

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

May 5, 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
Reid Baker
Kevin Lyle
Don Osborne
Dennis Swinger, Jr.

Staff

Craig Simpson
Rosa Dekker
John McCourtie
Nate Andreini
Anna Franz

Staff

Bobby Bischoff
Jon Erickson
Julio Gonzalez
Miriam Garcia

Visitors present: Marc Maynard, USBR; Phil Lefler, DOE; Derek Friehe, Friehe Farms; Gavin Johnson, Michael Rainis, and Paul Wollman. Visitors

Visitors via teleconference: Mike Schwisow, Brian Kuest, Michele Kiesz, Randy Kiesz, Willy Walter, and Eric Weber.

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

Mr. Derek Friehe with Friehe Farms commented on a letter that was sent on behalf of the EL 22.1 landowner group. He reported that the legislators have committed to funding the EL22.1 Delivery System and thanked the State for their support. He reported there were obstacles getting to the 100% design of the EL22.1 Delivery System and that the landowner group are working on solutions to build the system. He also reported the MOU has expired and is seeking to renew it. The landowners, IRZ, CBCD, the District and Reclamation have played a part in the development of this system. The landowners are willing to commit to over \$30M to fund the system. Public Comment Period

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

Approved & Issued Permits

a. Adams County	Underground Bore Crossing	Block 45, FU 144
b. Adams County	Underground Bore Crossing	Block 49, FU 160
c. Adams County	Underground Bore Crossing	Block 45, FU 142/143
d. Adams County	Underground Bore Crossing	Block 45, FU 207
e. Adams County	Underground Bore Crossing	Block 45, FU 208
f. CWE	Buried Pipeline Crossing	Block 40, FU 199
g. CWE	Buried Pipeline Crossing	Block 40, FU 200
h. CWE	Buried Pipeline Crossing	Block 40, FU 201
i. CWE	Buried Pipeline Crossing	Block 40, FU 202
j. IRZ Engineering	General Permit	Block 401, FU 9

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

Contracts

- a. Amend Interruptible Water Service Contract for Temporarily Deferred Lands To Be Served By Project Facilities, Johnson Land Legacy, LLC, 290-009-806, 300 acres
- b. Amend Interruptible Water Service Contract for Groundwater Replacement, Johnson Land Legacy, LLC 390-010-807, 82 acres
- c. Amend Interruptible Water Service Contract for Temporarily Deferred Lands To Be Served By Project Facilities, Johnson Land Legacy, LLC 290-019-806, 35 acres
- d. Amend Interruptible Water Service Contract for Temporarily Deferred Lands To Be Served By Project Facilities, Johnson Land Legacy, LLC 290-023-806, 30 acres
- e. Renewal Interruptible Water Service Contract for Temporarily Deferred Lands To Be Served By Project Facilities, Johnson Land Legacy, LLC 290-013-806, 79 acres

Manager Simpson reported contracts a. – e. are amended contracts. The contracts would be amended to reflect a change in the land descriptions for the benefit of maximizing OGWRP deliveries. These changes allow existing water rights to become eligible for groundwater replacement. These are variances to District policy that the board has allowed previously for the benefit of the OGWRP. Manager Simpson recommended the variances and amendments and also recommended the variance fees be waived, since it benefits the Program. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve contract a. – e., as presented with the recommended waiver of the associated variance fees. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

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

Variances

- a. Friehe Farms Common Delivery Combination Variance Request
- b. Wheeler Trust Common Delivery Combination Variance Request

Manager Simpson reported historically, the board has approved these annual variances to the combination policy. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve variances a. and b. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Vouchers

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. 328429 through 328595 in the amount of \$3,869,262.65 and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of \$762,471.67 for a total of \$4,418,231.66 from the O&M Fund and \$213,502.66 from the Construction Fund. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson presented Resolution 2025-06, Adopting an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Policy. Treasurer Dekker reported the auditors have asked us to create an electronic funds transfer resolution. This resolution is to document what the District already does. Director Osborne moved to adopt Resolution 2025-06, Adopting an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Policy. Director Baker seconded. Director Lyle asked to see the final draft to review. President Anderson tabled the motion to the next regular board meeting in order to give directors time to review the final draft of the 2025-06, Adopting an Electronic Funds (EFT) Policy.

Resolution 2025-06 Adopting an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Policy

Manager Simpson presented Resolution 2025-07, Revising the District's Personnel Practices & Procedures Manual to reflect updated positions, compensatory time clarification, accrued time usage and accessibility, and other necessary updates to the Manual. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to adopt Resolution 2025-07, Revising the District's Personnel Practices and Procedures Manual with minor changes made by the Manager. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Resolution 2025-07 Resolution 2025-07, Revising the District's PP&M

Manager Simpson reported the Board authorized a temporary water service contract for Round Lake Farms in previous years. Staff determined there is enough acreage available to fulfill their full 842-acre request and a temporary water service contract was prepared. Reclamation has provided the cost for the water. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve the execution of a temporary water service contract with Round Lake Farms. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Round Lake Farms Temp WSC

Development Coordinator Erickson reported there are no new updates for the EL11.8 Delivery System. The design is still being worked on. MHB is still committed to contributing their funds as an incentive to the State to fund the remaining portions.

EL11.8 Delivery System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the State legislature has proposed \$38.5M for the construction of the EL 22.1 Delivery System in the capital budget. This is still awaiting the signature of the Governor. This grant would require the District to use the funds solely for the EL22.1 Delivery System. Manager Simpson, Assistant Manager Andreini, and Development Coordinator Erickson met with the EL22.1 landowners to see how they proposed to move forward and had the discussion about providing the funds needed to fully construct the system. The landowners are committed to come up with the additional cost funding. A funding agreement will be put into place. Staff will be seeking a changes to executing a funding agreement. Funding will be needed upfront, earlier than the EL80.6 and 84.7 Delivery Systems due to the larger amounts needed. Development Coordinator Erickson reported that the easement acquisition is the biggest hurdle to access the State funds. In order to start the procurement of the

EL22.1 Delivery System Update

EL22.1 Delivery System, the water service contracts and easements need to be completed. The construction would most likely start in 2027. Derek Friehe with Friehe Farms stated there is a commitment of \$32M to fully fund the system based on IRZ engineering estimates.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the final design for the EL80.6 Delivery System is almost complete. He also reported there is an anticipated shortfall in state and federal funds. Funding agreements will be sent to the landowners for their review. Landowners will be responsible for covering funding gaps. He reported that the easement acquisitions can start as soon as Reclamation receives the exhibits.

EL80.6 & EL84.7
Delivery System
Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported RCPP funding and contracts have been authorized to proceed. He reported the final, executable water service contracts, in conjunction with the EL84.7 funding agreements, will be distributed to the landowners. He is hoping to send executed agreements to the Board in June. The landowners have agreed to cover the cost difference between the RCPP funds, and the funding needed to construct the EL 84.7 Delivery System, if a shortfall is encountered. There is no set amount yet that the landowners need to cover the cost. Development Coordinator Erickson reported that NRCS is working on releasing the \$40M in RCPP funds awarded to all OGWRP Delivery Systems and taking those steps to transition those funds from technical assistance to financial assistance.

Assistant Manager Andreini presented RH2 Engineering Task Authorization No. 7, Amendment No. 5, for incorporating directions on allocating the remaining acres in the system. It will enlarge and move two turnouts and is likely to reduce some of the main pipeline diameter due to a reduction in friction. This task order is in the amount of \$21,922 and WHB has agreed to pay for the amendment. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve RH2 Engineering Task Authorization No. 7, Amendment No. 5, in the amount of \$21,922 contingent upon receiving payment from the landowners. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

RH2 Engineering
Task
Authorization No.
7, Amendment
No. 5

Manager Simpson reported there are 55 acres of land for Johnson Land Legacy that are not associated with a delivery point as a result of subdivision of lands from probate. There is an existing canal side pumping plant that could supply the water and would still be considered part of the 84.7 System, subject to the construction debt service charge for that system. Manager Simpson recommended authorization to add the water service contract (55 acres) to the existing ELC delivery point for Gavin Johnson in lieu of adding a new turnout to the EL84.7 Delivery System. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve adding the Johnson Land Legacy water service contract (55 acres) to the existing delivery point in lieu of the EL84.7 Delivery System, with EL84.7 Delivery System's CDSC applied to the 55 acres. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Johnson Land
Legacy WSC

Assistant Manager Andreini reported the engineering department has prepared two pipeline bid packages for the Orman Johnson Pump Plant (EL84.7) but will not be going to bid until the water service contracts are executed. The intent is to purchase the pipe as soon as possible. Development Coordinator Erickson reported a Reclamation Realty Specialist is working on completing the acquisition of the EL 84.7 easements and will

move over to work on the EL 80.6 easements afterwards. He is working on obtaining title documents to start the acquisition of the remaining delivery system easements. Assistant Manager Andreini reported that there has not been a design acceptance meeting with Reclamation. The design will be approved by Reclamation and will take time but will not interrupt executing water service contracts.

EL86.4 Delivery System Update

Manager Simpson reported there was a staff BBQ to recognize those who helped build the EL 86.4 Delivery System on April 23rd. The crew, some partners and a few landowners were in attendance. The opening ceremony for the EL 86.4 celebration was held on May 5th including legislators, staff, landowners, and the District's partners. President Anderson reported the celebration was well prepared. Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff reported there were leaks at startup. Coupling bands were removed to prep the site and replace the couplers. The original couplers continued to leak and had to be repaired differently. A turnout tee broke at turn out 4 and needed to be replaced. Hobas Pipe was able to provide a new tee and the crew was able to get the water restored quickly. Farmers Electric is finishing up the electrical and fiber programming. Manager Simpson reported there was a lessons learned meeting to go over the construction process of the EL86.4 Delivery System.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported staff was informed that the PL-566 funding is available to move forward on existing billings. Now that the reporting portal is open, staff will work to add the reports and move the project forward.

Watershed Plan Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported staff will conduct a landowner meeting in June. Development Office Clerk Linden and GIS Specialist Klesch created a map to reflect the locations of the landowners. He reported the District will be initially holding 2,200 acres for private delivery systems. Development Coordinator Erickson is hopeful to start the MOU process in June.

Remaining Acres

PR Consultant Korfiatis reported news stories were published regarding the EL22.1 funding by the state. These stories were generated by the landowner group. She reported she and Development Coordinator Erickson were contacted by multiple news outlets inquiring about the system funding. PR Consultant Korfiatis will continue to monitor the situation. She also reported that Hobas Pipe submitted an article regarding the work done with the East District.

PR Consultant Korfiatis briefly reported on the EL 86.4 celebration and shared the "East Columbia Basin Irrigation District EL86.4 Ribbon Cutting" video produced by John Lockard to display the celebration of the EL86.4. This video will be shared on social media, the District's e-newsletter and the District's partners. She reported that the online order for water page was amongst the top three most visited pages of the District website. and displayed a video of the celebration produced by John Lockard. Director Swinger asked if there was a video telling the story of the CBP that can educate others. Kristina Ribellia with CBCD mentioned that CBDL created a story a few years ago.

Public Relations Update

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff reported that we have narrowed down the search to three sites. There were thirteen sites originally being evaluated. Deputy Assistant Manager of O&M Bischoff reached out to the landowners to inform them of our activities.

Space Utilization Study

He will be meeting with Bernardo Wills Architect later this week to go over cost estimate analyses for these sites.

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff reported Reclamation accepted the CFA and sent comments back for the MOA title transfer. Comments received by Reclamation will be reviewed and presented at the June Board Meeting.

Partial Title Transfer

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff reported the funds with USDA are still on pause, we have not heard when these funds will be ready.

USDA Water Commodities

Manager Simpson reported there have been no updates. The District has not heard about the concept paper which includes ECBID pumping plant battery storage systems, which was submitted at the start of the change in administration. The point of contacts have been reassigned and have not been heard back from yet.

Multisite Solar and Battery Storage Grant Application

CBHP Manager Lackner requested time in executive session to discuss the PEC Headworks/Quincy Chute contract amendments. He gave a brief update of the hydro power plants. All the plants are up and running with the exception of one plant. The RD Smith Plant is generating slightly above average.

Columbia Basin Hydropower

Assistant Manager Andreini reported there has not been significant progress on the SCADA project. There is no firm direction regarding what Reclamation will accept for its security measures and the group managing design has been working through that issue. The Reclamation funding for the SCADA program is still not clear. EFO Manager Maynard reported there is nothing new to report but is confident that the request will be approved and executed as soon as able to.

CBP SCADA

Manager Simpson reported there has been no activity lately. There is a scheduled water rights meeting on June 16th. Reclamation lost its solicitors assigned to water rights. Reclamation is taking steps to bring people along and figure out how to approach the next steps.

CBP Water Rights

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff reported the District received a report from TSC on the Weber Siphons Seepage and Void Detection analysis that was completed. There was a scheduled meeting on April 10th to discuss the analysis. He reported their testing was not complete, resulting in inconclusive data. There was a drainage of the water and it was determined there was a seepage void in the Weber Siphon. Assistant Manager McCourtie will be sending a letter to Reclamation regarding the issues that the District wants addressed by them to investigate any voids.

Weber Siphon Complex Update

District Engineer reported he met with Halme Construction to discuss dissatisfaction with project completion of the 26-mile repair. The concrete finish was not completed to required District standards. Halme Construction took a look at the area and agreed that the finish was not at par with the contract standards. They will fix the issue during the off-season. The District will withhold payment of \$40,000 for the repair. He reported ECBID crews did not grade adequately which required extra concrete. District Engineer Gonzalez presented Change Order No. 1 for additional work done at the 26-mile breach area in the amount of \$14,164 and the retainage of \$40,000 until corrective actions are

EL 26-mile Repair Update

completed. The District is still disputing the total concrete quantity requested by Halme. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve Change Order No. 1 for additional work in the amount of \$14,164 and retainment of \$40,000 for a total contract amount of \$416,764.51. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff requested time in executive session to discuss a letter received by the railroad company.

EL68 MWW
Railroad Update

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff requested time in executive session to discuss a tort claim from Grant County for Bridge 247 (Road W).

Bridge 247 Tort
Claim (Road W)

Manager Simpson reported the quote for the Hot Mix Asphalt Patching for Road Crossings, previously approved at the April meeting, was determined afterwards that staff hadn't followed the MRSC Small Works Roster requirements to accept quotes in lieu of formal bids. To utilize a quotation, process the District needed to use the MRSC Small Works Roster process, which wasn't done initially and therefore a sealed public bid process should have been used. Hence, staff rejected the initial quotes and subsequently requested quotes following the requirements of the MRSC small works roster. Since this work was previously authorized, this quote process' results were within the authorized amount, the award minimized potential liability exposure, and the counties are stressing the need for permanent patching to be completed, Manager Simpson authorized the award of the low, qualified quote from All-Service Asphalt, LLC for \$23,675.32, plus sales tax. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to ratify the Hot Mix Asphalt Patching for Road Crossings bid to All-Service Asphalt, LLC for \$23,675.32, plus sales tax. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Quotes and Bids

Manager Simpson briefly reported on the NWRA Federal Water Issues Conference he and Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff attended last month in Washington, D.C. He and Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff met with staff for the Acting Deputy Commissioner, an US State Dept CRT briefing, Reps. Newhouse, Rep. Baumgartner's staff, and staff for Senator Murray and Cantwell. They also met with Reclamation, Senate ENR House, Wate, Wildlife and Fishery Subcommittee and the new NRCS Chief Aubrey Bettencourt. Manager Simpson reported the collective visits went well with Quincy and South District. There were reports on title transfer discussions.

NWRA FWIC
Report

Manager Simpson reported during the conference that NWRA was able to establish procedures for adding four new board seats for Individual Memberships. In the future he will be requesting Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff to run for one of those seats. The elections will take place before the July NWRA meeting.

GIS Specialist Klesch reported on the MAGIP conference she attended last month. She reported the conference had excellent sessions and workshops this year that were very beneficial. She appreciated the opportunity to attend as it allowed her to network and troubleshoot with other geospatial specialists. GIS Specialist Klesch gave an update on the Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc (ESRI). The ESRI is a global provider of geographic information system software (GIS) that will deprecate the current map application the District uses for District Mapper in ArcGIS Online at the end of this year. She attended a combination of classes and sessions.

MAGIP Report

During the conference sessions, she learned about apps datum updates, ARCADE, and migrations that are needed.

EFO Manager Maynard reported that Roland Springer is the new Acting Regional Director for the region. He also gave a staffing update and the filling roles. The region has lost 230 employees out of a total of 1,170 employees due to resignation/retirement. The Ephrata Field Office lost 14 employees, which has resulted in the office currently having a total of 24 employees. He stated this is a core group of committed employees that are looking at prioritizing critical work. The priority work includes water operations and the development of CBP project. Private/landowner issues is a lower priority. He also reported that there is a proposed 2026 budget and reported the President has cut the budget for Reclamation.

USBR Report

EFO Manager Maynard reported there is a scheduled water rights meeting on June 16th. He reported that Reclamation has provided the cost for the water of the Round Lake Farms water service contract. They are waiting for a formal letter from the District stating there is enough acreage available to fulfill their full 842-acre request. EFO Manager Maynard gave a brief update on the SCADA program and the cybersecurity measures. He also gave an update on the Potholes Supplemental Feed Route. He reported a consultation for the feed route needs to be completed. DOGE needs to complete the cultural review for approval of contract modification and consult with the tribes. EFO Manager Maynard reported that during the Columbia River Initiative meeting, Manager Simpson asked if the Districts can complete work to expedite the process. He also gave an update on the Trout Lodge litigation. Easements do not need to be completed in order to turn water on for the PSFR. He expects 50-100 cfs of flow to start once the cultural review is complete but before the Rocky Ford easements are finalized.

HR/Safety Supervisor Walraf presented the monthly safety report. There were no injuries. She reported there was a backup incident resulting in a tort claim. There will be an MSHA training for the crew it applies to. She also reported that the fire department will conduct a fire inspection on May 12-14.

HR/Safety
Supervisor

District Engineer Gonzalez reported Gordon Trucking Short Plat is asking for an exemption to the required release their water allotment. They meet all the requirements for Lot 1, 2, and 3, except for not having their own delivery point presently. Lot 4 will not meet the requirements as it will only have about 1.4 irrigable acres which requires them to release Lot 4 allotments. Staff are proposing we accept the exemption request for Lots 1, 2, and 3 contingent upon providing a bond for 200% of the cost of the additional turnouts and associated pipelines if facilities aren't constructed prior to their requested plat approval. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the request of exemption of water allotment release for Gordon Trucking Short Plat Lots 1, 2, and 3 contingent upon receipt of an appropriate bond, or installed facilities required. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried. He reported the engineering department has also been working on the repairs of the EL 86.4 delivery system. The crew has shifted to working on the EL84.7 procurement packages and getting ready to start the bid process. They also have been working on the conservation pipelines designs and reported they are ready to go to bid.

Engineer Report

Assistant Manager Andreini reported his focus last month was wrapping up the EL86.4 Delivery System. There were small issues with finishing the construction of the EL86.4 Delivery System. He has been coordinating with consultants designing OGWRP systems. He also attended the Columbia River Initiative meeting and participated in an interview with an engineering candidate.

Asst Manager
Technical
Services

Treasurer Dekker reported she attended a staff meeting and the Moses Lake High School career fair. She reported there was a clean financial exit audit. There were six maturities, and nine investments were placed. She reported that an audit is scheduled for August.

Treasurer
Report

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff gave an update on the April deliveries. There was a slow start with deliveries and had to temporarily shut down the EL47.5 delivery system. He reported there was a surprise pesticide application inspection in March. They requested records of pesticide applications. A notice of correction letter was received indicating keeping the vegetation management area clean and the use of detailed reporting. Staff sent the form back to let them know these issues were fixed.

Assistant
Manager O&M

Manager Simpson reported he will be taking his annual leave and will be out of the office for just over two weeks. The three assistant managers will handle their corresponding departments and should reach a consensus if there is a need for more than one to evaluate the situation. If consensus can't be reached, Assistant Manager Andreini will make a final determination. Manager Simpson requested time in executive session to discuss a personnel issue.

Manager Report

Director Swinger moved to authorize the Board and appropriate staff to travel to the FFA Lower Snake River Dam Tour, July 15-16, 2025, Lewiston, ID. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Travel
Authorization

Manager Simpson reported the 1st Half Reserved Works payment was made in the amount of \$2,185,830.75. The 2nd Half Reserved Works payment will be paid in June.

Other

President Anderson declared an executive session at 11:50 p.m., for a total of 40 minutes, to discuss potential litigation with legal counsel. The meeting came out of executive session at 12:30 p.m.

Executive
Session

Director Swinger moved to authorize staff to make a settlement offer to Grant County for appropriate costs of inspection of damages to the Road "W" bridge. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Grant County
Tort Claim

At 12:30 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Board at that time, President Anderson continued the Hearing for Petition for Inclusion of Lands to the next regular meeting and adjourned the meeting.

Meeting
Adjourned

Dwain Ande

President

CRA

Secretary