

-2025-26-

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

April 2, 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
Reid Baker
Don Osborne
Dennis Swinger, Jr.

Staff

Craig Simpson
Rosa Dekker
John McCourtie
Nate Andreini
Anna Franz

Staff

Bobby Bischoff
Jonathan Erickson
Miriam Garcia

Visitors present: Marc Maynard, USBR; Kristina Ribellia, Griffin Hansen, and Doug Allan CBCD; McKenna Murray, ECY; Michael Rainis, Friehe Farms; Paul Wollman, WHB; Michele Kiesz, and Ted Tschirky.

Visitors

Visitors via teleconference: Jennifer Hickenbottom, USBR; Mike Schwisow, Government Relations Consultant; Brian Kuest, Willy Walter, Eric Weber, Randy Kiesz and Jake Wollman.

Minutes of the regular meeting of March 2, 2025, had been mailed to the Directors. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 5, 2025, as written. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Minutes
Approved

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

District
Improvements

Permits

a. Good Faith 4 All, LLC Temporary Culvert Crossings BLK 41 FU 89

Manager Simpson reported CAD Homes would like to extend Good Faith 4 All's permit for their two culverts on the EL20U1 to March of 2026. Needed cultural resources reviews have not been completed by Reclamation. The permit expired this March. This would be this permit's second extension. He stated that CAD Homes assured that the bond is still active and should self-renew every two years until it gets canceled by either party. He reported Engineering and O&M do not expect

this to cause any issues to District operations. Manager Simpson stated concerns are an increased overtopping risk due to weeds that plug the culverts. There are also concerns for managing and monitoring temporary permits that don't meet the Districts requirements, policies, or practices. In the past, many temporary permits do not get completed, resulting in requests for extensions that require staff to work on these requests over a long-term. The structures allowed under temporary permit requests were not acceptable as a permanent solution to begin with. Manager Simpson does not recommend an extension as a matter of policy, but staff does recognize the extension poses a reasonably acceptable risk to the facilities and District operations. EFO Manager Maynard reported the cultural resources review will be assigned to Reclamation staff and will be worked on shortly. President Anderson asked what the alternative was, and Manager Simpson replied that the alternative is to remove the culvert crossings. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve permit a, temporary culvert crossings for Good Faith 4 All, LLC. 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 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. 328234 through 328428 in the amount of \$ 2,015,893.33 and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of \$499,047.42 for a total of \$2,653,274.65 from the O&M Fund. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Vouchers

Manager Simpson reported 1st Half Reserved Works invoices were received from Reclamation in the amount of \$2,185,830.75. He reported he will be reviewing the invoices as adjustments may be made to the billing prior to the first payment at the end of April. The 2nd Half Reserved Works payment is due in June in the amount of \$1,910,323.66.

1st Half Reserved Works Payment

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the EL 11.8 Delivery System is in a holding pattern. He stated MHB is still to use their own funds as an incentive to the State to fund the remaining portions. They are hopeful for state funding.

OGWRP:
EL 11.8 Delivery System Update

Assistant Manager Andreini reported he is working with IRZ to resolve the comments on the 100% design package. There is an acceptance meeting scheduled with Reclamation on April 10th. He also reported there is a lot of uncertainty as the system has a high cost to construct. Development Coordinator Erickson reported the phasing chart IRZ created reflects some cost changes.

EL22.1 Delivery System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the state proposed budgets included House Bill 1216 allotting \$25 million for the OGWRP with a flexible proviso and Senate Bill 5195 allotting \$38 million for the EL22.1 Delivery system as a sole proviso. The Governor is not supporting the proposed budgets and has asked the legislature to go back to the drawing board. Development Coordinator Erickson reported a letter to the state legislators that was sent last month to address the funding issues with OGWRP and information about the impact of the proposed restrictive Senate proviso. He reported that the EL22.1 landowner group is interested in phasing; however, the WA State Dept. of Ecology's OCR is not willing to look at phasing without assurances of full funding and

completion of the project. There have been a few meetings to discuss this with the State and the Landowners.

McKenna Murray with the Office of Columbia River (OCR) reported that OCR does not support the proviso that funds a single delivery system and she stated that the OCR is not comfortable with granting funds to the landowners for construction due to the landowners not being the owners or operators of the project. An edit to the proviso is needed to allow the use of funds to all the OGWRP with an 80% design requirement. OCR will be requesting an edit to the proviso for the funding package to be programmatic funding and not a single system funding package since funds to complete the system, including RCPP funds, are not secured. Development Coordinator Erickson reported that the current MOU has expired between the EL22.1 Landowner Group and the District.

President Anderson asked, "How much longer does the District hold onto the 17,000 acres not being used?" Development Coordinator Erickson stated that the system currently has \$25.5 million from previous grants. The addition of \$23.8 million from the proviso would only construct a system to deliver to 2,215 acres. If the residual \$18 million more is added, the acres delivered increases to approximately 6,000-7,000 acres. The total estimate for construction of the EL 22.1 Delivery system is close to \$100 million. Director Swinger asked, "Why pigeonhole the funding?" Development Coordinator Erickson commented that Senator Schoesler was informed the District cannot build the whole system with the current funding.

Development Coordinator Erickson requested authorization to notify the landowners of the current funding requests being proposed by the the House and Senate and send an updated letter to them and the capital budget committee. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to authorize sending an updated letter to the landowners and the capital budget committee. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Director Lyle asked about the funding of the bridges in Adams County. Development Coordinator Erickson reported the federal grant funding has been paused.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported that the District is continuing to work with Reclamation to identify methods of acquiring easements for the OGWRP transmission lines.

Assistant Manager Andreini presented RH2 Engineering Task Authorization No. 6, Amendment No. 4, eliminating a ½ mile landowner requested extension of the pipelines from the public system, and moving two turnouts back. He reported the task order amendment is in the amount of \$9,193.00 for the EL80.6 Delivery System and will be paid by the landowners. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve RH2 Engineering Task Authorization No. 6, Amendment No. 4, in the amount of \$9,193.00 as presented. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

RH2 Engineering
Task
Authorization No.
6, Amendment
No. 4

Assistant Manager Andreini presented RH2 Engineering Task Authorization No. 7, Amendment No. 4, eliminating a mile landowner requested extension of the pipelines from the public system. He reported the task order amendment is in the amount of \$19,989.00 for the EL84.7 Delivery System and will be paid by the landowners but has

RH2 Engineering
Task
Authorization
No.7,Amendment
No. 4

not received payment yet. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve RH2 Engineering Task Authorization No. 7, Amendment No. 4, in the amount of \$19,989.00 contingent upon receiving payment from the landowners. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported on the steps forward for the EL80.6 and EL84.7 Delivery Systems. The District is currently working to complete the water service contracts, procurement, pipeline easements, and design. There will be internal discussion to look at dates for procurement and to create the funding agreement with landowners. He reported State funding covers the cost of the engineers estimate for a pumping plant and the RCPP funds only fund the pipelines. The District will exhaust funding from the State and NRCS before asking for landowner contribution. In the event that landowner contributions are needed, the District will monitor the construction budget and will give a 60-day advanced notice to the landowners for funding needs. If there is excess landowner money after completion, the funds will be returned to the landowners.

EL80.6 Delivery System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported there are two entities interested in executing a water service contract for the EL 84.7's additional capacity. Staff is seeking approval to offer water service contracts for the remaining capacity of designed system. Director Baker asked how the District can make sure there has been a fair opportunity for others to take remaining acres. Development Coordinator Erickson stated there were no acres requested in that area from the remaining acres request applications. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve offering water service contracts to use the remaining acreage capacity of the design not to exceed the maximum capacity. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

EL84.7 Delivery System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson presented interlocal agreements between CBCD and the District for the EL 84.7. He recommends approval of these agreements to receive grant funds through CBCD as they are the grantees of the RCPP public system (84.7/80.6) award. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve executing the interlocal agreements with CBCD. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried. Development Coordinator Erickson reported he is working with staff to form a "steps forward" list to monitor progress and timeframes to be able to report to the Board and the public.

Interlocal Agreement with CBCD

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff gave a construction update of the EL86.4 Delivery System. He reported deliveries started on Friday. Saturday the crew noticed a section of the pipe had a leak and began to drain it for a repair. Tapani Construction arrived at the site on Monday to instruct us how to repair the coupler. Following Tuesday night, watering started again and made a delivery on Wednesday morning. The estimated completion date for the electrical and fiber programming is between a month to a month and a half.

EL86.4 Delivery System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the Watershed project is on pause with its funding paused by NRCS. At the last board meeting, Jules Riley with NRCS was authorized to move forward with the grant extension process. The current grant agreement ends in two months, but NRCS is willing to extend the agreement with the District. Manager Simpson requested authorization to sign the NRCS grant agreement extension. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve execution of the

Watershed Plan Project

NRCS grant agreement extension, as discussed. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported there are now roughly 35,000 acres of water requested. He also reported that the development office is working on reviewing all the remaining acres requests. GIS Specialist Klesch is working on creating a map adding the requested acres within the District boundary to determine allocation of land to proposed systems. The next step is to distribute lands to the appropriate systems. President Anderson recommended staff prioritize water delivery as soon as possible to the extent that if private systems are faster and landowners want them, the District should be flexible in allocating acres.

Remaining Acres

PR Consultant Korfiatis gave an update on planning of the EL 86.4 opening ceremony. The invites to the celebration on May 5th will be distributed and will be working on an agenda. CBCD will also have an on-farm celebration for the completion 86.4 delivery system. There will be a separate gathering for staff and landowners on another date. She reported Kris Polly with Water Strategies acknowledged that the District is the first Irrigation District to implement communication with landowners using the "Textedly" app.

Public Relations Update

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff reported there were eleven potential sites identified and has reached out to landowners. He stated that half of those landowners expressed interest. Staff will identify where to explore further as the next step in the process is to identify sites to send to Bernardo Wills Architects for review.

Space Study Utilization

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff reported he met with Attorney Franz and Manager Simpson for internal review of the MOA/CFA and was submitted to Reclamation. The District is waiting for a response to the MOA/CFA review comments from Reclamation.

Partial Title Transfer

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff reported there is no activity due to the federal grant funds still being paused. Projects that would be funded by this grant would include the SCADA upgrade and full channel control with Rubicon.

USDA Water Savings Commodities

Manager Simpson reported we have not heard back from FCA regarding the concept paper application which includes the District pumping plant battery storage systems that was submitted at the end of February.

Multisite Solar and Battery Storage Grant

Manager Simpson reported that CBHP is scheduled to take over the O&M of the Quincy Chute Powerplant on October 1 at the end of the existing contract. The PEC Headworks Powerplant contract with GPUD runs through 2030. CBHP is negotiating a potential takeover of both the Quincy Chute and PEC Headworks Plants on December 1st instead. Manager Simpson reported that the previous change in power sales contracts will change how capital improvements and O&M will be funded. The District needs to create a fund to set money aside for CBHP capital improvements. CBHP will provide estimates for these improvements. Manager Simpson reported the CBHP expenses should not affect this year's incentives. Due to the change in the Reserved Works formula, the District's incentive portion will change, as it does annually.

Columbia Basin Hydropower

Manager Simpson reported there was a meeting requested by SCADA Project Manager Porter to determine where a SCADA tower and a backup server would be placed. In the

SCADA

meeting, it was determined that the best location for the communication tower would be at the Warden yard. Manager Simpson reported a water rights meeting was held on March 6th including the CBP Districts, Water Rights Consultant Haller, and Government Relations Consultant Schwisow, to present a proposal for CBP water rights to Reclamation. The Districts have asked Reclamation submit a request for an extension of the existing water right permit to fulfill requirements to certify the permit, implement HB 1752, and consolidate the certificates. Reclamation currently has no solicitors assigned to the topic and will need time to evaluate the information provided. EFO Maynard reported the proposal package was great and aggressive. There will be a Field Solicitor that will be assigned to review the proposal and engage comments. He mentioned that a virtual follow up meeting is scheduled for April 14th.

CBP Water Rights

Manager Simpson reported the District received the renewal quote from Marsh McLennan Agency for 2025 Major Property, the Engineer Professionals, and other insurance coverage. He reported a \$400 increase from the 2024 premium and a decrease in engineers' liability coverage. Manager Simpson requested authorization to approve the insurance renewal. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve the Major Property and Engineer Professions 2025 insurance. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Insurance Renewal

Assistant Manager Andreini presented the following Hot Mix Asphalt Patching for Road Crossings quotes for board consideration:

Quotes & Bids

Supplier	Amount
Central Washington Asphalt, Inc	\$43,788.00
Eastside Asphalt, Inc	\$46,200.00

Assistant Manager Andreini reported this is for patches on Moon Rd and Road 1. Director Baker questioned the price of the Asphalt quotes. Assistant Manager Andreini stated the cost of the Asphalt mix has doubled since last year. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to accept the quote for Hot Mix Asphalt Patching for Road Crossings in the amount of \$43,788.00, tax included, as the lowest responsive quote. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson reported staff met internally to discuss the findings of the Weber Siphons Seepage and Void Detection analysis that TSC completed. There is a scheduled meeting with Reclamation to discuss the analysis on April 10th.

Weber Siphons Update

Assistant Manager McCourtie gave an update on the EL 26-mile repair. The newly installed inlet/outlet inverted filters are currently dry. There were hairline cracks in the undershot box culvert. Assistant Manager Andreini reported District Engineer Gonzalez is managing the contract with Halme Construction as there is a dispute with them over a measured quantity of concrete. Staff Engineers surveyed the site and were able to measure the quantity of concrete placed. He also reported there were issues with the finish.

EL26 Mile Repair Update

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff gave an update on the progress of the collapsed pipe under the railroad tracks where the EL68MWW crosses. The railroad company

EL68 MWW Railroad Crossing Update

installed 6–8 inch pumps as a temporary bypass. The District agreed to not deliver water until April 31st. A permanent fix was not established but the company is intending to directionally drill a new crossing. He reported that he, Manager Simpson, and Assistant Manager McCourtie met with Reclamation and the railroad company to discuss repair plans and attempted to assist them in the process. It was determined that it is the railroad company's responsibility for any repairs due to their ownership. However, the company has sent a cost reimbursement request to the District and Reclamation.

Assistant Manager McCourtie reported the District received a tort claim from Grant County for work associated with the removal of Bridge 247 (Rd W) in the amount of \$20,805.49. He requested time in executive session to discuss the Bridge 247 (Rd W) tort claim.

Bridge 247 Tort Claim

Manager Simpson reported he and Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff will be attending the NWRA Federal Water Issues Conference later this month in Washington, D.C. Some topics of discussion will be the continued development of the CBP, title transfer funding, SCADA funding, EL 86.4 funding assistance, regulations and the Columbia River Treaty.

NWRA FWIC

Manager Simpson reported the collective bargaining agreement will end at the end of the year. Negotiations may start to take place soon. Manager Simpson requested time in executive session to discuss negotiation strategy.

Collective Bargaining Agreement

EFO Manager Maynard gave a staffing update and reported federal agencies started hiring staff back. Two out of three staff members at EFO were hired back which included an Archeologist and a Supply Technician. He reported that the cultural resources for Good Faith 4 All's permit will be done six months from now. EFO Manager Maynard reported the SCADA cooperative agreement funding is not on hold but needs permission to be executed by the Department of Government Efficiencies (DOGE). A request has been sent to Health and Human Services for approval. Reclamation is hopeful for execution of the \$7 million grant upon DOGE approval. He reported there was concrete work done above Pinto Dam and gave an update on the feed program. Start up is going well and reported there have been a low amount of water orders.

USBR Report

HR/Safety Supervisor Walraf presented the monthly safety report. There were no incidents/injuries. She reported a vandalism on 20-mile and damage to 26-mile. She gave a staffing update and stated that mechanic applications are open until filled.

Safety Supervisor

Assistant Manager Andreini provided the engineering report on behalf of District Engineer Gonzalez. The engineering department has been working on the startup of the EL 86.4 delivery system. He reported a staff engineer has taken over the well monitor readings.

Engineer Report

Assistant Manager Andreini reported he met with the EL 86.4 system integrator to go over the operator interface and alarm conditions. He continues to work on the contract with Farmers Electric for the wiring and fiber installation for the EL86.4 delivery system. All the panels have been installed at the turnouts and reported there is much wiring/fiber to install and get service from utilities. It will be substantially completed within the next couple of weeks.

Asst Manager Technical Report

Treasurer Dekker reported the front office has been kept busy with landowners paying assessments, RRA paperwork, grant administration and the audits. There were three maturities, and three investments placed.

Treasurer Report

Assistant Manager McCourtie reported the 250 HP variable frequency drive at the Warden Re-Lift Pumping Plant failed. He also reported that the Saddle Gap Fly Wheel is running and has sounded the best to date. Pump No. 2 will be sent out for repair.

Assistant Manager O&M

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff on both Watermaster sections and startup of the ELC. He gave an update on the start-up of the water season. He reported most laterals in the Othello section have been primed and the sections in Moses Lake have been working on one to two laterals per day. Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff reported that start up went well as water was turned on March 20th and by March 25th it was at level.

Manager Simpson reported there was a staff position proposal distributed to managers. There has not been any disagreements from staff and he is hopeful to start the hiring process later this month. He reported there was a good discussion when he and the CBP managers met with the Colville tribal executive director. He reported he does not know of any new the progression on the Columbia River Treaty. Manager Simpson expressed it has been good to build a relationship with the Colville Tribe as he wants to familiarize the tribe with CBP projects and us with their interests involving the Columbia River.

Manager Report

Director Baker moved to authorize the Board and appropriate staff to travel to the MAGIP Conference, April 14 - 18, 2025 in Helena, MT; and the GFOA Annual Conference, June 29 - July 2, 2025, in Washington, D.C. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Future Meetings

President Anderson declared an executive session at 12:05 p.m., for a total of 15 minutes, to discuss potential litigation under RCW 42.30.110(i). At 12:05 p.m., the meeting was extended for 15 minutes. At 12:20 p.m., the meeting was extended for 10 minutes. The meeting came out of executive session at 12: 30 p.m.

Executive Session

At 12:30 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Board at that time, President Anderson adjourned the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned



President



Secretary