

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

July 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  
Don Osborne  
Dennis Swinger, Jr.  
Reid Baker

Staff

Craig Simpson  
John McCourtie  
Nate Andreini  
Rosa Dekker  
Anna Franz

Staff

Bobby Bischoff  
Julio Gonzalez  
Jonathan Erickson  
Miriam Garcia

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

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

Minutes of the regular meeting of June 4, 2025, had been mailed to the Directors. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 4, 2025, as written. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried. Minutes Approved

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff introduced Scott Kisler in his new role as the Field Superintendent. District Improvements

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

Approved & Issued Permits

a. Prior Sisters, LLC      General Permit      Block 44, FU 207

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

Contracts

a. Renewal Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract, Country Morning Farms, LLC, 190-041-808, 86 acres

- b. Renewal Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract, WHB Trust, 190-042-805-000-00, 114 acres
- c. Renewal Interruptible Water Service Contract For Temporarily Deferred Lands, Mary L. Juchmes, 40-803-803-000-00, 24 acres

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

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

Agreement

- a. Consent to Water Delivery Changes, Peter John Taggares III, Block 45, Farm Unit 056

Manager Simpson reported there was a water delivery change that had moved from an old turnout several years ago. Henry Boersma plans to make development improvements on this land. Moving the point of delivery relieves the need for a Reclamation easement which allows it to be released. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve agreement a., as presented. Director Baker 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 comparative report listing, which has been made available to the Board. After reviewing the vouchers submitted for payment approval, Director Swinger moved to approve for payment check nos. 328857 through 329048 in the amount of \$2,974,995.76 and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of \$2,017,903.40 for a total of \$3,396,626.85 from the O&M Fund, \$236,509.81 from the Construction Fund, \$183,548.32 from the 2006 Debt Service Fund, \$126,809.03 from the 2007 Debt Service Fund, \$348,642.65 from the Power Fund, and \$700,762.50 from the 2016 Debt Service Fund. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported there has not been an update on the movement of the EL 11.8 Delivery System. He reported the District is working through a SEIS with NRCS. Currently, the system is not funded for construction. MHB maintains their willingness to fund a portion of the system. EFO Manager Maynard reported that a draft review by NRCS for the SEIS is expected later this month.

OGWRP:  
EL11.8 Delivery  
System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the EL 22.1 Delivery System had received a large amount of funding that will be used solely for the system under the state's proviso. Staff met the EL22.1 landowners to discuss how they would like to move forward. A list of pros and cons was created for the system, but staff has not internally reviewed it yet. There were ideas discussed at the landowner meeting for a path moving forward which included: 1. After District construction, the delivery system will be turned over to the District for the management of O&M. 2. A hybrid approach where the District funds the system but a Project Manager with IRZ will construct the delivery system. 3. The landowner group will fund and construct the delivery system and then turn over to

EL22.1 Delivery  
System Update

the District after construction for the management of O&M. 4. The District will fund the delivery system and be managed by the landowner group for O&M.

President Anderson asked why the EL 22.1 landowner association received funding from the state if they are a private association. Manager Simpson replied they are a statutorily organized state organization which allows them access to certain state and federal funds. Development Coordinator Erickson reported there was a landowner meeting with the Office of Columbia River on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Staff has started the MOU process for landowners to get a clear understanding of how the system will be developed. The District will be applying for grant funds to cover costs for MOU development and future meetings. Development Coordinator Erickson reported this is a positive move forward. Manager Simpson reported the District needs to figure out a practical path forward to accessing the additional funds awarded to the system without disrupting the OGWRP. The EL 22.1 Delivery System is still a public system but portions would be funded by someone else other than the District. The EL 22.1 landowner group has asked to build a larger system than the District specified. The portion the District committed to fund is capped at \$5,700/acre. Allowing an expansion of the public system through District-awarded grant funds is not ideal because it does not buy down the construction service debt charge for the overall program. The EL 22.1 Delivery System has received \$64M in grant funds from the state and all OGWRP landowners received \$14M in RCPP grant funds through CBCD.

Assistant Manager Andreini presented RH2 Engineering Task Authorization No. 6, Amendment No. 6, with RH2 Engineering. This task order is to extend the deadline for completion of the task order through December 2025. This is the last work being done for the design of the EL 80.6 Delivery System. He reported that he expects the system to be ready to move into the construction phase later this month. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve RH2 Engineering Task Authorization No. 6, Amendment No. 6, to extend the deadline for completion of the task order through December 2025. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

EL80.6 Delivery System Update Task Authorization No. 6, Amendment No. 6

Assistant Manager Andreini presented RH2 Engineering Task Authorization No. 6, Amendment No. 7, with RH2 Engineering. This work is to allocate acres not claimed by landowners that were designed into the EL 80.6 Delivery System under the state grant proviso. A landowner will contract for these acres. There are turnout and demand location adjustments to make. This task order is in the amount of \$20,185 and the landowner has agreed to pay for the amendment. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve RH2 Engineering Task Authorization No. 6, Amendment No. 7, in the amount of \$20,185, contingent upon receiving payment from the landowner. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Task Authorization No. 6, Amendment No. 7

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the development office has been working on RCPP developing grant payment reimbursements processes for the EL 84.7 Delivery System.

EL84.7 Delivery System Update

Assistant Manager Andreini presented RH2 Engineering Task Authorization No. 7, Amendment No. 6, with RH2 Engineering. This task order is to extend the deadline for completion of the task order through December 2025. There are activities currently being done to get ready for the start of construction of the EL84.7 Delivery System.

Task Authorization No. 7,

Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve RH2 Engineering Task Authorization No. 7, Amendment No. 6, to extend the deadline for completion of the task order through December 2025. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Assistant Manager Andreini reported Reclamation Realty staff are updating easements based on the last design changes. He reported that a landowner extension has been eliminated and the District will no longer need that easement. There are three M&I contract requests that may be added to the system, but the system is currently not designed for them. The landowners requesting M&I water will cover the construction charges for the turnouts and pay the construction debt service charge for 30 years upfront. Those contracts would contribute to the system through the construction debt service charge and would remain the first type of contract to be interrupted in the event the system demand exceeds capacity.

EL84.7 Delivery System Update

District Engineer Gonzalez presented the following PIPE-EL84.7-01 bids for board consideration:

PIPE-EL84.7-01 Bids

<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Schedules A, A1 and A2 – PVC – Bid Amount</b>	<b>Schedules B, B1 and B2: HDPE Dips – Bid Amount</b>
Engineer's Estimate	\$753,121.31	
Engineer's Estimate		\$1,060,767.58
Lad Irrigation*	\$623,568.58	
Consolidated Supply	\$648,967.00	
HD Fowler Company	\$663,263.66	
Ferguson Waterworks	\$663,941.82	
Consolidated Supply		\$794,236.20
HD Fowler Company		\$798,626.68
ISCO Industries		\$813,225.29
Lad Irrigation		\$1,104,114.79

District Engineer Gonzalez reported the District went out to bid for PVC or HDPE pipe. It was reported that Lad Irrigation had incomplete bid submittals and therefore should be declared non-responsive for not meeting the District's bid specifications. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to declare Lad Irrigation as non-responsive for not meeting District bid specifications and to accept the bid from Consolidated Supply in the amount of \$648,967.00, plus sales tax, as the lowest responsive bid. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Assistant Manager Andreini reported the EL 84.7 Delivery System is fully contracted. Two entities picked up the excess acreage. Director Lyle asked when the electrical transmission construction would start. Assistant Manager Andreini replied that the District is not ready to go out to bid as it will be a 2026 project. The long lead item regulators and capacitors were previously ordered a year ago and all other electrical equipment delivery time is currently less than a year. He reported the pump plant bid will go out this month. There are two other bids out for pipeline materials and he will request a Special Board Meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup> to award these bids.

EL84.7 Delivery System Update

District Engineer Gonzalez reported the fiber installation for the EL 86.4 Delivery System has not been completed. He met with Farmers Electric to discuss the damage the District incurred due to the delay. District Engineer Gonzalez reported the estimated completion date is now July 16<sup>th</sup>. A change order will be presented in the August Board meeting to address all outstanding issues. Assistant Manager Andreini reported that Control Systems Northwest was on site to check the inputs and outputs at the PLC.

EL86.4 Delivery System Update

Assistant Manager Andreini reported Big Bend Electric Company had not include the trench and conduit installation in its pricing for the electric service to turnouts 6, 7, and 8. This caused the landowner, Brad Baillie, to trench and install the conduct at his own expense which would normally be shared with the District. His electrical conduit uses three phases, whereas the District uses a single phase. The total cost of the installation is in the amount of \$18,400, and the landowner requested reimbursement for the District's share. Assistant Manager Andreini recommended reimbursing  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the invoiced amount. President Anderson suggested reimbursing  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the invoiced amount. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to authorize the Manager to resolve the claim for payment of a proportionate share of the installation cost. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported there was a meeting on July 9<sup>th</sup> with NRCS and Reclamation for a discussion regarding the Watershed Plan acreage issue, NRCS is moving forward with the EL 11.8 SEIS under the Watershed Plan. EFO Manager Maynard stated he is optimistic that there is a resolution. He reported the acreage discrepancy was resolved when Reclamation Realty met with NRCS. Development Coordinator Erickson reported there was a grant agreement extension that recently expired and requested authorization to ratify the grant agreement extension with NRCS to extend the deadline to 2029. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to ratify Mr. Simpson's approval of the grant agreement extension with NRCS to extend the deadline to 2029. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried. Manager Simpson reported he will be formally sending a letter to Kristina Ribellia with CBCD stating that the funding pause for the Watershed Plan project has been lifted.

Watershed Plan Project

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the landowner meeting originally scheduled for June 19<sup>th</sup> was rescheduled to July 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 – 12:00 pm. This meeting will focus on exploring delivery systems for landowner groups and highlighting the four-mile delivery pipeline limit on the remaining acres OGWRP map. A second meeting is scheduled for July 23<sup>rd</sup> with each landowner group to provide an overview. Development Erickson reported these meetings are funded from the \$2/acre acres request application. Manager Simpson reported that the District will not go to the bond market to fund these delivery systems until there is a 30% design, water service contracts are executed, and easements are secured.

Remaining Acres

Manager Simpson reported Resolution 2025-09, Concurring with the Consent to Construct, Operate, and Maintain a Public Park and its Appurtenances Over and Across the United States' Easement. At the June Board Meeting it was discussed that 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 at the head of the wasteway and doesn't require conveyance facilities to the lake. The

Resolution 2025-09

District retains the easement in the event the drainage in the gravel isn't adequate in the future. Manager Simpson requested conditional authorization to concur with Reclamation contingent upon the requirement to have a permit from the District for the encroachments. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to adopt Resolution 2025-09, Concurring with the Consent to Construct, Operate, and Maintain a Public Park and its Appurtenances Over and Across the United States' Easement as presented, contingent upon the issuance of a District permit for the encroachments. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

District Engineer Gonzalez presented Resolution 2025-10, Declaration of Sole Source Supplier (Rubicon). Following discussion, Director Baker moved to adopt Resolution 2025-10 as presented and discussed. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Resolution 2025-10

PR Consultant Korfiatis reported there was a date change for the landowner meeting at the Moses Lake Civic Center to July 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to 12:00 pm. The ADA compliance for website accessibility will need to be implemented within a year and a half. She reported she will be running the District website through scanning software to ensure compliance. She also reported the website traffic was on par last month, with the bids page increasing its visits. She reported there is an abundance of tours forthcoming. Director Swinger suggested the District using QR codes to advertise and making connections through social media. PR Consultant Korfiatis reported the contract with John Lockard is expiring soon and will need to be amended. She will present a contract extension for John Lockard at the August Board Meeting.

PR Update

Manager Simpson presented an Agreement for Permanent Release of Water Allotment with Reclamation. He reported Reclamation has not paid its assessment on some parcels but also has not released its water allotment. This release of water allotment relieves issues for the landowners in the same common delivery and makes acres available to distribute. Attorney Franz worked with solicitors on this agreement for the release of a water allotment for the parcels. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the Agreement for Permanent Release of Water Allotment as presented. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

USBR Water Allotment Agreement

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff reported staff met internally with Attorney Franz to review the MOA comments provided by Reclamation. He reported there was a productive meeting with Reclamation on July 1<sup>st</sup> with promising exchanges for the future process of title transfer. Attorney Franz will meet with Reclamations solicitors to finalize the MOA. The title transfer is intended to aid in the development of a new office.

Partial Title Transfer

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff reported he met with Bernardo Wills on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The meeting helped the District and Bernardo Wills Architect be aligned with where the District is headed. Bernardo Wills is working on a cost estimation and requested input on what kind of building the District wants to build. The Board of Directors expressed their interest in a single-story, concrete building with separate buildings for the main office and shops.

Space Study

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff reported the USDA Water Savings Commodities Grant has not been defunded but is also not moving forward. USDA staff are reviewing the District's work plan.

USDA Water Savings Commodities

Manager Simpson reported we received notice that the grant opportunity being pursued with the District has been canceled due to a change in agency priorities. This grant was for pumping plant battery storage systems. He reported that on his NWIO tour in Lethbridge he learned that there is something similar to this at some of their hydro plants.

Multisite Storage  
Battery Grant

Attorney Franz reported that the PEC/Quincy Chute Headworks contract amendments with Grant PUD have not been received.

CBHP

Manager Simpson reported there will be a joint continued Board Meeting in August for a SCADA Modernization meeting with the South and Quincy Districts after the Reserved Works Meeting. EFO Manager Maynard reported the draft SCADA agreement received DOGE approval and is in process. This will be executed within the next couple of weeks.

SCADA

Manager Simpson reported there was a water rights meeting with Office of Columbia River (OCR), Department of Ecology (DOE), and Reclamation to review the proposal made by the three CBP District Managers and Attorneys. EFO Manager Maynard reported there was good discussion at the meeting and the next step will be meeting with Jamie Short with the Ecology Eastern Region. EFO Manager Maynard reported he is meeting with the Executive Director of the Colville Tribe to keep him informed.

CBP Water  
Rights

District Engineer Gonzalez requested authorization to call for Conservation Pipeline bids. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to authorize a call for Conservation Pipeline bids as requested. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Quotes and Bids

District Engineer Gonzalez reported he received Sourcewell quotes from Trimble and Topcon for a GPS system. He recommends purchasing GPS system from Trimble as it is a better system and has superior local service. District Engineer Gonzalez requested authorization to purchase GPS Base/Rovers from Sourcewell in the amount of \$105,002.08, plus sales tax. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to authorize the purchase of GPS Base/Rovers from Sourcewell, in the amount of \$105,002.08, plus sales tax. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

District Engineer Gonzalez requested authorization to purchase Trimble GPS machine control units from Sourcewell in the amount of \$129,778.91, plus sales tax. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to authorize the purchase of a Trimble GPS System from Sourcewell in the amount of \$129,778.91 plus sales tax. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:30 p.m., and the meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

Manager Simpson reported on the NWIO tour he attended with Assistant Manager McCourtie, Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff, Purchasing Agent Robertson, and Field Superintendent Kisler. He reported the group toured some of the districts from the Alberta Irrigation Districts Association and a couple of processing plants in the Lethbridge area. They were able to meet the Alberta Irrigation District Association Executive Director, Margo Redelback and local District Managers. Field Superintendent Kisler reported that 75% of irrigation supply comes from above the Alberta location.

NWIO Tour  
Report

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff reported that he learned that the Alberta Irrigation District Association's ditch riders do not measure water for deliveries. Purchasing Agent Robertson reported she met with Willy Smout, with Reclamation and QCBID Manager Sonnichsen, to discuss the herbicide pool.

Manager Simpson reported there are no prepared suggestions for the ECBID Fee Schedule. He reported that Treasurer Dekker suggested adding a contract renewal fee as the renewal process requires a fair amount of staff time to review. As of now, Manager Simpson is not recommending the fee.

ECBID Fee  
Schedule

Manager Simpson requested time in executive session to discuss non-bargaining unit wages.

Non-Bargaining  
Unite Wages

EFO Manager Maynard reported there is a scheduled SCADA meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup> with the three CBP District Managers. There is a scheduled Water Rights meeting with the Eastern Region on August 27<sup>th</sup>. He reported Reclamation has sent a response letter to Columbia Basin Railroad regarding the request for reimbursement of mitigation expenses incurred to date for establishing a temporary water bypass system. EFO Manager Maynard will be out of the office during the Reserved Works Meeting in August and will be attending virtually.

USBR Report

Safety Supervisor Walraf presented the monthly safety report, stating all has been going well, and has reminded the crews to stay hydrated. She provided a staffing update and reported there has been some HR movement. Eduardo Vasquez and David Esquivel transitioned to Relief Riders and reported that Buck Castro transitioned to the Construction Supervisor position. She reported there was a First Aid class last month. There are positions open for Electrician, Mechanic, and Canal Maintenance.

Safety  
Supervisor

District Engineer Gonzalez briefly reported on the Engineering Department's activities last month. The engineering department has been working on procurement documents for the EL 84.7 Delivery System and conservation pipelines. Staff engineer intern Perez is in the office twice a week and has been helping and learning from the engineers and GIS Specialist Klesch.

Engineer Report

Assistant Manager Andreini reported he has been working on easement issues with the OGWRP delivery systems. Assistant Manager Andreini has been working on procurements and planning for the EL 84.7 Delivery System. He also focused on personnel issues last month.

Asst Manager  
Technical  
Services

Manager Simpson reported on behalf of Treasurer Dekker. He reported the debt service payment was made in the amount of \$1,359,762.50. The second half of the bond Reserved Works Contract was made in the amount of \$1,910,323.66. Treasurer Dekker worked on grant reimbursements and submitted the RRA review to Reclamation. There were no maturities or investments placed last month.

Treasurer  
Report

Deputy Assistant Manager Bischoff reported there was a follow-up visit with the Department of Ag's Carl Henrickson, with the pesticide division. He wanted to witness a copper drop and was taken to the head of the PE 14.7. He reported the crusher is up and running and is currently being used by the Construction crew for crushing gravel

Assistant  
Manager O&M

near Moses Lake. He reported the auto start generators were installed at all structures along the East Low Canal and have all been tested. Deputy Assistant Manager reported staff have been researching a diagnostics laptop for our heavy-duty fleet and the yearly software cost. He reported Assistant Manager McCourtie purchased the following: a 2017 Tractor, and a 2019 Water Truck from Sourcewell.

Manager Simpson reported there is a landowner that we are discussing easements for the EL 84.7 and the EL 80.6 powerline. He is looking for alternatives for some of the easement encroachments. He also reported there is an existing resolution for the allocation and delivery of 390 water service contracts that has a 960-acre limitation. The resolution needs to be amended to clarify the 960-acre limitation should recognize Class 1 equivalency and will be presented at the August Board Meeting. Manager Simpson reported there was an electrician and a canal maintenance employee who were separated from the District. He also reported he sent a response letter to Columbia Basin Railroad regarding the request for reimbursement letter from them, stating the District does not have responsibility. The District did not take O&M responsibility for the railroad crossing, and it is a liability the District wants to accept. He also reported that he engaged with QCBID and Lloyd Reed and joined the discussion regarding a cost-of-service study with Grant PUD.

Manager Report

Manager Simpson reported staff visited the State Surplus Auction and purchased a job shack, a Connex container, a desk and desktops. He also reported the Kentucky Ag-Forestry group will be touring the CBP on July 8<sup>th</sup>.

Other

President Anderson declared an executive session at 2:45 p.m., for a total of 15 minutes, to review the performance of public employees under RCW 42.30.110(g). At 3:00 p.m., the meeting was extended for 15 minutes. At 3:15 p.m., the meeting was extended for 10 minutes. The meeting came out of executive session at 3:25 p.m.

Executive Session

Director Swinger moved to approve non-bargaining unit salary increase recommendations presented by the Manager Simpson. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Non-Bargaining Unit Wages

At 3:25 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Board at that time, President Anderson adjourned the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned



\_\_\_\_\_  
President



\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary