simpson gave the updated

Manager Report

list of budgeted dues/memberships the District pays. He reported there is nothing new to report regarding the grant for installation of battery backup for pumping plants with FCA. He requested time in the executive session for a personnel update.

Attorney Franz reported assessment foreclosures have started.

Attorney Report

Director Lyle moved to authorize the Board and appropriate staff to travel to the Tri-State Meeting, Friday, January 31st, 2025 in Boise, ID; the CBP Canal Operations Training, January 13-16, 2025, in Denver, CO; the Utilities Technology Forum 2025, February 3-6, 2025, in Silver Legacy Resort Casino, Reno, NV; and the NWRA 2025 Policy Conference, April 28-30, 2025, in Washington, D.C. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Travel  
Authorization

President Anderson declared an executive session at 3:45 p.m., for a total of 5 minutes, to discuss personnel under RCW 42.30.110(g). The meeting came out of executive session at 3:50 p.m.

Executive  
Session

At 3:50 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 board meeting and adjourned the meeting.

Meeting  
Adjourned



\_\_\_\_\_  
President



\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary