

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

October 1, 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.

Staff

Craig Simpson
Rosa Dekker
Bobby Bischoff
Nate Andreini
Anna Franz

Staff

Julio Gonzalez
Jon Erickson
Miriam Garcia

Visitors present: Kristina Ribellia, CBCD; Paul Wollman, and Ian Toevs.

Visitors

Visitors via teleconference: Jennifer Hickenbottom, USBR; Mike Schwisow, Consultant; Harold Crose, CBCD; Julie O'Shea, FCA; Jake Wollman, Jr.; Derek Friehe; and Michele Kiesz.

Minutes of the regular meeting of September 3, 2025, had been mailed to the Directors. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 3, 2025, as written. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Minutes
Approved

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

District
Improvements

Approved & Issued Permits

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| a. Williams NW Pipeline Corp | Overhead Fiber Crossing | Block 42, FU 71 |
| b. Avista Corp | Overhead Utility Crossing | Block 45, FU 99 |
| c. Big Bend Electric | Infrastructure Upgrade | Block 46, FU 216 |

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

Contracts

- a. Renewal Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract, Doug, Shirley and Bernie Jingling, 190-019-805, 295 acres
- b. Renewal Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract, Bernie Jingling, 190-020-805, 38 acres

EL 80.6 Delivery System

- c. First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract for Groundwater Replacement, R&J Lyle, LLC., 390-148-812, 699 acres
- d. First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract for Groundwater Replacement, Chris & Elizabeth A. Lyle and Kevin & Debora J. Lyle, 390-149-812, 348 acres
- e. First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract for Groundwater Replacement, Lyle East Farmland, LLC., 390-150-812, 700 acres
- f. First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract for Groundwater Replacement, Lyle Family Land, LLC., 390-151-812, 580 acres

Manager Simpson reported contracts a. and b. are two different renewals for the Jingling family and recommended approval of these contracts. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve contracts a. and b., as presented. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson appreciated the Lyle family for contracts c. – f., as these are the first four contracts of the EL 80.6 Delivery System and are a milestone for the OGWRP. Director Lyle announced his abstention due to a conflict of interest. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve contract a., as presented. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

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

Agreements

- a. Agreement for Permanent Release of Water Allotment, Cristanto Esquivel Casteiron, 045-250-000-000-53, 4.9 acres
- b. Agreement for Permanent Release of Water Allotment, Plaisted Family Trust, 045-042-235-000-000-00, 5.3 acres

Manager Simpson reported agreement b. is for a portion of a proposed subdivision that contains a parcel greater than 7.5 acres. Plaisted Family Trust will continue to farm the larger parcel of their water allotment and has requested an exemption to retain their irrigable status. They are requesting approval for the permanent release of water allotment for the smaller parcel. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve agreements a. and b with the exemption, as presented. Director Lyle 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 Swinger moved to approve for payment check nos. 329292 through 329316 in the amount of \$1,232,880.53 and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of \$498,798.39 for a total of \$1,911,445.23 from the O&M Fund. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Vouchers

Manager Simpson presented Resolution 2025-14, Declaring All District Elections to Be Conducted by Mail-In Ballot only for Board approval. He reported that the resolution was drafted in response to the action of the Board at the previous Board meeting approving

Resolution 2025-14

mail-in ballot elections. Director Lyle asked what the changes were to the District election voting. Manager Simpson replied that this Resolution will allow all eligible

landowners to receive a ballot through mail rather than conducting an election at a polling place or by requesting absentee voting ballots. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to adopt Resolution 2025-14 as presented. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson presented Resolution 2025-15, Surplus Resolution for board approval. Assistant Manager Bischoff reported District staff conducted an analysis of the District's older trucks and equipment and created a surplus list. He recommended approval of Resolution 2025-15, Surplus Resolution, for the sale and/or disposal of these items. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to adopt Resolution 2025-15, as presented. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Resolution 2025-15

Manager Simpson presented Resolution 2025-16, Concurring with the Abandonment of a United States Perpetual Easement for board approval. Assistant Manager Bischoff reported there is a landowner who wants to develop the land encumbered by the easement. The easement was meant for continued project development, but the District and Reclamation do not see a need for it. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to adopt Resolution 2025-16 as presented. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Resolution 2025-16

Manager Simpson presented Resolution 2025-17, Emergency Reserve Fund Transfer for EL 26 Mile repairs, for Board approval. He reported he met with the Budget Committee on Monday and discussed using the Emergency Reserve Fund for the EL 26-mile repairs. The District declared an emergency last year during the EL 26-mile breach, and similarly during the canal break in 1992, repair costs were transferred from the Emergency Reserve Fund. This resolution is to address the movement of the funds and will allow the transfer as there is an adequate balance in the Reserve Fund and still maintain more than the required 15% of O&M. Director Swinger inquired whether the Emergency Reserve Fund would be sufficient to address a breach in a location with more difficult access than the EL 26-mile breach. Manager Simpson commented that the repair cost would not have drastically increased but reported it is a good time for the Board to review the emergency reserve fund if they would like to make any changes. The current Board directive is to increase the Fund to 30% of the 5 year O&M budget average. The Fund was over 29% coming into 2025. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to adopt Resolution 2025-17, Reserve Fund Transfer for EL 26 Mile Repairs as presented. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Resolution 2025-17

Development Coordinator Erickson reported Jerry Gross with MHB remains interested in the EL 11.8 Delivery System. The option to construct a public or private system is yet to be determined. Director Lyle asked for an update on the commitment of the District to relieve \$10M to MHB that was not granted in 2025. Manager Simpson replied that the agreement was only if the delivery system is a public system, as it would have received money from the State if grants are awarded. No funds were made eligible for the EL 11.8 Delivery System. Development Coordinator Erickson reported IRZ and District staff are working towards the 90% design of the EL 11.8 Delivery System.

EL11.8 Delivery System

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the EL 22.1 Landowners Association executed the MOU last month. He reported the development office will be working on executing a written funding agreement with the EL 22.1 landowners.

President Anderson asked if the focus of easement acquisitions is on the 1890 reservations or those easements that require longer work time. Development Coordinator Erickson reported the easement acquisition work is ongoing. The prioritization of the easement work is as follows: EL 84.7 Delivery System, EL 80.6 Delivery System, Powerlines for the EL 80.6 Delivery System and EL 84.7 Delivery System, then the EL 22.1 Delivery System. Manager Simpson reported that it will be months before Reclamation and NRCS execute an agreement for easement work. The time frame of the process for easement acquisition before starting is 12-18 months, as not all easements for the EL 22.1 Delivery System have Reclamation 1890 reservations. He reported that the intent is for the sump work to be constructed in the Winter of 2026-2027. Karissa McDonald with Reclamation has been doing outstanding work expediting the easement process.

Manager Simpson reported the Office of Columbia River (OCR) is interested in looking at different estimates for facilities from the District, IRZ, and a 3rd party. Staff and the landowners have discussed the timing of funding agreements to match the 3rd party estimate required by OCR, as well as providing timing for another round of RCPP requests.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported four water services contracts have been signed for the EL 80.6 Delivery System for slightly above 2,300 acres. He will be working with the landowners to execute the remaining contracts. The landowners who have not executed their contracts yet are working on their water rights transfers or waiting for the Review of Eligibility by the Department of Ecology. Manager Simpson requested conditional authorization to go to bid for the EL 80.6 Delivery System, contingent upon OCR approval. He reported procurement for the delivery system can start after 90% design with OCR. Director Osborne moved to authorize the solicitation of bids for the EL 80.6 Delivery System contingent upon OCR approval. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried. Director Lyle asked what the difference was between industrial and agricultural specified pumps. Assistant Manager Andreini replied that the agricultural specified pumps have lower tolerances than the industrial pumps.

Assistant Manager Andreini presented RH2 Engineering Task Authorization No. 2 for services during construction. He reported this task authorization contains the same approach with RH2 that the District is using for the EL 84.7 Delivery System and recommended approval. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve RH2 Engineering Task Authorization No. 2, for services during construction, in the amount of \$202,427.00. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Assistant Manager Andreini reported there is a 100% design acceptance meeting scheduled with Reclamation on October 6th.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the EL 84.7 Delivery System is under construction. He also reported that outside funding still exists, as the EL 84.7 Delivery

Systems landowners can apply for on-farm grants from RCPP on their own. District Engineer Gonzalez reported that two miles of PVC mainline have been installed and that the crew will be traversing through a road crossing on Hampton Road today. He reported the pavement patching contract was awarded to Quality Paving, and they will be on-site after the road crossing is complete.

Assistant Manager Andreini presented Erlandsen Task Authorization No. 7 for monument replacements. This task authorization is to replace survey monuments, as the crew will be destroying some monuments during the construction of the EL 84.7 Delivery System. The replacement work can only be done by professional surveyors according to state law and is estimated at \$8,500. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve Task Authorization No. 7, e estimated at \$8,500. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Task
Authorization No.
7

Assistant Manager Andreini reported there have been inquiries about the pump plant bid and why it was below the engineer's estimate. The two main cost drivers for the low bid of the pump plant are the cost of the sump and building itself at \$2.5M under the estimate, and the cost of the electrical and control items at slightly more than \$2M under the estimate.

District Engineer Gonzalez presented PIPE-EL84.7-04, Change Order No. 1. He reported the change order is for the change in styles for the butterfly valves, switching from wafer to lug style. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve PIPE-EL84.7-04, Change Order No. 1, in the amount of \$2,027.29, as presented. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

PIPE-EL84.7-04
Change Order,
No. 1

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the first RCPP payment/progress request with NRCS was submitted at the end of September. With the government shutdown, there was discussion of delay, and it was determined that if there was a short shutdown, there shouldn't be any impactful delays. However, if it lasted longer than a month, there could be some impacts that would need to be evaluated by staff and the Board of Directors.

District Engineer Gonzalez reported the EL 86.4 Delivery System's computer is getting serviced; currently, there is a temporary computer on-site, which has not impacted deliveries. The valve commissioning is scheduled for October 13th. Control Systems Northwest (CSNW) will be on site tomorrow to work on the SCADA system. He reported the NDA signed by CSNW was approved by Reclamation to allow CSNW to use their Rabbit system.

EL86.4 Delivery
System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported staff are planning to work on the watershed plan through the government shutdown, pending NRCS's approval. Kristina Ribellia with CBCD introduced FCA's Executive Director Julie O'Shea. Executive Director Julie O'Shea reported the next phase of the Watershed Project Plan is starting. With the change in administration, she has seen congressional support of the new NRCS Chief, Aubrey Bettencourt. The change in administration brought staff who are more pro-ag modernization, which has led to them to reconsider the rules of the past. FCA has been working on ways to streamline the Watershed project plan implementation stage. She reported there has been duplicated work in many watershed plans. She proposed an

Watershed Plan
Project Update

idea to request a waiver for elements of work done by Reclamation, such as using existing engineer design and cost-benefit ratios. She reported that Roylene Comes At Night with NRCS and NRCS staff got approval to go through a checklist of inventory needed for a waiver. A checklist review is needed to analyze what is complete and what is left to study, as the completed efforts will be waived for quicker implementation. Julie O'Shea reported the OBB tripled the PL-566 funds from \$50 to \$150 M. The House and

Senate budget increased from \$25M to \$40M. There has been promising communication when meeting in D.C, as the SEIS bill continues to move forward. Kristina Ribellia with CBCD reported she met with the State, NRCS, and PL-566 team to discuss how to accelerate the acceptance of the watershed. She will continue to highlight tasks that can be considered in the waiver. She also thanked Julie for setting up the meeting to work with CBCD and the District. Manager Simpson reported there was an congressional approval process meeting with Astrid Martinez with NRCS. NRCS Chief Aubrey Bettencourt will provide a report to Congress about the approval of watershed plans.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported there were MOU meetings with the remaining acre landowner groups. These meetings were divided by proposed systems with recognition that the system names could change. He reported the goal of these meetings is to get to 30% design of these delivery systems, which is a milestone that would allow for the Board to determine whether or not they wanted to take on debt through a bond. Development Coordinator Erickson reported the landowners are eager and have a high interest in having the District lead the design of the delivery systems. He reminded the Board that private delivery systems are only for single landowner entities.

Remaining Acres Meeting

PR Consultant Korfiatis gave an update on the website traffic, ADA compliance, and the EL 84.7 groundbreaking ceremony. She reported that the Capital Press released an article regarding the EL 22.1 Delivery System. The EL 84.7 pump plant groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for Monday, October 6th, from 1:00 to 2:30 pm. Due to the government shutdown, the presence of invited guest speakers is to be determined. Manager Simpson reported that the EL 80.6 Delivery System groundbreaking ceremony will be scheduled shortly with an attempt to align with NRCS Chief Aubrey Bettencourt's schedule. He also reported that he has not reviewed the website audit vendors for ADA compliance, but will review for the next Board meeting.

Public Relations Update

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff reported there is little to no update. He reached out to Troy Waters with Reclamation last month for an update and was informed it is currently awaiting approvals. Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff will continue to reach out to request updates. The government shutdown is also delaying the process. Manager Simpson expressed his dismay at the process and reported he shared his concern with the congressional staff he met at the CBP Legislative meeting. They offered their support to reach out to Reclamation, if needed. Manager Simpson reported there is a scheduled meeting with NHPA next week regarding Reclamation oversight and guidance.

Title Transfer

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff reported he met with Bernardo Wills Architect twice last month to discuss the cost estimate report. Director Lyle asked how many locations

Headquarters Relocation

were identified. Assistant Manager Bischoff commented that three locations were identified, but the current focus is on the cost of the building. Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff requested time in executive session to discuss potential litigation.

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff reported there is no update. He has attempted to get an update once a month; however, USDA has informed him that they will reach out when they are ready. Manager Simpson reported this grant opportunity has not been defunded yet.

USDA Water Savings Commodities

Manager Simpson reported it is a good time to start looking for alternatives for a Government Relations Consultant, as he announced Mike Schwisow's retirement at the previous board meeting. He requested authorization to call for RFQ solicitations for a Government Relations consultant. Director Swinger moved to authorize Manager Simpson to call for RFQ solicitations for a Government Relations consultant as requested. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Government Relations Replacement

Manager Simpson presented the 2026 Operation and Maintenance Budget. The budget has been developed by District staff with recommendations from the Assessment Committee and Equipment Committee and was presented to the Board of Directors for consideration. It was noted that the budget presented had an error and was corrected. Manager Simpson moved equipment to be purchased from the 2026 budget to the 2025 budget, such as a dump truck and minor equipment. The corrected budget estimates the 2026 basic Part 1 O&M expenditures to be \$22,586,000 and the 2026 basic Part 1 O&M income to be \$22,586,000. The budget estimates Part 2 System Improvement expenditures to be \$38,741,000 and the Part 2 System Improvements income to be \$43,477,000. At this time, it is estimated that the 2025 O&M budget will finish the year with basic O&M expenses of \$17,017,000 and income of \$17,246,000. The 2026 O&M Budget proposes an average O&M assessment of \$81.43 per acre, an average increase of \$1.79 per acre over 2025. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve the recommended 2026 budget, as presented and discussed. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

2026 Budget

Manager Simpson reported that the 2006 bond will be paid off in 2026 which will end the \$1 per acre charge to the landowners. The 2016 bond will be able to be refunded in 2026. The Board authorized Manager Simpson to start discussions with the District's financial consultant and underwriter by consensus.

Attorney Franz reported South District requested the State Auditor to provide an opinion regarding the treatment of the PEC Headworks power contract buyout. Director Lyle asked if the payment had been divided between the districts. Manager Simpson replied that the CBP Districts each own 1/3 of the Hydropower facilities but receive revenue based on the Reserved Works formula under the interlocal agreements entered into in the 1980s. There is a contract buyout payment due in January 2026 that will be split by the Districts, but the method of splitting the payment has yet to be agreed upon by the Districts. Treasurer Dekker reported the power revenue fund will be used to pay for the buyout of the PEC Headworks contract.

Columbia Basin Hydropower

Assistant Manager Andreini reported the SCADA funding agreement with Reclamation was approved. There will need to be a discussion on how to manage the Build America,

CBP SCADA

Buy America (BABA) requirement. There is no American-made SCADA equipment, which means the Districts will need to pursue a waiver. It will be a long process, but it will allow the Districts to access \$7M in grants from Reclamation. Manager Simpson reported he met with Reclamation on his CBP Legislative trip in Washington, D.C, and discussed the \$7M grant and the included oversight.

President Anderson reported the tabled request for the Secretary-Manager employment agreement at the September Board meeting will be discussed during executive session.

Manager
Employment
Agreement

Manager Simpson reported there was a CBP Water Rights meeting on September 20th at the Ephrata Field Office with the Office of Columbia River and the Eastern Regional Office. The overview of the meeting was considerably reasonable. The Eastern Regional Office provided another alternative on how to look at Water Rights and change how they are viewed to re-evaluate acreage.

CBP Water
Rights

Manager Simpson reported a potential to change the policy of when a Director is eligible for the per diem provided by statute based on time spent on District business. Manager Simpson reported there have been no complaints, nor does he believe there is an issue with the current compensation, this was just an opportunity to review. Director Swinger asked if there had been any comments or pushback. Treasurer Dekker replied that there is no issue with the landowners or the auditors. Manager Simpson is not recommending any Board compensation policy or practice to change.

Board
Compensation

District Engineer Gonzalez presented PIPE 2025-02 Change Order No. 1 for the conservation pipelines. He reported the pipe was awarded to Skone Irrigation; however, a pipe that was specified in the bid is no longer available, and manufacturers don't make it anymore. Due to this, the configuration fittings will need to be redesigned. District Engineer Gonzalez reported staff recommend approval of the change order for the additional fittings in the amount of \$7,209.16. following discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve PIPE-2025-02, Change Order No. 1, in the amount of \$7,209.16. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Quotes & Bids

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff reported that due to budget movement, he spoke to the Equipment Committee to discuss the purchase of equipment and requested authorization to purchase a Dump Truck through a purchasing pool. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve purchase the of a Dump Truck through a purchasing pool, as requested. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson reported the Board has been supportive of the District member organizations over the last few years. He recommended sponsoring this year's FFA Annual Conference, NWRA Annual Conference, and the WSWRA Annual Conference. Director Lyle asked if the District could also sponsor the upcoming CBDL Annual Conference Meeting. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve sponsoring the FFA Annual Conference, the NWRA Annual Conference, and the WSWRA Annual Conference each in the amount of \$2,500, and also sponsoring the CBDL Annual Conference in the amount \$1,000. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Conference
Sponsorships

Treasurer Dekker reported she learned about single audits at the Washington Financial Officers Association Conference. The District is reaching the threshold. The amount of the single audit that was conducted for the District for exceeding funds is in the amount of \$9,100.

Assistant
Manager of
Administration

Manager Simpson briefly reported on the CBP Legislative trip he attended last month in Washington, D.C. He met with Representative Malloy's staff member, Jeff Leavitt, staff for the Water, Wildlife, and Fishery House Subcommittee, and Senate ENR staff member, James Priest. He met with Senator Cantwell and the staff for Senator Murray. He also met with Kelli Evans and Astrid Martinez with NRCS and Julie O'Shea with FCA. There were meeting discussions on title transfer, NHPA, NBPA, the Columbia River Treaty, and the OGWRP. Manager Simpson requested time in executive session to discuss union negotiations, personnel, and potential litigation.

Manager Report

Attorney Franz requested time in executive session to provide a litigation update.

Attorney Report

President Anderson declared an executive session at 12:30 p.m., for a total of 30 minutes, to discuss litigation, to review the performance of a public employee, and union negotiations discussions, and potential litigation. The executive session was extended at 1:00 for 30 minutes. At 1:30, the meeting was extended for 20 minutes. At 1:50, the meeting was extended for 10 minutes. The meeting came out of executive session at 2:00 p.m.

Executive
Session

Director Swinger moved to provide Manager Simpson with a 5% increase to his annual salary, effective September 3, 2025. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Meeting
Adjourned

At 2:04 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Board at that time, President Anderson adjourned the meeting.


Secretary
President