

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

November 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
Miriam Garcia
Nate Andreini
Anna Franz

Staff

Julio Gonzalez
Jon Erickson

Visitors present: Marc Maynard, USBR; Lynn Olsen and Paul Wollman.

Visitors

Visitors via teleconference: Jennifer Hickenbottom, USBR; Mike Schwisow, Consultant; Kirk Rathdrum and Willy Walter.

Minutes of the regular meeting of October 1, 2025, had been mailed to the Directors. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 1, 2025, as written. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Minutes
Approved

President Anderson presented Manager Simpson with a 30-year pin, recognizing his 30 years with the East District.

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

District
Improvements

Contracts

- a. Renewal Interruptible Water Service Contract for Temporarily Deferred Lands, Daniel Roseburg, 041-801-803-01, 15 acres
- b. Renewal Interruptible Water Service Contract for Temporarily Deferred Lands, Cole Farms LLC., 044-801-803-01, 25 acres

Manager Simpson reported contracts a. and b. are standard renewal contracts and recommended approval of these contracts. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve contract a. and b., as presented. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson presented the following contracts c. - f., for board consideration:

EL 80.6 Delivery System

- c. First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract for Groundwater Replacement, H20-SIX, LLC., 390-143-812, 598.7 acres
- d. First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract for Groundwater Replacement, Warden Hutterian Brethren, 390-146-812, 845.9 acres
- e. First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract for Groundwater Replacement, Lucy Road Farms, 390-153-812, 275 acres
- f. First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract for Groundwater Replacement, Warden Hutterian Brethren, 390-154-812, 569.4 acres

Manager Simpson reported contracts c. – f. are four additional contracts for the EL 80.6 Delivery System. These total contracted acres will exceed 75% of the delivery system's total design capacity. This is a milestone for the Department of Ecology (DOE) in order for grant funding to be released for the construction of the delivery system. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve contracts c. – f., as presented. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

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

Agreements

- a. Consent to Water Delivery Changes, Richard Colley, Block 45, Farm Unit 28
- b. Agreement for Permanent Release of Water Allotment, Jacinto and Graciela Ayala, 047-092-559-02, 3.1 acres

Manager Simpson reported Agreement a. is associated with a pipeline the District is installing. He also reported Agreement b. is for some smaller portions of an older subdivision in Block 47. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve agreements a. and b., as presented. Director Swinger 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 Lyle moved to approve for payment check nos. 329317 through 329650 in the amount of \$935,094.83 and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of \$983,152.96 for a total of \$1,918,247.79 from the O&M Fund. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Vouchers

Manager Simpson reported, as required by statute, Assistant-Secretary/Treasurer Dekker will display the assessment roll for public viewing in November until it is equalized by the Board of Equalization.

Director Swinger moved to set the Board of Equalization meeting for 9:00 a.m. on Monday, December 8, 2025, in the boardroom of the District Office in Othello. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Set Board of Equalization

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the EL 11.8 Delivery System landowner is actively engaged and wants to move forward. There have been discussions on RCPP

EL11.8 Delivery System

applications for funding and the option between a private and public system. Director Lyle asked if the State would fund the delivery system. Development Coordinator Erickson reported the State will only fund the system if it is a public system.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the EL 22.1 Delivery System is still in the MOU stage. There is work being done prior to potential construction to begin in the winter of 2026-2027 for the sump of the pump plant. He also reported there are plans for a cost estimate to be done by a third party. This process will be held off to make sure these costs are relevant to the landowners. Manager Simpson reported there has been discussion of Reclamation and NRCS working on an agreement for NRCS to help with easement acquisition and is hopeful they can come to an agreement. EFO Manager Maynard reported NRCS has determined they can help with the easement acquisition, but the final review will be sent to Reclamation for approval. There is an agreement waiting to be reviewed by NRCS but is currently paused during the government shutdown. He reported the timeline for the easement acquisition would be 12-18 months from the start of the process until the finish. Manager Simpson commented he hopes the easement acquisition period does not take so long. He is hopeful to get things going as soon as possible to prepare for construction next winter. Director Lyle asked if there is a possibility of receiving easements by donation which is likely. EFO Manager Maynard reported that the easements are with multiple stakeholders, some not recipients of the system's water. All easements require full review regardless of acquisition method.

EL22.1 Delivery
System Update

President Anderson asked what would happen if easements on the canal were not acquired prior to construction work for the sump. Manager Simpson reported that construction on the pumping plant should not take place until the pipeline easements are secured; however, the District does have condemnation authority to acquire easements, if needed. Director Swinger asked if there would be any objection regarding the condemnation of easements. Condemnation is not a preferred method for easement acquisition. Manager Simpson reported that without an easement, there is no right to cross, which will interfere with getting water delivered, and some of the easements cross lands that are not part of the delivery system. Manager Simpson reported the District is moving forward and will be ready to go to bid for construction on the canal next winter. The District needs to continue moving forward in order not to lose time, as the cost of construction continues to increase.

District Engineer Gonzalez presented the following EL 80.6 Delivery System Pumping Plant bids for board consideration:

EL80.6 Delivery System Update

	Bidder	Bid Amount
	Engineer's Estimate	\$16,278,000
1.	C&E Trenching	\$10,634,500
2.	Rotschy, Inc.	\$10,989,094
3.	GAME Inc.	\$11,380,000
4.	PCI	\$11,905,000
5.	Apollo Inc.	\$13,173,980
6.	Mountain States Construction	\$13,453,068
5.	Syblon Reid	\$14,303,000
6.	Pacific Civil and Infrastructure	\$14,307,500
7.	Cascade Central	\$15,167,000
8.	Granite Construction	\$16,362,500

District Engineer Gonzalez reported this bid is for the EL 80.6 Delivery System Pump Plant, including the electrical and fiber installation. The District received ten bids and recommended that the board accept C&E Trenching as the lowest responsive bid in the amount of \$10,634,500. President Anderson asked why the tax is higher on some of the bidders' amounts. Manager Simpson replied that the amounts depend on how each company calculates its taxes based on location. Assistant Manager Andreini commented that the contract documents state what is allowed to be taxed, and any tax will be calculated under the contract language. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to accept the bid from C&E Trenching in the amount of \$10,634,500, plus sales tax, as the lowest responsive bid. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

EL 80.6 Pipeline

Director Baker joined the meeting at 9:35 am.

District Engineer Gonzalez requested authorization to go out to bid for all remaining materials of the EL 80.6 Delivery System. Development Coordinator Erickson reported this is another milestone, adding 13,000 acres of capacity for the EL 80.6 Delivery System to be under construction. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve staff going out to bid for all remaining materials of the EL 80.6 Delivery System. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

District Engineer Gonzalez presented PIPE-EL84.7-04 Change Order No. 2, for board approval. He reported this change order is from LAD Irrigation for a contract delivery date extension for the air vacuum valves from January 15th to May 18th. This delay in delivery will cause a delay in the overall project because this pipe must be installed first. This change order also includes a \$10,000 credit to the District. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve PIPE-EL84.7-04 Change Order No. 2, as presented. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

PIPE-EL84.7-04 Change Order No.2

District Engineer Gonzlez presented Concrete Vaults-EL84.7-01 Change Order No.1, for board approval. This change order is due to the change in the design of the vault location from the offset to the center of the pipeline. One of the vaults needs to be larger, which adds \$600 to the construction material costs. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve Concrete Vaults-EL84.7-01 Change Order No.1. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Concrete Vaults-
EL84.7-01
Change Order
No.1

District Engineer Gonzalez reported that the 30-inch FRP pipe from Future Pipe Industries is in transit, including some 36-inch pipe and restraint joints. The locking straps will be shipped via air. He reported the pipe will be delivered a couple of weeks later than the altered timeline stated in the change order. Due to the change in pipe delivery dates, liquidated damages will be calculated as the restrained joints need to be installed first, which will cause a delay. District Engineer Gonzalez reported Tapani, Inc. has mobilized to the site where construction for the Orman Johnson Pumping Plant will occur and will start excavation this week. President Anderson asked how many miles of PVC pipe have been installed. District Engineer replied that 3 miles of PVC pipe have been installed out of a total of 7 ½ miles of pipeline. He also reported that the Trimble GPS systems have been installed, which will speed up the pipeline excavation process.

EL84.7 Delivery
System Update

District Engineer Gonzalez reported the commission of the valve on the EL 86.4 Delivery System did not occur on the scheduled date. The new valve commissioning date is scheduled for November 17th. The manufacturer attempted to pass this issue on to the District to be resolved, but District Engineer Gonzalez let them know that it is their responsibility under the contract.

EL86.4 Delivery
System Update

Assistant Manager Andreini reported the screen on the computer in the control building was not working properly and was overheating; however, the manufacturer could not reproduce the issue during testing. Control Systems Northwest could not find the source of the issue but returned the computer with a new power supply and will be arriving sometime this week to replace the temporary computer. President Anderson asked if there had been any complaints with any of the new water deliveries. District Engineer Gonzalez replied there were no complaints about water deliveries as they were being delivered manually at the start of the water season. The controls in the control building started running in July for deliveries. Mr. Lynn Olsen mentioned his appreciation for Gary Darymple, the ditch rider for the EL 47.5 and EL 86.4 Delivery Systems, and commented that he has been great to work with.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the Watershed Plan has been paused during the government shutdown. He reported that this will impact the completion date of the project.

Watershed Plan
Project Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the MOU's have been sent to landowner groups. Development Coordinator Erickson reported the development office has noticed an increased interest in private delivery systems. Landowner contribution is needed to continue moving forward with the design process. There are no landowner meetings currently scheduled, but will be looking into scheduling a meeting in November. Director Lyle asked who will be designing these delivery systems. Development Coordinator Erickson commented that the engineering department is not involved in the early discussions of these private delivery system landowner groups. As the MOUs are

Remaining Acres

returned, they will determine if the engineering for the systems will be done with an engineering consultant or will be worked on by the District's engineering department. Manager Simpson reported there has been a change to the engineering staff and will need to evaluate the current staff and District projects.

Manager Simpson reported on the PR update on behalf of PR Consultant Korfiatis. He reported the cost for the audit for website compliance is beyond the price he was expecting. He will be working with PR Consultant Korfiatis to find a vendor that will perform the audit and make changes to the District website to be ADA-compliant. President Anderson asked if the District already knows that the website does not comply, why is there a need to hire an auditor. Manager Simpson replied that the auditor would highlight where the non-compliances are located and make the appropriate changes.

PR Consultant
Korfiatis

Manager Simpson reported staff were informed by Reclamation that they will not be working on title transfer acquisition in Fiscal Year 2026. Manager Simpson requested Board authorization to write a letter to legislators regarding this issue for their support. The Board authorized Manager Simpson to write a letter to legislators for their support.

Partial Title
Transfer

Manager Simpson reported he and Assistant Manager Bischoff misrepresented Bernardo Wills' lack of responsiveness during the last board meeting. They had overlooked information in an email. He reported that he and Assistant Manager Bischoff talked to Ryan Zane with Bernardo Wills Architect about the misunderstanding. They have been responsive in the last couple of meetings.

Headquarters
Relocation

Manager Simpson presented Bernardo Wills Architect Task Order No. 3, for board approval. He reported this task order is for the concept programming and concept design of the office in the amount of \$34,750, and recommended approval. Manager Simpson, Assistant Manager Bischoff, and Bernardo Wills Architects' staff met to discuss a preliminary concept floor plan. There is not a specific site chosen yet; however, there are three potential sites for relocation which would lead to the next phase in the process. Task Order No. 4 for design will be presented at the January or February Board meeting for full design. Assistant Manager Bischoff will revisit sites closer to town and may add two alternatives for board consideration. There has not been discussion with the landowners yet. Director Osborne asked how the costs for relocation would be covered. Manager Simpson replied that the costs are anticipated to be covered by the Power Revenue Fund. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve Bernardo Wills Architect Task Order No. 3, in the amount of \$34,750, as presented. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Bernardo Wills
Architect, Task
Order No. 3

Manager Simpson reported the USDA Water Savings Commodities Grant is not moving forward but has not been defunded.

USDA Water
Savings
Commodities
Grant

Manager Simpson reported there needs to be an updated Interlocal agreement amongst the CBP Districts to move forward with the new structure of operations under the new power purchase agreement. There is a difference in opinions on how the O&M costs and revenue of the power plants should be divided and distributed. The CBP Districts

Columbia Basin
Hydropower

are debating the ratio payout and have not come to an agreement. Attorney Franz reported it has been difficult to operate the CBHP and it would help to execute the interlocal agreement sooner rather

than later. Attorney Franz presented a conflict waiver for board approval. This conflict waiver allows Attorney Franz to represent both the District and CBHP on the drafting of the interlocal agreements between the Districts and CBHP. She reported there is no O&M agreement with CBHP for the operation of the former PUD plants. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve the conflict waiver. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Conflict Waiver

Director Lyle asked why there is no income generating from the PEC Headworks Plant. Manager Simpson commented that the PEC Headworks Plant generates more expenses than income under operation by the PUD.

Assistant Manager Andreini reported CBP SCADA Project Manager Porter has been working diligently on the Build America, Buy America waiver. There are new rules for the waiver requirements that are unique and stringent. Reclamation staff are the first ones to work on the new version of the requirements. Assistant Manager Andreini reported the consensus among the three CBP Districts' staff is that the \$7M grant from Reclamation remains worth the hassle. Project Manager Porter has been speaking to vendors and looking at alternatives. The waiver will have to be approved by OMB. EFO Manager Maynard reported Reclamation is working with department staff and have ran into issues. NHPA compliance is six months out, and SCADA Project Manager Porter has been working on both fronts. Manager Simpson expressed his frustration with the delays from Reclamation, as the agreement had been signed by the Districts, and ready to be executed before the change in administrations.

CBP SCADA

Manager Simpson reported there was a CBP Water Rights meeting with a smaller group including the South District, DOE, Reclamation, and Water Rights Consultant Haller. He reported they are exploring the DOE approach. The DOE is working on a policy for the acreage limitation and is interested in finding solutions. Manager Simpson reported he is optimistic about the proposed process. EFO Manager Maynard reported there will be a meeting scheduled for all those involved in the water rights process. Director Lyle asked if the water rights could be relinquished. Manager Simpson replied that the permit cannot be relinquished; however, it needs to be extended. A 10-year extension is being requested for the permits. Director Baker asked what the benefits are in pursuing the changes in water rights. Manager Simpson commented that the changes would give the District the ability to execute water service contracts without new water rights. It also gives the District flexibility to do more without additional withdrawal from the river. EFO Manager Maynard commented that this increases accountability and limits the scope of the state's involvement.

CBP Water Rights

Manager Simpson reported the final renewal amount was not available at the time of the meeting. An increase of 7% to the premium is expected due to market conditions. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to authorize the Manager to approve the CIAW 2026 insurance renewal at the invoiced amount, as presented and discussed. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

CIAW Insurance Renewal

Manager Simpson reported the only petition received for Director Divisions was from Kevin Lyle for Division No. 5. There will not be an election this year. Kevin Lyle was declared elected as Director for Division No. 5.

Director Elections Update

Purchasing Agent Robertson requested authorization to purchase (2) ½ ton pickups, (2) ½ 4x4 crew cab pickups, (1) ½ ton 4x4 extended cab pickup with canopy, (1) ½ ton extended cab pickup, a 2T 4x4 service truck, (2) tractors with mowers, and a wheeled excavator through appropriate purchasing pools. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the above-stated purchase requests through the purchasing pools. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Quotes & Bids

Purchasing Agent Robertson requested authorization to call for polyurea sealant application bids. She reported this bid is for the polyurea work that will be done in 2026. Director Osborne moved to approve a call for polyurea sealant application bids, as requested. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Purchasing Agent Robertson gave an update on the purchase of a used forklift. Staff purchased a 2017 Caterpillar forklift that was included in Resolution 2025-03, Declaration of Special Market Conditions, and will be delivered this week.

District Engineer Gonzalez reported staff are designing the conservation pipeline for the EL 68M for the abandonment of the EL 68M wasteway. The abandonment of the EL 68M wasteway would be subject to Columbia Basin Railroad's approval to cover the construction costs. District Engineer Gonzalez requested authorization to go out to bid for the EL 68M pipeline contingent upon approval of the railroad company's agreement with the District. There is no agreement finalized, but staff would like to go out to bid earlier to be able to procure and install before the start of the water season. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to authorize staff to go out to bid for the EL 68M pipeline contingent upon approval of the agreement between Reclamation and Columbia Basin Railroad. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson briefly reported on the Family Farm Alliance Conference he attended in Reno last month. This was the last conference for Dan Keppen as the Executive Director, as he has retired. The new Executive Director for FFA is Samantha Barncastle, who was previously on the NWRA Executive Committee Board. Some of the issues discussed at the conference were the proposal to list the Monarch butterfly as a threatened species, the collaboration in lieu of litigation in the Yakima and Deschutes rivers, groundwater management, water quality issues on the Boise/Snake River, and NRCS on-farm upgrades. He reported there were zoom calls with Reclamation and the staff of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. He reported this was a good event with an interesting format.

FFA Annual Conference Report

EFO Manager Maynard gave a brief update on the staffing reductions and their prioritization process. He reported the title transfer process for the East District cannot be prioritized this upcoming year. There was no support from the region. He reported that title transfer acquisition will be resubmitted for the Fiscal Year 2027 prioritization process. President Anderson asked if the pause on title transfer is a funding or a personnel issue. EFO Manager Maynard replied Reclamation is still on a hiring freeze and is not allowed to hire staff. He also reported Reclamation is working on a policy

USBR Report

resolution to allow Districts to sell transferred facilities. He also gave an update on Reclamation's contingency plan during the government shutdown. Reclamation staff will be working and getting paid until next Friday and will be paid with carryover funds thereafter. He reported operations staff will be exempt from being furloughed. He also reported there have been transitions with support staff working on SCADA.

Director Lyle asked for an update on the Fox farm drainage study. EFO Manager Maynard reported that Mr. Fox had requested an extension to review the studies. The extension date was October 1st, but has requested an additional 30 days to respond to Reclamation.

Treasurer Dekker reported she did not transfer enough funds from the Power Revenue Fund for equipment purchases in the amount of \$878,382.05. The funds will be transferred back to the Power Revenue Fund from the equipment rentals reimbursement proceeds. Treasurer Report

District Engineer Gonzalez presented BPA EnergySmart Reserved Power Program Incentive Agreement Modification No. 1 for Board approval. This modification is to extend the agreement by one year. Following discussion, Director moved to approve. Director seconded, and the motion carried. Engineer Report

Manager Simpson reported he received a request from Dan Roseburg regarding the denied damage claim he previously submitted. He has asked the Board to reconsider the tort claim. Manager Simpson expressed his frustration with the title transfer process with Reclamation. The East District applied for a title transfer before the South District, but has not started the process, while they have continued to work on South's. a MOU is not in effect yet. The Dingell Act was supposed to make simple title transfers a two-year process, but will be a much longer process due Reclamation's delays. Reclamation's assumptions regarding the District's intent to sell property added to the delays. This process is costly and time-consuming. Manager Report


Director Swinger moved to approve the Board, Manager Simpson, and appropriate staff to travel to the Irrigation Leaders Workshop, January 21-23, 2026, at the Crown Plaza Phoenix-Chandler Golf Resort, Chandler, AZ; the 2026 NWIO Biennial Conference, February 17-19, 2026, in Boise, ID; and the Irrigation Leaders Tour, February 14-21, 2026 in New Zealand. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried. Travel Authorization

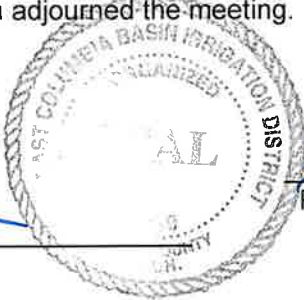
Director Lyle asked what the cause was for the fire incident that occurred at the North Warden Pumping Plant's electrical panels. Safety Supervisor Walraf replied that the cause of the incident was due to faulty electrical equipment. The repair costs are estimated to be \$50,000-\$75,000, which is lower than the insurance deductible; therefore, will not be covered by insurance. The repairs will be done in-house. Other


Mr. Eric Dillinger requested information on subdivisions and the release of water allotment for his property on block 401 and reported he has submitted a letter for his request. Manager Simpson redirected him to the Water Records Clerks for further assistance with his request. Public Comment

President Anderson declared an executive session at 11:50 a.m., for a total of 40 minutes, to discuss personnel performance, potential litigation, and acquisition of property. At 12:30 p.m., the meeting was extended for 15 minutes. At 12:45 p.m., the meeting was extended for 15 minutes. The meeting came out of executive session at 1:00 p.m. Executive Session

At 1:00 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Board at that time, President Anderson adjourned the meeting. Meeting Adjourned


Secretary


President


President