

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

June 4, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Duaine Anderson.

Present were:

Directors

Duaine Anderson
Kevin Lyle
Don Osborne
Dennis Swinger, Jr.
Reid Baker

Staff

Craig Simpson
Rosa Dekker
John McCourtie
Nate Andreini
Bobby Bischoff

Staff

Anna Franz
Miriam Garcia
Julio Gonzalez
Jon Erickson

Visitors present: Marc Maynard, USBR; Derek Friehe, Paul Wollman, and Clark Kagele. Visitors

Visitors via teleconference: Jennifer Hickenbottom, USBR; Mike Schwisow, Consultant; Eric Weber, Jake Wollman and Brian Kuest.

Minutes of the regular meeting of May 7, 2025, had been mailed to the Directors. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 7, 2025, as written. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried. Minutes Approved

Manager Simpson reported staff approved and issued the following permit, consistent with board authorization: Public Comment Period

Approved & Issued Permit

a. Grant County PUD Overhead Fiber Crossing Block 70

District Improvements

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

Contracts

- a. Renewal Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract, Tom Kummer, LLC, 047-804-803-000-04, 60 acres
- b. Renewal Interruptible Water Service Contract for Temporarily Deferred Lands, Lucy Road Farms, LLC, 290-014-806, 50 acres

Manager Simpson reported these are a renewal of existing contracts and staff recommends approval. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve contracts a. and b., as presented. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson presented the following EL 84.7 Delivery System contracts c. - r., for board consideration:

Contracts

EL 84.7 Delivery System

- c. First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract for Groundwater Replacement, B3 Land Company LLC, 390-124-813, 345 acres
- d. First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract for Groundwater Replacement, Chris T. Lyle, 390-125-813, 205 acres
- e. First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract for Groundwater Replacement, Gen 4 Land LLC, 390-126-813, 478 acres
- f. First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract for Groundwater Replacement, Growing Strong LLC, 390-128-813, 845 acres
- g. First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract for Groundwater Replacement, Hatton Road Farms LLC, 390-129-813, 230 acres
- h. First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract for Groundwater Replacement, Kevin J. Lyle, 390-130-813, 248.5 acres
- i. First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract for Groundwater Replacement, Terrabowen LLC, 390-131-813, 336 acres
- j. First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract for Groundwater Replacement, Northwest Plains, LLC, 390-132-813, 153.3 acres
- k. First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract for Groundwater Replacement, Ohana Ag Aid LLC, 390-133-813, 575 acres
- l. First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract for Groundwater Replacement, R&J Lyle LLC, 390-135-813, 233 acres
- m. First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract for Groundwater Replacement, Ted S. & Merideth K. Tschirky, 390-136-813, 250 acres
- n. First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract for Groundwater Replacement, WHB Trust, 390-137-813, 865 acres
- o. First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract for Groundwater Replacement, Windy Prairie Inc. ETAL, 390-138-813, 248.5 acres
- p. First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract for Groundwater Replacement, WHB Trust, 390-139-813, 937.5 acres
- q. First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract for Groundwater Replacement, Chris T. Lyle, 390-140-813, 205 acres
- r. First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract for Groundwater Replacement, Johnson Land Legacy LLC, 390-141-813, 55 acres

Manager Simpson reported these are new water service contracts for the EL84.7 Delivery System. The new water service contracts all have lands that are eligible for groundwater replacement through OGWRP. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve contracts c. – r., as presented. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Vouchers audited and certified by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a comparative report listing, which has been made available to the Board. After reviewing the vouchers submitted for payment approval, Director Baker Vouchers

moved to approve for payment check nos. 328596 through 328856 in the amount of \$1,958,071.79 and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of \$987,410.88 for a total of \$2,899,232.17 from the O&M Fund and \$46,250.50 from the Construction Fund. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson presented Resolution 2025-06, Adopting an Electronic Funds Transfer Policy. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to adopt Resolution 2025-06 as presented and discussed. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Resolution 2025-06

Manager Simpson presented Resolution 2025-09, Concurring with the Request to Consent to Construct, Operate, and Maintain a Public Park and its Appurtenances Over and Across the United States' Easement. He reported this is a draft resolution intended only for discussion. There is an undeveloped wasteway easement for the EL18WW that runs through numerous subdivisions in Moses Lake. Currently, waste from the lateral drains through the gravels in the area and doesn't need conveyance facilities to the lake. The Project retains the easement in the event the drainage into the gravel isn't adequate in the future. Ongoing subdivision development has occurred in the area. The request comes from a developer to build a park on the easement. The developers have asked to reduce the right-of-way easement. Manager Simpson reported he will need to review Reclamation's requirements and stipulations and the District will need to go through the permit process also.

Resolution 2025-09

Manager Simpson reported the Board had previously authorized a temporary water service contract for Round Lake Farms for 2025. He reported the contract was approved by Reclamation and is now fully executed. 5,000 af of water was delivered to Round Lake Farms through May 28th. Round Lake Farms requested an additional 1,000 af of water. Manager Simpson reported we worked with Reclamation to get additional water released. EFO Manager Maynard reported the additional 1,000 af of water was delivered and the gates have been closed. Round Lake Farms appreciated the opportunity to purchase and have water delivered.

Round Lake Farms Temp WSC

Development Coordinator Erickson reported there are no major updates for the EL 11.8 Delivery System. The main focus has been the design process of the system. Jerry Gross with MHB and IRZ are committed to finding solutions for the system.

OGWRP: EL11.8 Delivery System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported that the Governor has executed the budget which included a \$38.5M proviso for solely the EL 22.1 Delivery System. Derek Friehe, with the EL 22.1 landowner group reported that the 100% design was approved by Reclamation. The EL 22.1 landowner group is working to find a solution on how to utilize the funds and continues efforts to work with the District to move the project forward. The next step is to execute an MOU but currently, there are no funds for the District from landowners or grants to conduct these activities. Development Coordinator Erickson has been actively engaged in the process. President Anderson asked why there are not enough funds for the system. Manager Simpson stated the size of the system and cost of everything has increased. The grant funds available are not sufficient for the 100% design of the system. Development Coordinator Erickson requested the Board to allow staff to work towards seeking grants from OCR to utilize for administrative and technical assistance. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve allowing staff to seek

EL22.1 Delivery System Update

grants from OCR for administrative and technical fees. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

District Engineer Gonzalez reported he has been working on the EL 80.6 Delivery System design to update landowner changes and expects to get to 100% design within the next month. Assistant Manager Andreini reported there will be a request for an amendment for the design of the EL 80.6 Delivery system at the July Board meeting. There is a landowner who is requesting to take additional acres, previously unallocated. Development Coordinator Erickson reported the plan is to, at a minimum, build the sump for the pumping plant this winter. This could be a potential winter construction activity in conjunction with the EL 84.7 Delivery System. He also reported the District met Larry Matson and Melissa Downes with OCR to discuss construction oversight.

EL80.6 & EL84.7
Delivery System
Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported water service contracts were approved and executed and staff requests to proceed with the procurement of the EL 84.7 Delivery System. Assistant Manager Andreini reported material and pipe bids are ready to go out. He also reported he is waiting for RH2 to provide the final bid-ready documents. The strategy is to stagger deliveries of material to coincide as nearly as possible with installation and reimbursement. Assistant Manager Andreini requested authorization to call for all EL 84.7 procurement and construction bids. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to authorize calling for all EL 84.7 procurement and construction bids. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

EL84.7 Delivery
System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the EL 86.4 Delivery System is not completely finished. We are still working on electrical and fiber optics. The District also needs to go through the close out process with Reclamation. There are a few steps that need to take place before transferring ownership of the system to Reclamation. Assistant Manager McCourtie reported the pipe leaks and valves have all been repaired and the system is delivering water from all thirteen turnouts. He reported there was an incident last month with the weed screen. The weed screen ripped in half and screening is currently with a temporary solution. The new weed screen material has arrived. We will evaluate the temporary solution's efficacy to see if it needs to be replaced and ensure that an incident does not occur again.

EL86.4 Delivery
System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the Watershed Plan Project is still on pause.

Watershed Plan
Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported there will be a public landowner meeting held on June 19th at the Moses Lake Civic Center. The time is still to be determined. He anticipates the entities that have requested acres for the remaining acres of the OGWRP will attend. This will be an opportunity to create a map and start forming landowner groups, MOUs and determine whether public systems or private systems will be requested. Manager Simpson thanked Development Coordinator Erickson, Development Clerk Linden, and Attorney Franz for their work finalizing and executing the water service contracts for the EL84.7 Delivery System.

Remaining Acres

PR Consultant Korfiatis reported there was a change of language for website compliance from the American Disabilities Act. There is an extensive list of modifications which include adding captions on videos posted. The deadline for compliance is April

Public Relations
Update

2026. President Anderson asked how current websites will be moving forward with this new requirement. PR Consultant Korfiatis stated that there is conflicting language. She stated that School Districts will modify retroactively, although that is not necessarily required. She reported the Columbia Basin Herald will be producing a publication called "Our Town for Othello" and requested approval to advertise the District and ECBID by the numbers in the publication in the amount of \$300. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve advertising the District and ECBID by the numbers in the publication in the amount of \$300. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried. PR Consultant Korfiatis reported on the monthly update of the District's website analytics. She reported there was an increase in visits to the open positions page mainly from the Seattle area and marked the OGWRP being the third most visited page.

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff reported he met with Bernardo Wills shortly after the May Board meeting. He reported Bernardo Wills will provide a cost analysis for three sites within the next three weeks. The cost analysis will be ready to present at the July Board meeting.

Space Utilization Study

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff reported the title transfer MOA is being internally reviewed by staff. An extensive review needs to be done. Manager Simpson will be reviewing the Dingle Act before the MOA is committed and signed.

Partial Title Transfer

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff reported the USDA Water Savings Commodities Grant agreement was submitted before the change in administration. He reached out to a number of people to inquire about the status of the Water Savings Commodities Grant. The program is still alive and moving along. USDA is working through the Districts' work plan. He reported he is not certain about the fate of the program for the future.

USDA Water Savings Commodities

Manager Simpson reported the District has had a long relationship with FCA, thus being selected to apply for the Multisite Solar and Battery Storage Grant. This is a grant from the Department of Energy. We have not heard anything since the submission.

Multisite Solar and Battery Storage Grant

Attorney Franz gave an update on the PEC/Quincy Chute contract. She reported there was anticipation for a contract amendment from Grant PUD during the Columbia Basin Hydropower meeting but did not receive it.

Columbia Basin Hydropower

Assistant Manager Andreini reported the SCADA work is continuing and the Districts and designers are still figuring out what Reclamation will require for cybersecurity. There are update meetings every other week. Assistant Manager Andreini presented Task Order No. 3, Change Order No. 4 with Casne the engineering consultant for SCADA. This task order is a request for additional redesign work based on Reclamation's comments in the amount of \$150,000, 1/3 payable by ECBID. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve Task Order No. 3, Change Order No. 4 in the amount of \$150,000. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried. Manager Simpson reported he is unsure about the funding from Reclamation for SCADA. EFO Manager Maynard reported that Reclamation got DOGE approval for the cooperative funding agreement. He anticipates it will be ready to be executed within the next 2-4 weeks.

SCADA

Manager Simpson reported not much has changed. The three CBP District Managers updated their presentation for the Water Rights meeting on June 16th with Reclamation and Ecology. This will be the first time it will be presented to the Department of Ecology. He reported that Reclamation does not have assigned solicitors yet.

CBP Water Rights

Manager Simpson reported it has been past practice for the District to sponsor member events and mentioned the District sponsored the NWRA Western Water Seminar last summer. He reported that Family Farm Alliance (FFA) will be touring the Columbia Basin Project this summer. Manager Simpson requested sponsoring this year's NWRA Western Water Seminar and the FFA Lower Snake River Tour. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve sponsoring the NWRA Western Water Seminar in the amount of \$2,500 and the FFA Lower Snake River Dam Tour in the amount of \$1,000. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Sponsorships

Assistant Manager McCourtie reported he sent a letter to Reclamation regarding the Weber Siphon analysis report requesting Reclamation to conduct a more thorough analysis. Manager Simpson reported TSC did a lot of work but did not work in all of the suspect area. Reclamation's recommendation consisted of dewatering the Weber Siphon to conduct a thorough inspection and possible potholing to verify voids. EFO Manager Maynard reported he is not as familiar with the report but will discuss it with Jennifer Hickenbottom from Reclamation.

Weber Siphons Update

District Engineer Gonzalez reported Halme Construction accepted Change Order No. 1. Halme Construction agreed to return in the fall during the off-season to complete the concrete repairs. They also did a walk-through to clean up the site and remove the leftover concrete. Manager Simpson reported the District has an excessive workload pending for the EL 26-mile repair. There are many panels to repair and polyurea to apply next winter. Director Lyle asked if insurance covered the repairs for damages due to the breach. Manager Simpson replied that only the damage to other property caused by the breach was covered, not the Districts repair costs.

EL26-Mile Repair Update

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff reported the District received another letter from Columbia Basin Railroad with a request for reimbursement of mitigation expenses incurred to date for establishing a temporary water bypass system in the amount of \$424,942.32. They have also attached invoices for the expenses incurred. Columbia Basin Railroad expects the District and Reclamation to pay for the temporary repair. They insinuated that the District and Reclamation should be responsible for the permanent repair. EFO Manager Maynard reported Reclamation has a response to the letter received by Columbia Basin Railroad. He has been reviewing the letter with solicitors and will send a response to BNSF and Columbia Basin Railroad. Manager Simpson requested time in executive session to discuss the invoice.

EL 68 MWW Railroad Crossing Update

Assistant Manager McCourtie requested time in executive session to discuss the Dan Roseburg tort claim.

Dan Roseburg Tort Claim

Manager Simpson reported the 2nd Half Reserved Works payment is due at the end of the month in the amount of \$1,910,323.66. He reported the bill is for the anticipated amount and has not found any anomalies that need to be corrected. This is the final payment for the 2025 Reserved Works payment and will be paid at the end of the month.

2nd Half Reserved Works Payment

EFO Manager Maynard reported there is a Water Rights meeting on June 16th including OCR. He is looking forward to moving forward with this issue. He reported there is an OGWRP update meeting on June 11th in Spokane with Acting Regional Director Roland Springer. He gave a staffing update and reported the EFO has lost one SCADA IT Employee. There is still a hiring freeze so he will work with coverage needed for the position. Director Lyle asked for an update on the Fox drainage study. EFO Manager Maynard replied that he will follow up with Randall Fox regarding his request time for peer review. The review deadline is in November of this year.

USBR Report

Assistant Manager Andreini reported on the Tri-State meeting and tour he, Treasurer Dekker, and Executive Secretary Garcia attended. The group toured the Klamath Basin Project, the Wildlife Refuge, and a potato processing plant. The meeting included issues with Reclamation staffing and updates from WSWRA, OWRC, and IWUA.

Tri-State Meeting Report

Safety Supervisor Walraf presented the monthly safety report. She reported there was an accident involving a non-District vehicle. She gave an update on open positions including advertising for a Mechanic, an Electrician and will be advertising for a Relief Rider. An Accounts Payable Clerk position will be advertised to the public shortly. She also reported that the District had its annual fire inspection last month and had an MSHA training.

Safety Supervisor

District Engineer Gonzalez briefly reported on the Engineering Department's activities. They have been working on conservation pipelines and procurement documents for the EL84.7 Delivery System. He also reported they are close to finishing the designs of the conservation pipelines and will meet with O&M to discuss these. The as-builts for the EL86.4 Delivery System are nearly complete. He reported an engineering intern, Isaiah Perez, will start working for the District on June 19th. He also reported he attended the MRSC training in Richland. District Engineer Gonzalez reported he is interested in updating and purchasing a new GPS system. He has been communicating with vendors and will meet with them to discuss quotes. Information and quotes for a new GPS System will be presented at the July Board meeting.

Engineer Report

Assistant Manager Andreini reported he has had a fair amount of work with the procurement strategy of the EL84.7 Delivery System. His focus last month was finishing the designs of the EL80.6 and EL84.7 Delivery Systems. Assistant Manager Andreini reported he hosted the Water Management class of Big Bend Community College for a tour.

Asst Manager Technical Services

Treasurer Dekker reported she attended the MRSC meeting. The combination deadline was Monday June 2nd. She reported the District's financial statements have been submitted to the State Auditors. There were four maturities, and four investments placed. Treasurer Dekker requested authorization for Manager Simpson to sign a new investor account agreement, since the previous agreement was concluded. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to authorize Manager Simpson to sign the agreement for a new investor account. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Treasurer Report

Assistant Manager McCourtie reported water deliveries were 102% of the 5-year average. He reported the Watermaster section is getting ready to start the rock crusher. He reported on the MSHA training that is performed in-house. There is a 24-hour training requirement for those who are non-experienced and an 8-hour training requirement for those with prior experience.

Assistant
Manager O&M

Manager Simpson reported there will be a substantial number of tours this year. There have been requests for tours by multiple entities and we will attempt to fulfill each request. The legislative staff will have a recess period in August and we will attempt to schedule tours around this time to allow congressional staff to attend. Manager Simpson reported he will be reviewing the fee schedule and the non-bargaining unit wages to present at the July Board meeting. He also reported he will be traveling to the NWIO tour in Lethbridge, Canada this month along with four staff members. He also reported staff did a good job taking care of business at the District while he was away from the office. Manager Simpson requested time in executive session to report briefly on personnel issues.

Manager Report

Attorney Franz gave an update on the irrigation district election bill, SB-5669, reporting it passed in the legislature. WSWRA will be holding a virtual meeting to go over compliance and bill updates. There will be minor adjustments to the procedures but she does not expect any drastic updates. She also reported she has been working with two attorneys on an amendment to the contract for the PEC Headworks/Quincy Chute. Attorney Franz requested time in executive session for a litigation update.

Attorney Update

Director Swinger moved to authorize the Board and appropriate staff to travel to the NWRA State Execs Meeting, June 9-10, 2025, in Denver, CO. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried. Manager Simpson reported he may not be able to travel to this meeting.

Future Meetings

Mr. Clark Kagele appreciated the work that is being done for the OGWRP by staff and the Board and showing great success. He mentioned there will be a remaining acres meeting where the Board and the landowners need to discuss the potential plans moving forward for the funding.

Public Comment

President Anderson declared an executive session at 11:25 p.m., for a total of 20 minutes, to discuss litigation with legal counsel under RCW 42.30.110(i) and to review the performance of a public employee under RCW 42.30.110(g). The meeting came out of executive session at 11:45 a.m.

Executive
Session

Director Swinger moved to authorize staff to deny the Dan Roseburg tort claim. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Meeting
Adjourned

At 11:49 a.m., there being no further business to come before the Board at that time, President Anderson adjourned the meeting.



President



Secretary

Minutes continue on page -2025-50-