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

January 7, 2026

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 | Staff | Staff |
|---|---|---|
| Duaine Anderson | Craig Simpson | Miriam Garcia |
| Kevin Lyle | Rosa Dekker | Julio Gonzalez |
| Reid Baker | Bobby Bischoff | Jon Erickson |
| Don Osborne | Nate Andreini | |
| Dennis Swinger, Jr. | Anna Franz | |

Visitors

Visitors present: Marc Maynard and Jennifer Hickenbottom, USBR; Kristina Ribellia, Griffin Hansen, and Indira Kulkarri, CBCD; and Derek Friehe, Friehe Farms.

Visitors via teleconference: Mike Schwisow, Government Relations Consultant; Eric Weber, Randy Kiesz, Michele Kiesz, Clark Kagele, Kirk Rathdrum, Dustin Yaegar, and Carl J. Withroe.

The Oath of Office has been administered to re-elect Kevin Lyle.

Oath of Office

President Anderson appointed Attorney Franz as temporary chair for the organization of the 2026 Board.

Organization o the 2026 Boar

Acting Chairwoman Franz opened nominations for President. Director Swinger moved to nominate Director Anderson for President, close the nominations, and direct the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot.

Election of Officers

President Anderson assumed the chair and opened nominations for Vice-President. Director Swinger moved to nominate Director Lyle for Vice-President, close the nominations, and direct the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot.

Minutes Approved

Minutes of the regular meeting of December 8, 2025, had been mailed to the Directors. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 8, 2025, as written. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson presented agreement a. for board consideration:

District Improvements

Agreements

a. Agreement for Permanent Release of Water Allotment, Taylor Trust, 49-118-000-000-01, 3.9 acres

Manager Simpson reported agreement a. is a portion of a subdivision. Taylor Trust would like an exemption to retain its allotment for the larger 75.6-acre parcel. They are requesting approval for the permanent release of water allotment for a smaller 3.9-acre portion. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve agreement a., as presented, and to grant an exemption under the subdivision policy for the 75.6-acre parcel. Director Swinger 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 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. 329376 through 329409 and 1735 through 1981 in the amount of $23,289,198.13 and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of $976,181.38 for a total of $2,176,867.01 from the O&M Fund, $723,000.00 from the Emergency Reserve Fund, $1,765.44 from the Debt Service 2006 Fund, $1,094.87 from the Debt Service 2007 Fund, $15,514.69 from the Power Fund, and $347,137.50 from the 2016 Debt Service Fund. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Reaffirm Bylaw and Rules & Regulations

Manager Simpson reported there were minor updates to the by-laws and the rules and regulations. The minor changes include the start time of Board Meetings to the by-laws and the addition of the EL 84.7 special water delivery contracts. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve the by-laws and the rules and regulations with the addition of the EL 80.6 special water delivery contracts and minor changes made by the Manager, Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried. During discussion, Manager Simpson reported staff has recommended raising the equipment purchase limit authority by the Manager from $25,000 to $50,000 to reflect current market conditions and the increased cost of equipment and materials needed for routine District operations. Director Baker suggested increasing the purchasing limit to $45,000. Following discussion, Director Lyle amended his motion to increase the purchase limit in the by-laws to $45,000. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried. Director Osborne asked if the turnout fee was updated. Manager Simpson replied no, but the fee schedule is updated yearly in July.

Committee Appointments

The Board discussed the appointment of District personnel and Board members to committee positions. Manager Simpson reported that since the ownership of the Quincy Chute and PEC Headworks was transferred to the CBP districts, the Quincy Chute & PEC Headworks Advisory committee is no longer needed and will be removed. There were no changes to committee appointments. Director Baker moved to confirm the committee appointments. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

| **COMMITTEES** | **2026 APPOINTEES** |
|---|---|
| **Reserved Works** | Duaine Anderson |
| | Don Osborne |
| | Alternate Kevin Lyle |
| | Alternate Dennis Swinger, Jr. |
| **Power Authority** | Duaine Anderson |
| | Don Osborne |
| | Alternate Reid Baker |
| | Alternate Kevin Lyle |
| **Power Steering** | Anna Franz |
| | Duaine Anderson |
| | Alternate Don Osborne |
| **Assessment Study** | Reid Baker |
| | Duaine Anderson |
| | Alternate Dennis Swinger, Jr. |
| | Alternate Kevin Lyle |
| **Equipment Committee** | Don Osborne |
| | Reid Baker |
| | Alternate Kevin Lyle |
| | Alternate Duaine Anderson |
| **Diversion Rate** | Anna Franz |
| | Craig Simpson |
| | Duaine Anderson |
| | Alternate Reid Baker |
| | Alternate Kevin Lyle |
| **Finance Committee** | Duaine Anderson |
| | Kevin Lyle |
| | Alternate Reid Baker |
| **Project Hydropower Development Committee** | Don Osborne |
| | Craig Simpson |
| | Alternate Duaine Anderson |
| **2nd Half Planning** | Dennis Swinger, Jr. |
| | Kevin Lyle |
| | Alternate Duaine Anderson |
| | Alternate Reid Baker |

Director Lyle moved to adopt Resolution 2026-01, appointing the District's delegates and alternates to the Project Reserved Works Committee. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried. Resolution 202 01

Resolution 202
02

Assistant Manager Bischoff presented Resolution 2026-02, Declaration of Special Market Conditions. Similar to previous circumstances regarding the availability of used equipment, the Equipment Committee approved purchases of a water truck not to exceed the amount of $185,000. The resolution declares the special market condition for the purchase. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to adopt Resolution 2026-02. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried

Article 28 Wate
Service Contra
Users

Manager Simpson reported that the District has identified Article 28 water service contracts that serve subdivisions but should be served with non-ag M&I water service contracts. Staff will be sending a letter to Article 28 contract holders who are currently using an agricultural water supply for residential purposes, stating their contracts need to be converted to M&I contracts. After the conversion to M&I contracts, water can be delivered through existing turnouts. Director Swinger asked if this conversion requirement will be feasible for implementation in 2027. EFO Manager Maynard replied that 2027 is feasible if the number of contracted acres is small and the landowners apply for M&I contracts on with a reasonable time for processing.

Ratify District
Bank Accounts

Treasurer Dekker presented the following active District Bank accounts for ratification:

| Institution | Account No. | Type of Account |
|---|---|---|
| US Bank | xxxx xxxx 6314 | Checking Account |
| US Bank | xxxx xxxx 6892 | Municipal Investor Account |
| STCU | xxxxxx0818 | Money Market Account |
| Banner Bank | xxxxx4815 | Public Funds Deposit Account |

Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to ratify District bank accounts as presented. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Association Du

Manager Simpson requested authorization to pay dues as budgeted for in 2026. Manager Simpson recommended an increase in the CBDL membership fee by $250 for a total of $3,500. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve payment of the District's dues and memberships as budgeted and to increase CBDL's dues from $3,250 to $3,500. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried. Director Baker asked what benefits the District receives from the organization memberships. PR Consultant Korfiatis replied the District is published in ads with the Irrigation Leaders magazine. Manager Simpson replied that there is no specific monetary figure to determine the benefits; however, each of these organizations advocates for the District at a certain level, whether that be at a state or federal level.

EL11.8 Deliver
System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported Jerry Gross with MHB Trust has been taking steps to move forward with the EL 11.8 Delivery System and has been working on a reclass. MHB Trust is exploring the idea of potentially building a private delivery system.

EL22.1 Deliver
System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported NRCS and CBCD are working to get an agreement completed for the assistance, prioritization, and streamlining of easement acquisition for the EL 22.1 Delivery System. The development office has been working on the specific timeline of activities for construction including the third party estimate for verification. Derek Friehe with Friehe Farms asked for an update on Grant PUD. Assistant

Manager Andreini reported he has not received an update after the previous update from Grant PUD. In December, Grant PID reported they purchased materials for the substation and are scheduled to start substation upgrade construction activities in early 2026.

EL80.6 Deliver System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the EL 80.6 Delivery System contracted acres exceed 77% of the delivery system's total design capacity. The Development Office has been working through contracting the system's total design capacity. Development Coordinator Erickson will be reaching out to the landowners to get contracts executed. The Development Office has been exploring an additional permanent access easement with Lucy Road Farms for access to the pump plant. The landowner has requested relocating the current access road to the construction site to an exiting road. EFO Manager Maynard asked what kind of easement was being requested. Development Coordinator Erickson replied that it is an East District easement for access to Lucy Road.

District Engineer Gonzalez presented construction photos of the pumping plant. He reported that the sump has been excavated to grade and the condition of the subgrade was inspected before placing gravel. Allwest performed density tests on the sub-base gravel, yielding passing results. Rebar submittals have been reviewed. The contractor has will begin installation upon delivery of rebar. He reported we have received pipeline submittals from Future Pipe Industries for the FRP pipe which is still under submittal review. He also reported C&E submitted a monthly invoice for the work completed on the pumping plant in the amount of $673,769.97.

Allwest Task Order

District Engineer Gonzalez presented Allwest Task Order No. 2 for materials testing of the EL 80.6 Delivery System for board approval. He reported there is a general service agreement in place that covers testing and inspection services for various projects within the District. Allwest requested to establish a separate agreement for each individual project moving forward to streamline their internal tracking of District projects. The task order does not specify an amount. Testing will take place as needed and authorized by the District. Following discussion Director Swinger moved to approve Allwest Task Order No. 2. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

EL84.7 Deliver System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported there is one outstanding easement that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Reclamation are working through. Development Coordinator Erickson reported that in the meantime, the District has received concurrence from Reclamation to obtain an easement from DNR that may be assigned to Reclamation. He reported this delay is not impacting the construction schedule currently.

District Engineer Gonzalez gave a construction update and presented construction photos. He reported that the sump concrete slab was placed last month, with Allwest onsite to provide quality control. RH2 will inspect the rebar for the concrete walls. Following the inspection, Tapani will schedule the concrete placement for the walls. He also reported there is a potential design change to add bulkheads to isolate the sump during the irrigation season. District Engineer Gonzales requested authorization to add bulkheads to the design if they meet design requirements, subject to acceptance by Reclamation. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve the authorization to add the bulkheads to the design it they meet design requirements, subject to acceptance by Reclamation. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried. District Engineer

Gonzalez reported 42-inch FRP pipe has not arrived yet. 30-inch pipe was delivered along with some 36-inch pipe. He also reported Tapani submitted an invoice for work completed in the amount of $472,322.27. Manager Simpson reported the easement process for the powerline is moving forward. Director Lyle asked for an update on the county bridges. Manager Simpson reported construction work on the Sackman Rd Bridge is scheduled for the 2026-2027 O&M season.

Allwest Task Order

District Engineer Gonzalez presented Allwest Task Order No. 3 for materials testing of the EL 84.7 Delivery System for board approval. He reported there is a general service agreement in place that covers testing and inspection services for various projects within the District. Allwest requested to establish a separate agreement for each individual project moving forward to streamline their internal tracking of District projects. The task order does not specify an amount. Testing will take place as needed and authorized by the District. Following discussion Director Lyle moved to approve Allwest Task Order No. 3. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

EL86.4 Deliver System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported there are about 40 acres remaining to be contracted to meet design capacity of the EL 86.4 Delivery System. These remaining acres will be offered to the EL 86.4 landowner group before they are offered to the public and are subject to engineering feasibility.

Watershed Pla

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the Watershed Plan project restarted work activities this week, as FCA shut down temporarily during the holidays. FCA devised an executive summary to help streamline operations for the Watershed Plan. With this executive summary, Reclamation will utilize studies already completed. Development Coordinator Erickson is optimistic about the plan moving forward. Manager Simpson reported the Supplemental EIS (SEIS) for the EL 11.8 is under review. Director Lyle asked if the SEIS is accepted, would the EL 11.8 Delivery System be eligible to receive grant funds. Manager Simpson replied that the system will be eligible under the program if accepted.

Remaining Acr

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the development office has been working on a draft MOU for the remaining acres. He also reported there will be a scheduled landowner meeting later this month. These meetings will focus on the design agreement phase of the delivery systems. These meetings will also discuss the landowner's initial contribution. Landowner contributions to start designs are as follows: $100/acre if it is a public delivery system with design and construction led by the District, $50/acre if it is a public delivery system, with landowner designs but construction led by the District, and $10/acre if it is a private delivery system. These contributions will be included in Design Service Agreements that will be provided to landowners following execution of MOUs.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported that previous public meetings that were conducted were to inform landowners of the disposition of the remaining acres of the OGWRP. These meetings and the application to request acres narrowed down the landowners that were assigned to specific landowner groups, depending on location. The District no longer needs to conduct public meetings as individual landowner groups have been formed and meet regularly. If acres become available landowners will be informed.

Public Relation Update

PR Consultant Korfiatis gave an update on the website. She reported the views in December decreased. She is working on the final draft of the "Year in Review" report. PR Consultant Korfiatis reported that Tapani has a site camera with time-lapse of the construction of the EL 84.7 Delivery System. She is interested in adding a camera for the construction of the EL 80.6 Delivery System. Director Swinger asked if there is a direct correlation between the online job postings and the applications received. He also asked if there are targeted ad links. Manager Simpson replied if is difficult to determine if the online job postings correlate to the job applications received based on application info.

Headquarters Relocation

Assistant Manager Bischoff reported he and Manager Simpson have met with Bernardo Wills several times regarding space layouts and office footprint. During these meetings, massing diagrams and site footprints were reviewed. Assistant Manager Bischoff presented the three building options and asked for Board direction. Manager Simpson mentioned there was consideration of expansion, and these design options allow space for it. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the board to move forward with building design concept "C". Assistant Manager Bischoff reported he and Manager Simpson met with the City and a landowner to discuss potential sites and available lots, and also reached out to a bridge engineering firm for preliminary cost estimates. Assistant Manager Biscoff requested time in executive session to discuss the acquisition of property.

Partial Title Transfer

Assistant Manager Bischoff reported he, Manager Simpson, and Assistant Manager Andreini met with Acting Regional Director Roland Springer regarding title transfers. Acting Regional Director Springer indicated he would explore whether the Bureau could advance the process to allow the District to work on some Cultural Resources and AAI activities in Fiscal Year 2026, ahead of the Bureau's Fiscal Year 2027 commitment. There has not been an update yet. EFO Manager Maynard reported there are no resources for the title transfer with Reclamation until Fiscal Year 2027. Reclamation staff have compiled realty documents. He reported there are long lead times for the cultural resources surveys and is working on allowing the District to work on it if able to.

USDA Water Savings Commodities Grant

Assistant Manager Bischoff reported there is no official update following the submission of the letter to the Honorable Brooke Rollins expressing support for the program.

ELC Panel Discussion

Assistant Manager Bischoff presented a PowerPoint slide show of pictures of the ELC canal panels. He reported there is damage to a panels along the canal lining. He reported there will be polyurea work done in that area this winter. Staff will evaluate the risk of damage, and will evaluate what work will be prioritized as is common practice. Staff will be applying polyurea sealant to a siphon to inspect its durability at higher velocities.

CBHP

Manager Simpson reported that the operation and maintenance of Quincy Chute and PEC Headworks was turned over to CBHP after the amendment of the contracts with Grant PUD. The District is responsible for one-third of the cost for the contract amendment. The transfer to the power purchase agreement with Avista is under review. He also reported the CBP Districts have not come to an agreement for the future division of payments of revenue and cost for the hydropower projects which is either by one-third ownership or by the annual Reserved Works formula calculation. Director Osborne commented on his tour of the Summer Falls Hydro Plant and his appreciation for the maintenance of the plant. He recommended all Directors tour that facility. Manager Simpson mentioned that the Board can tour any facilities they would like.

SCADA

Assistant Manager Andreini reported there have been issues moving forward with Reclamation's funding for the SCADA system. The District currently does not have a waiver for the BABA requirements. He reported SCADA Project Manager Porter is working on the BABA requirement issues. Other issues being worked on are the cultural resources survey and NHPA requirements. Assistant Manager Andreini reported the consultant is currently working on the communication towers that will be installed at each CBP District.

CBP Water Rights

Manager Simpson reported there is a scheduled water rights meeting later this week. The Department of Ecology is creating a policy that characterizes how water rights are applied to water use within the CBP. The policy is intended to only count initial use of water under the water right and allow for unlimited recapture and reuse within the CBP. Manager Simpson mentioned he is comfortable with the process and is hopeful that the Districts, Reclamation, and the Department of Ecology will clarify the water rights soon.

CBRW

Manager Simpson reported there is a pending agreement between Reclamation, Columbia Basin Railroad, and the District. This agreement is for the purchase of materials for the construction of the conservation pipeline for the EL 68M wasteway. President Anderson welcomed Attorney Dustin Yaegar with Stokes Lawrence Velikanje Moore & Shore and Solicitor Carl J. Withroe with Reclamation. They announced they are available to answer any questions. Manager Simpson reported that the District has proceeded with the Board's direction to assist to the extent feasible without liability exposure for its participation in the project, Attorney Dustin Yaegar reported the Columbia Basin Railroad is ready to purchase the materials for construction as soon as the agreement is executed and wants to expedite the process. Manager Simpson requested time in executive session.

BPA Incentive

District Engineer Gonzalez presented BPA Incentive Agreement 26ES-11840 for board approval. He reported this is a new incentive agreement between BPA and the District for the conservation pipelines being installed this winter for an amount of $224,884.85. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the BPA Incentive Agreement 26ES-11840. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Quotes & Bids

Assistant Manager Bischoff presented the following bids for Polyurea sealant for board consideration:

| Supplier | Amount |
|---|---|
| Estimate | $495,000.00 |
| Matheson Painting, Inc. | $447,321.60 |
| Columbia Industrial Coatings | $475,200.00 |

It was reported that Matheson Painting, LLC did not meet the District responsibility criteria and will be declared non-responsible unless they appeal the District's initial determination. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to authorize Manager Simpson to determine the responsibility of the bidders and award the contract to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried. Assistant Manager Bischoff requested authorization to purchase a 10-yard Mack dump truck through an appropriate purchasing pool. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve the purchase of a 10-yard Mack dump truck through a purchasing pool in the amount of $231,000. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Assistant Manager Bischoff gave an update on the purchase of a tractor and mower that was made through Sourcewell in March 2025. The tractor and mower were delivered and inspected by RDO. There were issues with the tractor that will be taken care of by RDO.

ELC Start-up Date

Manager Simpson reported that canal start-up dates will be set at the upcoming Reserved Works meeting on January 26th. Manager Simpson recommended a start-up date of Tuesday, March 24th, for the East Low Canal. This date falls within the March 20th to 24th window previously established by the Reserved Works Committee. Deliveries would begin the following Monday. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the board to set the ELC start-up date for Tuesday, March 24, 2025.

USBR Report

EFO Manager Maynard reported Karissa with Reclamation has been moving forward with easement acquisition. The only issue that has come across is the ability to contact the landowners. He also gave an update on SCADA and reported that SCADA Project Manager Porter has been making progress to get a BABA waiver. The waiver has not been submitted yet. Troy Waters with Reclamation has been working with SCADA Project Manager Porter to submit the waiver. He reported the OMB has its own prioritization and requirements for the BABA waiver. EFO Manager Maynard gave an update on the Fox Farm Study and reported he received an email from Randall Fox stating he needed an additional thirty days to complete a peer review. Manager Simpson asked if Reclamation has the ability to rehire. EFO Manager Maynard replied that Reclamation will only be able to hire critical operations staff. The EFO office is looking to hire a Hydrotech and a Hydrologist.

Technical Services Repo

Assistant Manager Andreini reported there are two work orders that were approved at the last board meeting that have updated language on the assumptions, needing signatures.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer Dekker gave an update on the RRA findings. There were fines associated with these findings due to landowners not turning in their paperwork prior to taking water.

Travel Authorization

Director Swinger moved to authorize the Board and appropriate staff to travel to the Tri-State Meeting, Thursday, February 5th, 2026 in Portland, OR; the CBP Canal Operations Training, February, 2026, in Denver, CO; the Utilities Technology Forum 2026, February 8 - 11, 2026, in Reno, NV; and the Water Management Workshop, February 10 - 12, 2026, in Denver, CO. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Executive Session

President Anderson declared an executive session at 12:15 p.m., for a total of 45 minutes, to discuss the acquisition of property under RCW 42.30.110(b), potential litigation under RCW 42.30.110(i) and personnel under RCW 42.30.110(g). At 1:00 p.m., the meeting was extended for 15 minutes. The meeting came out of executive session at 1:15 p.m.

Director Lyle moved to authorize the Manager to enter into the agreement with Reclamation and CBRW, subject to the Manager and Attorney's review and approval of the final agreement terms. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned

At 1:15 p.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 -2025-11-**