

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

September 3, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District was called to order at 9:00 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

Jon Erickson  
Bobby Bischoff  
Julio Gonzalez  
Miriam Garcia

Visitors present: Marc Maynard and Jennifer Hickenbottom, USBR; Kristina Ribellia and Griffin Hansen, CBCD; Paul Wollman, MHB, and Michael Rainis. Visitors

Visitors via teleconference: Jake Wollman, and Michele Kiesz.

President Anderson welcomed Michael Rainis with the EL 22.1 Delivery System landowner group. Manager Simpson reported that Mr. Getzinger expressed interest in attending the September Board Meeting to discuss the interest charges on his bill. His RRA paperwork was incomplete for 2024. Mr. Getzinger has indicated he objects to paying the full-cost bill and is going to dispute the interest charges on his full-cost bill. The interest in the full-cost bill will be assessed by Reclamation. Mr. Getzinger was not in attendance.

Minutes  
Approved

Staff Recognition

Minutes of the regular meeting of August 6, 2025, and special meeting of August 26, 2025, had been mailed to the Directors. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 6, 2025, and special meeting minutes of August 26, 2025, as written. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

District  
Improvements

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

Approved & Issued Permits

a. Big Bend Electric	Relocation of Existing Powerline	Farm Unit 116-810
b. Grant PUD	Overhead Fiber Crossing	Block 40
c. Grant PUD	Overhead Fiber Crossing	Block 40, FU 180
d. Grant PUD	Overhead Fiber Crossing	Block 41, FU 84/85

- |                         |                         |                  |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| e. Grant PUD<br>104/106 | Overhead Fiber Crossing | Block 41, FU     |
| f. Grant PUD            | Overhead Fiber Crossing | Block 41, FU 233 |

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

Agreement

- a. Agreement for Permanent Release of Water Allotment, BLK Cow Farms, LLC, 45-262-000-000-00, 6.0 acres

Manager Simpson reported this agreement for permanent release of water allotment is the portion of a subdivision. BLK Cow Farms would like to retain their irrigable status for a larger parcel of 57.6 acres and have requested an exemption. They are requesting approval for the permanent release of water allotment for 6 acres of lot No. 2. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve agreement 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 comparative 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. 329242 through 329291 in the amount of \$1,036,800.05 and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of \$626,883.70 for a total of \$107,201.42 from the O&M Fund. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Vouchers

Assistant Manager Andreini presented the RH2 Engineering General Services Agreement. The agreement is a renewal of the original agreement entered into, in 2020, which has since expired. Specific engineering projects will be presented as needed by task authorizations. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the RH2 Engineering General Services Agreement for services to be provided by RH2. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

RH2 Engineering  
General Services  
Agreement

Manager Simpson presented Resolution 2025-13, Policy and Procedures for District Election. He reported the Election laws for irrigation districts were updated. The District had already instituted many of these updates prior to the passage of the new legislation. Attorney Franz updated the Resolution to reflect the changes that occurred. A few major changes included the filing date, the canvass date change, and the qualifications of an elector. Following discussion, Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried with Director Osborne voting nay.

Resolution 2025-  
13, Policy and  
Procedures for  
District Elections

Manager Simpson reported one of the major changes in the District irrigation election laws included updating the election voting format, allowing the Board to opt for voting with mail-in ballots only when conducting an election. Manager Simpson recommended the Board adopt the election voting format process to include all mail-in votes. A Resolution updating the election voting format and election process will be presented at the October Board meeting. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve

Election Voting  
Format

adopting the use of all mail-in votes as the voting format for District elections. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson presented the Power Purchase and Sale Agreement Amendment (Avista). CBHP Manager Lackner sent an amended contract with Avista to change the start date of power sales from the PEC Headworks/Quincy Chute projects. He reported that Quincy Chute and the PEC Headworks will be starting power sales to Avista next year. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve the Power Purchase and Sale Agreement Amendment with Avista. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Power Purchase  
and Sale  
Agreement  
Amendment  
(Avista)

Development Coordinator Erickson reported there has been discussion about a private vs. a public delivery system for the EL 11.8 Delivery System and how they will move forward. MHB intends to move forward with the delivery system and is waiting to see if funding will be made available. Development Coordinator Erickson reported the 90% design review by Reclamation was completed, and staff are waiting for IRZ to review comments.

OGWRP:  
EL11.8 Delivery  
System

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the EL 22.1 landowners have accepted and executed their portion of the MOU as presented to them. This is the next step forward toward the construction phase. The MOU runs until May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2029, to allow construction activities to take place. The MOU is a guidance for the construction of the delivery system and can be updated. In addition to the MOU, the District will require a funding agreement between the landowners and the District. Development Coordinator Erickson presented the EL 22.1 MOU for board consideration. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to execute the EL 22.1 MOU. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

EL22.1 Delivery  
System Update

Manager Simpson reported there was an EL 22.1 update meeting in Spokane with OCR, and Reclamation on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Reclamation stated that the cultural resources studies have been completed and will follow with the environmental study. He reported that construction in the canal this winter is not possible. An ambitious goal for the delivery system is to start canal work next winter.

EFO Manager Maynard reported Karrisa McDonald with Reclamation is finishing up the easements for the EL 84.7 Delivery System and will follow with the EL 80.6 Delivery System, and powerline easements. The EL 22.1 Delivery System alignment does not have 1890 reservations on all lands to be crossed, and therefore, easements are anticipated to take longer to acquire. He reported that due to the loss of staff at Reclamation and the volume of easements to acquire, exploration of NRCS staff assisting with easement acquisitions is being discussed. The NRCS easement team for the State of Washington is working with Karissa McDonald with Reclamation to compare the way easements are acquired by each federal agency. If NRCS can help, a cost estimate will be provided for the work done. The easement acquisition timeline is currently 12-18 months out from the start of the process and review of the lands.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the EL 22.1 landowner group is working on an administrative grant with USDA, and the Office of Columbia River has requested a third-party engineer estimate for the delivery system along with and ECBID estimate.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the Development Office is working with the Office of Columbia River (OCR) and Department of Ecology (DOE) to receive water right evaluations from DOE to finalize water service contracts for the EL 80.6 Delivery System. The water service contracts will be recommended for execution at the next Board meeting. He reported that the ability to get the water service contracts in place will help expedite construction after the approval of the 100% design. The procurement phase activities will follow after the execution of the water service contracts with the intent of working on sump construction in the East Low Canal in the winter.

Assistant Manager Andreini reported the EL 80.6 Delivery System 100% design comments by Reclamation have been addressed. The District is waiting for Reclamation to accept the design. The bid documents have been submitted to Reclamation and staff are waiting for them to accept. He also reported that the District is waiting on the execution of water service contracts to go out to bid for the delivery system.

EL80.6 Delivery System Update

Assistant Manager Andrein presented Task Authorization No. 1 (Services During Construction). This task authorization is to provide limited engineering services during construction for the Orman Johnson Pumping Plant and EL 84.7 pipeline in the amount of \$202,427. He reported most construction work will be inspected by the engineering department, but RH2 Engineering will provide review of major submittals and electrical engineering services. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve Task Authorization No. 1 (Services During Construction), not to exceed the amount of \$202,427. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

EL84.7 Delivery System Update

Task Authorization No. 1 (Services During Construction)

District Engineer Gonzalez presented the following COAT-EL84.7-01 bids for board consideration:

Award COAT-EL84.7-01 Bid

	<b>Bidder</b>	<b>Bid Amount</b>
	Engineers Estimate	\$91,800.00
<b>1</b>	<b>Columbia Industrial Coatings</b>	<b>\$60,760.00</b>

District Engineer Gonzalez reported he received one coating bid, from Columbia Industrial Coatings, and recommended the board to accept it as the lowest responsive bid. Director Lyle moved to accept the bid from Columbia Industrial Coatings in the amount of \$60,760.00 plus sales tax, as the lowest responsive bid. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

District Engineer Gonzalez presented the following PIPE-EL84.7-04 bids for board consideration:

Award PIPE-EL84.7-04 Bid

	<b>Bidder</b>	<b>Bid Amount</b>
	Engineers Estimate	\$661,084.26
<b>1</b>	<b>Lad Irrigation</b>	<b>\$682,266.85</b>
2	Consolidated Supply	\$807,007.52
3	HD Fowler	\$811,893.15

District Engineer Gonzalez reported this bid is for the valves and flow meters that will be used for the EL 84.7 Delivery system. He recommended the board award the bid to Lad Irrigation as the lowest responsive bid. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to accept the bid from Lad Irrigation in the amount of \$682,266.85, plus sales tax, as the lowest responsive bid. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

District Engineer Gonzalez presented the following Concrete Vaults-EL84.7-01 quotes for board consideration:

Award Concrete  
Vaults-EL84.7-01  
Bid

	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Bid Amount</b>
1	Engineer's Estimate	\$190,000
<b>2</b>	<b>M1-Tanks</b>	<b>\$215,514.00</b>

District Engineer Gonzalez reported this bid is for the manholes and air vents. He received one bid from M-1 tanks and recommended the board accept M-1 Tanks as the lowest responsive bid. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to accept the bid from M-1 tanks in the amount of \$215,514.00, plus sales tax, as the lowest responsive quote. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

District Engineer Gonzalez presented the following Orman Johnson Pumping Plant bids for board consideration:

Award Orman  
Johnson Pumping  
Plant Bid

	<b>Bidder</b>	<b>Bid Amount</b>
	Engineer's Estimate	\$18,734,000
<b>1.</b>	<b>Tapani, Inc.</b>	<b>\$12,331,000</b>
2.	C&E Trenching	\$12,453,500
3.	Rotschy, Inc.	\$13,070,748
4.	PCI	\$13,382,500
5.	Mountain States Construction	\$13,555,150
6.	Game, Inc.	\$13,870,000
7.	Belsaas & Smith	\$13,906,000
8.	Garco Construction	\$14,295,000
9.	Apollo	\$15,128,000
10.	Clearwater Construction & Management	\$16,173,903

District Engineer Gonzalez reported this bid is for the Orman Johnson Pump Plant with the electrical and fiber installation. The District received ten bids and recommended that the board accept Tapani, Inc. as the lowest responsive bid in the amount of

\$12,331,000. This amount was \$5.5 million less than the engineer's estimate of \$18,734,00. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to accept the bid from Tapani, Inc. in the amount of \$12,331,000, plus sales tax, as the lowest responsive bid. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

District Engineer Gonzalez presented PIPE-EL84.7-03 Change Order No. 1. He reported that PIPE-EL84.7-01 had been awarded to Future Pipe Industries, but the EL 84.7 Delivery System has undergone design changes. The change order is for a design change of the alignment, moving the offset air valves to the center of the pipeline in the new amount of \$3,342,985, plus sales tax after a \$8,755 deduction. EFO Manager Maynard reported the design changes were updated to Reclamation standards. He is working with Jennifer Hickenbottom, with Reclamation, and TSC to reflect the design changes. The onsite inspector has also updated the design changes on the shared website that Reclamation can view. There was also a revision of the delivery date to accept the extension date to allow Future Pipe Industries to obtain a performance bond. A performance bond was not obtained; therefore, Future Pipe Industries will provide a cash deposit in lieu of the performance bond. If no claim occurs, then the cash returns to Future Pipe Industries. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve PIPE-EL84.7-03 Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$3,342,985, plus sales tax. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

PIPE-EL84.7-03  
Change Order  
No. 1

Director Lyle asked if the District would go out to bid for the powerline. Assistant Manager Andreini reported the plan for the powerline is to go out to bid next year. There is no anticipated date yet.

District Engineer Gonzalez reported the EL 86.4 Delivery System has been delivering water with some issues encountered. One issue was the computer in the control building was overheating. Control Systems Northwest is working on solving this issue. He also reported that the valve manufacturer's representative will be on site to recommission some valves. They are currently scheduled to arrive on site in October, but the District is attempting to have them on site at an earlier date. Director Lyle asked if Reclamation has accepted the EL 86.4 Delivery System. Manager Simpson replied that all work needs to be completed before the District asks Reclamation for acceptance of the delivery system.

EL86.4 Delivery  
System Update

Manager Simpson reported there was a joint meeting with FCA, NRCS, and CBCD to discuss the Watershed Plan Project. Development Coordinator Erickson reported NRCS has been working on a waiver for Watershed Plan development. Manager Simpson reported the waiver was initially not accepted with the Odessa Subarea Special Study; however, FCA is suggesting another request of a waiver. Development Coordinator Erickson reported there is an additional \$740,000 in NRCS grants to supplement the initial Watershed Plan funding. The District is working with Kristina Ribellia and CBCD to find a streamlined way to request these funds.

Watershed Plan  
Project Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported there are currently nine systems that have been broken into individual MOU landowner groups. There was a landowner meeting on August 28<sup>th</sup> for three of the systems to discuss the option between a public system and a private delivery system. There was also discussion about whether the delivery system designs would be led by the District or the landowner groups, which will be

Remaining Acres

incorporated into the MOUs. There is a scheduled landowner meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup> to meet with the remaining six landowner groups. It is anticipated that subsequent meetings will move into the discussions about creating funding agreements with a starting \$100/acre landowner contribution since there is currently no funding available. Development Coordinator Erickson reported the prioritization of delivery systems will be the systems that are ready and willing to move forward to start design efforts.

Director Lyle asked for an update on the Adams County Bridges. Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff reported that Adams County plans to start spoil removal work on the Sackman Road Bridge this fall. EFO Manager Maynard reported that Article 9 work is being completed and will be mailing letters this week. Jennifer Hickenbottom with Reclamation has confirmed they reviewed the 100% design. Director Lyle asked if they are designed to the ultimate width and President Anderson asked if the bridges are necessary. Manager Simpson commented that bridge improvements are not currently needed for projects funded and under construction. He commented that M&I water service contracts will be the first to be interrupted, followed afterwards by groundwater replacement contracts, if needed. Manager Simpson reported we are in support of bridge replacements but will not be discussing this topic on the CBP legislative trip in Washington, D.C this month.

PR Consultant Korfiatis gave an update on the website. There was an increase in website users in the month of August, targeting the job postings and bids & quotes pages. She gave an update on the ADA accessibility website compliance and made the executive decision to work with a vendor to conduct a website audit. She reported she will be reviewing a cost estimate from a selected third-party vendor. The compliance deadline is April 2027.

Public Relations Update

Manager Simpson reported there will be a groundbreaking ceremony for the EL 84.7 Delivery System in October, and staff will be inviting Tapani to be on site. The District would prefer the ceremony to take place before the end of the water season.

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff reported the MOA is at the solicitor level for review of verbiage. Attorney Franz provided an update that all changes had been addressed by the solicitor and the MOA had been forwarded to Reclamation for approval. We are waiting for their approval of the MOA.

Partial Title Transfer

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff reported there was a scheduled meeting with Bernardo Wills Architects on September 11<sup>th</sup> to review the cost estimate report of a possible headquarters relocation. There is no current plan in place as staff will be reviewing and evaluating the cost estimate report.

Headquarters Relocation Assessment

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff reported the portfolio is under review by agency leadership. He has been reaching out to USDA for updates on the application status.

USDA Water Savings Commodities

Assistant Manager Andreini reported there are issues with the SCADA funding agreement with Reclamation. Manager Simpson reported the SCADA funding process with Reclamation has been disappointing since the funding agreement was approved

CBP SCADA

by the Districts, but not Reclamation, before the change in federal administration. There have been issues with Reclamation's grant agreement as they continue to add more conditions beyond what was agreed to in February. The new SCADA system for transferred works will be owned by the three CBP Districts.

Manager Simpson reported there was a Water Rights meeting on August 27<sup>th</sup> in Spokane with DOE. He reported there was a good exchange between the three CBP Districts, Reclamation, OCR, and the ECY's Eastern Region. During this meeting, it was decided to pursue the request for no acreage or a defined acreage that covers the expansion of the CBP. Manager Simpson was pleased with Eastern Region's Section Manager Jamie Short for her consideration of the acreage issues. EFO Manager Maynard reported there has been an agreement on the points that were presented and will continue working on the acres for water rights. There will be a follow-up meeting at the Ephrata Field Office at the end of September. He is optimistic that the issues will be resolved as the Eastern Region did not oppose the proposal. Manager Simpson reported there is a scheduled District project operations tour on October 9<sup>th</sup> with ECY's Eastern Region personnel.

CBP Water Rights

Manager Simpson reported the ELC turnoff date of October 22<sup>nd</sup> was set at the Reserved Works meeting. Other topics of discussion were planned maintenance, the Potholes supplemental feed route, the evacuation route, budget review, and Keys Plant updates.

Reserved Works Meeting Report

President Anderson reported that the Secretary-Manager Employment Agreement review will be tabled for the October Board meeting. Manager Simpson requested that any salary considerations be retroactive to September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to table the Secretary-Manager Employment Agreement review to the October Board meeting and have any salary adjustment be retroactive to September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Secretary-Manager Employment Agreement

As called for in statute and by District policy, Manager Simpson announced that the filing period was now open for Director Division No. 5, Incumbent Kevin Lyle. 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 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 6, 2025. The election date is Tuesday, December 9, 2025. A news release will be sent to area news outlets.

Announcement of Director Elections

EFO Manager Maynard gave a brief update on correspondence received by Columbia Basin Railroad. He reported the bypass was turned on and left on over the weekend. Columbia Basin Railroad stated in their letter that permission to use the bypass pipeline was revoked. Reclamation is working on a response to Columbia Basin Railroad and will be discussing with their solicitor for further legal review. He also reported that Troy Waters with Reclamation is working with SCBID Manager John O'Callaghan on the SCADA agreement and the Build America, Buy America waiver.

USBR Report

Director Lyle asked for an update on the EL 47.5 Delivery System transfer and if the system has been accepted. EFO Manager Maynard reported Jennifer Hickenbottom has a plan in place to loop together both the EL 47.5 Delivery System and EL 86.4 Delivery System to accept transfer. He reported that Acting Regional Director Springer is not engaged in any discussions.

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff gave a brief update on vehicle incidents that have occurred in the past month. Safety Report

Manager Simpson gave an update on the support letter by FFA and NWRA providing recommendations for Reclamation efficiencies. The recommendations included streamlining NHPA compliance, updating general oversight of construction, and defining differences in operational contractors and commercial contractors. They have met with Reclamation and stated they are open to discussion. He also reported that Columbia Basin Railroad sent correspondence regarding the use of the failed pipeline, and bypass, and stated they have revoked permission to use the pipeline. Reclamation did not transfer the facility to the District for O&M. EFO Manager Maynard reported that a formal response will be sent with regard to the railroad's letter and will state it is not the District's or Reclamation's responsibility to provide the repairs. President Anderson asked if the District or Reclamation had tried to work with them. Manager Simpson reported that the District helped with our pipe camera and repair concepts. Manager Simpson announced the retirement of Mike Schwisow, the District's legislative liaison. Mr. Schwisow reported he enjoyed his work with the CBP Districts and stated that the District has full access to his knowledge and will be available if needed. Manager Simpson requested time in executive session to discuss personnel and union contract negotiations. Manager Report

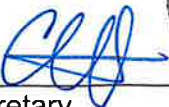
Development Coordinator Erickson reported on an upcoming tour with congressional staff on September 4<sup>th</sup> and invited the Board to attend. Other

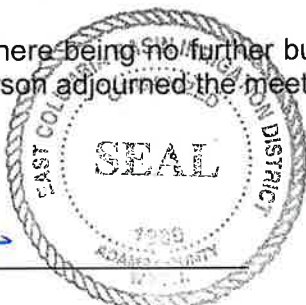
President Anderson declared an executive session at 11:40 a.m., for a total of 15 minutes, to review the performance of a public employee under RCW 42.30.110(g). At 11:55 a.m., the meeting was extended for 4 minutes. The meeting came out of executive session at 11:59 a.m. Executive Session

Director Lyle moved to increase Development Coordinator Erickson's annual salary to \$110,000, effective the next pay period. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried. Meeting Adjourned

Manager Simpson reported on a discovered error in assessing for Desert Ridge Properties and recommended that the Board waive interest on the missed assessment. Director Baker announced his abstention due to a conflict of interest. Director Lyle moved to waive interest on the missed assessment for Desert Ridge Properties. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

At 12:00 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Board at that time, President Anderson adjourned the meeting.

  
Secretary



  
President