

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

December 8, 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
Anna Franz
Rosa Dekker
Nate Andreini
Jon Erickson

Staff

Julio Gonzalez
Jonathan Erickson
Miriam Garcia
Bobby Bischoff

Visitors present: Marc Maynard USBR; Griffin Hansen and Indira Kulkarri, CBCD; Gavin Johnson, Derek Friehe, Willy Walter, and Paul Wollman. Visitors

Visitors via teleconference: Eric Webber, Randy Kiesz, and Michele Kiesz.

President Anderson announced that the Board of Equalization was now in session as required by law to equalize the 2026 assessment roll. The notice of this meeting was published according to law, and the 2026 assessment roll has been available for public inspection. Convene Board of Equalization

Minutes of the regular meeting of November 3, 2025, had been mailed to the Directors. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 3, 2025, with changes to the number of added acres of capacity under the EL 80.6 Delivery System report to reflect the 1659.6 acres under the water service contracts approved at the meeting and the engineer report to state "Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve BPA Energy Smart Reserved Power Program Incentive Agreement Modification No. 1. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried." Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried. Minutes Approved

President Anderson welcomed Indira Kulkarri with the Columbia Basin Conservation District (CBCD). Public Comment Period

Manager Simpson presented the following contract a., for board consideration: District Improvements

Contract

EL 84.7 Delivery System

- a. First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract for Groundwater Replacement, Department of Natural Resources, 390-127-813-000-00, 480 acres

Manager Simpson reported the Development Office was waiting for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to complete a water service contract, adding 480 acres to the EL 84.7 Delivery System. This will put the system slightly below the full capacity of acres for the delivery system by about 260 acres. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve contract a., as presented. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

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

Approved & Issued Permits

- | | | | |
|----|---------------|------------------------|------------------|
| a. | Jamie Suarez | Road Crossing Approach | Block 45, FU 244 |
| b. | Steve Butcher | Road Crossing Approach | Block 49, FU 64 |

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

Agreements

- a. Agreement for Permanent Release of Water Allotment, Todd Thompson, 42-294-219-006-00, 2 acres
- b. Agreement for Permanent Release of Water Allotment, Leo Gaeta, 49-233-302-001-00, 7.9 acres
- c. Agreement for Permanent Release of Water Allotment, Tulla Dilling Revocable Living Trust, Block 401, Farm Unit 010, 4.9 acres

Manager Simpson reported agreement a. is for non-use and would like to release 2 acres of their water allotment. He reported agreement b. is a short plat required to release 7.9 acres of their water allotment. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve agreements a. and b., as presented. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson reported agreement c. is a portion of a subdivision. The Tulla Dilling Revocable Living Trust would like an exemption to retain its allotment for the larger 128 acres parcel .. They are requesting approval for the permanent release of water allotment for a smaller 4.9 acre portion. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve agreement c., as presented, and to grant an exemption under the subdivision policy for the 128-acre parcel. Director Osborne 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 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. 329351 through 329375 in the amount of \$579,235.12

Vouchers

and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of \$579,235.12 for a total of \$4,367,636 from the O&M Fund. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried. Treasurer Dekker informed the board that fund transfer information would be shown with the vouchers for the Board's tracking.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the EL 11.8 Delivery System landowner continues to seek federal and state grants to fund the system. They have also been comparing the option between building a public or a private system.

OGWRP
EL11.8 Delivery
System

Development Coordinator Erickson reported an updated grant agreement for the EL 22.1 Delivery System is under review. He also reported the third-party cost estimate is being purposely delayed in order for the cost estimate to be time relevant. The EL 22.1 landowner group has been working with CBCD for funding sources, including preparing RCPP applications.

EL22.1 Delivery
System Update

Assistant Manager Andreini presented the Grant PUD Facilities Construction Agreement Change Order No. 1, for board approval. He reported the facilities construction agreement is set to expire on December 31st, 2025. The change order extends the deadline to December 31st, 2030, and recommends approval. Director Lyle asked if there is an update on when Grant PUD starts construction. Assistant Manager Andreini commented that the District received an invoice from Grant PUD for \$1.5M last month for work that has been completed, and will expect large invoices within the next several months for completion of the upgraded substation. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve the Grant PUD Facilities Construction Agreement Change Order No. 1. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Grant PUD
Facilities
Construction
Agreement
Change Order
No. 1

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the development office has been working on easements for the EL 80.6 Delivery System with a focus on an access road. He reported Karissa McDonald with Reclamation has been working on these easements. He also reported there are dumped onions spread within the easements, which could complicate construction as well as future O&M. Manager Simpson recommended considering a permit that prohibits dumping during construction and establishes conditions for future use of the easement. Development Coordinator Erickson reported he has been working to contract the remainder of the acres to fulfill the capacity of the EL 80.6 Delivery System and has been navigating the challenges.. District Engineer Gonzalez reported that C&E Trenching was mobilized to the EL 80.6 Delivery System construction site last week.

EL80.6 Delivery
System Update

District Engineer Gonzalez presented the following PIPE-EL80.6-01 bids for board consideration:

Award PIPE-
EL80.6-01 Bid

	Bidder	Schedule A: FRP Bid Amount	Schedule B: PVC Bid Amount
	Engineer's Estimate	3,046,769.45	
	Engineer's Estimate		\$4,077,526.75
1.	Future Pipe Industries	\$2,085,567.00	
2.	TPG – Pressure, Inc.	\$2,320,632.00	
3.	Hobas Pipe	\$2,521,192.00	

District Engineer Gonzalez reported this bid is for PIPE-EL80.6-01. The District received three bids. He recommended that the board accept Future Pipe Industries as the lowest responsive bid in the amount of \$2,085,567.00, plus sales tax. He reported this is 30% less than the engineer's estimate. He also reported staff will meet with C&E trenching to discuss the construction schedule. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to accept the bid from Future Pipe Industries in the amount of \$2,085,567.00, plus sales tax, as the lowest responsive bid. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

District Engineer Gonzalez presented the following VALVE-EL80.6-01 bids for board consideration:

Award VALVE-
EL80.6-01 Bid

	Bidder	Schedule A: Valve and Fittings Bid Amount
	Engineer's Estimate	\$460,336.93
1.	HD Fowler	\$385,963.28
2.	Consolidated Supply	\$421,496.32
3.	Ferguson Enterprises, LLC	\$439,915.71
4.	LAD Irrigation	\$459,770.18
5.	Core and Main	\$489,095.54
6.	Kele Industrial Automation	\$525,709.94

District Engineer Gonzalez reported this bid is for the VALVE-EL80.6-01. The District received ten bids and recommended that the board accept HD Fowler as the lowest responsive bid in the amount of \$385,963.28. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to accept the bid from HD Fowler in the amount of \$385,963.28, plus sales tax, as the lowest responsive bid. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Assistant Manager Andreini presented Control Systems Northwest Work Order for programming of the EL 80.6 Delivery System for board approval. He reported the programming is for the pumping plant and the turnout locations and includes staff training operations in the amount of \$147,116. He also reported the District does not have the staff to work on the programming, and staff would like consistency in the programs at District-operated facilities. The programming is critical to run the delivery system. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the Control Systems Northwest Work Order for programming in the amount of \$147,116. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

EL 80.6 Delivery
System Control
Systems
Northwest Work
Order
(Programming)

Development Coordinator Erickson reported he has been working to obtain temporary construction easements for the EL 84.7 Delivery System that would expire when construction is complete. This temporary construction easement acquisition is for an addition of 50 feet of width to the construction site for the disposal of soil and movement of equipment. Manager Simpson reported that in order to accommodate the landowners request for separating topsoil, both sides of the trench are needed for excavated material. Accordingly, there is a need for additional width to operate within the easement area. He suggested requesting a wider easement for the construction of future delivery systems. Development Coordinator Erickson requested authorization to acquire

Temporary
Construction
Easements

temporary construction easements for the EL 84.7 Delivery System. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to authorize the Manager to acquire temporary construction easements for the EL 84.7 Delivery System. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported Reclamation has been working through the 1890 Reservation easement process but has come across a few challenges. The Department of Resources' parcel is part of section 16, which is public land granted to the state for educational purposes. There have also been challenges with the easement language between DNR and Reclamation, however, the construction crew is working on installing pipes and will need legal authority to cross the easement in the near future. Development Coordinator Erickson reported the District needs to obtain an easement with "Additional Insured" coverage and operational requirements until Reclamation can acquire the easement from DNR. President Anderson asked if there is an additional cost for the easement acquisition. Development Coordinator Erickson replied there is a recording fee cost. Development Coordinator Erickson presented the Washington State Department of Natural Resources Irrigation Pipeline Easement for board approval. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the Washington State Department of Natural Resources Irrigation Pipeline Easement. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

DNR Easements

Assistant Manager Andreini presented Control Systems Northwest Work Order (Programming) for the EL 84.7 Delivery System, for board approval. He reported the programming is for the pumping plant and the turnout locations in the amount of \$150,590. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the Control Systems Northwest Work Order for programming in the amount of \$150,590. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

EL 84.7 Delivery
System Control
Systems
Northwest Work
Order
(Programming)

District Engineer Gonzalez presented COAT-EL84.7-01 Change Order No. 1, for board approval. He reported the contract for coating and lining is set to expire on December 12th, 2025. The District has not provided the pipe for coating and lining, and due to the District's delay, this change order request is to extend the contract to April 15, 2026. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve COAT-EL84.7-01 Change Order No. 1. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

COAT-EL84.7-01
Change Order

District Engineer Gonzalez gave an update on the invoice received by Tapani. He reported Tapani requested a payment in the amount of \$591,000. This invoiced amount includes the work that has been done for the Orman Johnson Pump Plant including, surveying, staking, excavating and mobilization to the construction site.

Orman Johnson
Pump Plant
Invoice

District Engineer Gonzalez reported the construction crew has been performing initial excavation of 4 feet of depth for the FRP pipeline. Some FRP pipe is scheduled to arrive next week on Wednesday. He also reported a letter was sent to Future Pipe Industries for liquidated damages to the District due to their pipe delivery delay. President Anderson asked if all the PVC pipes have been installed. District Engineer Gonzalez replied that all PVC pipes have been installed, with the exception of the pipe that will be used at the turnouts.

EL 84.7 Delivery
System Update

District Engineer Gonzalez reported the valves for the EL 86.4 Delivery System were commissioned in November. The valves were adjusted and had no issues. He also reported that the replacement computer in the control building was installed. Manager Simpson asked what the checklist of remaining tasks is to complete the delivery system in order to schedule an acceptance meeting with Reclamation. Assistant Manager Andreini reported he informed O&M of a turnout that needs to be dug out for repair and testing of the cathodic protection. He also mentioned that the weed screen needs to be repaired. Director Swinger asked if there was an updated OGWRP completed delivery systems and pipeline alignment map. Manager Simpson replied that staff will work on updating the OGWRP delivery systems and pipeline alignment map.

EL86.4 Delivery
System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the Development Office continues to work with NRCS and the District's contractor after the funding delay and the government shutdown. Development Coordinator Erickson reported the waiver request continues to be pursued to expedite the Watershed Plan project and avoid additional costs. He also reported that the NRCS continues to move forward with the EL 11.8 SEIS under the Watershed Plan.

Watershed Plan
Project Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported a draft MOU is being reviewed by staff to send to the landowner groups. He also reported there has been a request for a public meeting regarding the remaining acres. Manager Simpson reported there is no funding for additional meetings. There are individual landowner meetings set in place for these delivery systems. Director Osborne reported there has been concern about a water table increase and deterioration on the canal by the EL 11.8. Director Osborne mentioned there were three monitoring wells in the area previously. Assistant Manager Bischoff reported there is polyurea work scheduled to be done and will review the area. Manager Simpson also replied that staff will evaluate the area after review. Assistant Manager Bischoff will give a report on any findings at the next Board meeting.

Remaining Acres
Update

PR Consultant Korfiatis gave an update on website ADA accessibility requirements. She reported she received five proposals for the audit and remediation of the District, with the lowest estimate being a higher cost than anticipated. She commented that it could be more cost-effective to build a new website. PR Consultant Korfiatis requested additional quotes on Upwork and received thirteen replies. After speaking to eight freelancers, she recommends proceeding with a proven contractor based in India for the amount of \$2,000. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve PR consultant Korfiatis to pursue the website audit and remediation quote in the amount of \$2,000. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Public Relations
Update

PR Consultant Korfiatis reported that in 2023, the video "The Race to Save a Declining Aquifer" was produced in collaboration with the District, CBCD, and CBDL. She reported that this partnership would like to collaborate again to update the video and requested the board to approve the cost of updating the footage in the amount of \$2,000. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the update to "The Race to Save a Declining Aquifer" video in partnership with CBCD and CBDL. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

PR Consultant Korfiatis gave an update on the website and reported the "Year in Review" is underway and will be ready for review by the end of the week. She reported

that the Orman Johnson Pump Plant will be featured in the Irrigation Leader Magazine. PR Consultant Korfiatis reported that a bot from Singapore was found on the District's website, which increased its page views. The page views increased between November 24th and 25th after the publication of the Perseverance award, which was awarded to former and present East District Board members at the CBDL Annual Conference and Meeting. Director Baker asked for the number of water orders that are received on the Water UI. Assistant Manager Dekker replied that she will give an update on the use of Water UI at the next Board meeting. Assistant Manager Bischoff reported that 1/3 of landowners are using online water ordering.

Assistant Manager Bischoff reported there has not been any progress regarding title transfer since Reclamation informed the District that they will not be working on title transfer acquisition in Fiscal Year 2026. He reported that Executive Secretary Garcia drafted a letter for legislators regarding this issue for their support that has yet to be reviewed. Manager Simpson reported he and the CBP Managers briefly spoke to the staff of the Interior Department regarding a complete title transfer but has not heard back from the administration.

Partial Title Transfer

Assistant Manager Bischoff presented the Othello Main Office Concept Diagram Study with concept diagrams A. and B. He reported that concept diagram "A." includes the Watermaster section with the Water Quality lab, and concept diagram "B." does not include those departments. The Water Quality department requested to be located next to the Watermaster section. Assistant Manager Bischoff requested direction from the Board on which concept diagram to select. Staff provided some pros and cons for both layouts. The Board agreed by consensus to move forward with concept "B." He reported Bernardo Wills sent Task Order No. 3, last week in the amount of \$4,805 but needs to be reviewed by staff. Director Baker asked if potential land had been selected for the relocation. Assistant Manager Bischoff requested time in executive session to discuss potential land acquisition.

Headquarter Relocation

Assistant Manager Bischoff reported a joint letter from the GOP members agriculture committee was sent to the Honorable Brooke Rollins last month, expressing the importance and support of the USDA Water Savings Commodities Grant program. There has been no response yet.

USDA Water Savings Commodities

Attorney Franz requested time in executive session to discuss the PEC Headworks contract.

CBHP

Assistant Manager Andreini reported SCADA Project Manager Porter continues to work on the Build America, Buy America (BABA) waiver associated with Reclamation's proposed grant funding..

CBP SCADA

Manager Simpson reported there have been CBP Water Rights meetings with the CBP Districts, Reclamation, the Office of Columbia River (OCR) and the Eastern Region of Ecology. The Eastern Regional Office provided an alternative to review acreage accounting under the CBP water rights. They are working on creating policy changes for determining acreage accounting. Manager Simpson reported these meetings are meant to determine how the CBP Districts can reuse water on additional acres without additional withdrawals from the Columbia River. Attorney Franz reported they are

CBP Water Rights

delineating the first pass vs. the second pass and how to account for the acreage under the CBP water rights in their policy. Currently, water rights terminology is being worked on. EFO Manager Maynard reported Reclamation is trying to work out the water rights as the CBP Districts get their water diversion from the river. The permits and certificates are used for a certain number of acres. He reported Reclamation holds the state water rights for the CBP.

The State agrees that CBP Water Rights are very unique to the project. They are working on drafting a policy that can work within the project. EFO Manager Maynard reported the policy approach is being worked on and is hoping to be finalized in March-April of 2026.

Assistant Manager Bischoff presented the following Magnetic Flowmeter quotes for Quotes & Bids board consideration:

	Supplier	Bid Amount
	Budget	\$46,210.72
1.	Lesman Instrument Company	\$46,035.70
2.	Skone Irrigation	\$50,586.95

Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to accept the quote for Magnetic Flow Meters from Lesman Instrument Company in the amount of \$46,035.70, plus sales tax, as the lowest responsive quote. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Assistant Manager Bischoff presented the following Variable Frequency Drive quotes for board consideration:

	Supplier	Bid Amount
	Budget	\$36,968.58
1.	Dykman	\$37,471.00
2.	GMW Industries	\$42,766.00
3.	Columbia Electric Supply	\$62,972.00

Assistant Manager Bischoff reported the variable frequency drive was damaged when the fire at the Warden Pump plant occurred. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to accept the quote for the Variable Frequency Drive from Dykman in the amount of \$37,471.00, plus sales tax, as the lowest responsive quote. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Assistant Manager Bischoff presented the following 2025-01 Steel quotes for board consideration:

	Supplier	Bid Amount
	Budget	\$36,968.58
1.	Norfolk Iron	\$22,946.37
2.	Moses Lake Steel	\$27,341.00

3.	Pacific Steel and Recycling	\$27,882.09
4.	Morse Steel	\$25,695.16

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Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to accept the quote for steel from Norfolk Iron in the amount of \$22,946.37, plus sales tax, as the lowest responsive quote. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried

Assistant Manager Bischoff reported on the delivery of the new Mack dump truck that was previously authorized to be purchased.

Manager Simpson reported he had requested authorization to bind the insurance coverage with CIAW at the November Board and reported the payment was made. He had reported the anticipated increase in the premium would be 7%; however, the insurance premium increased by 18%, to the amount of \$409,353.15. Manager Simpson initiated a conversation with the CBP Managers and Ron Snyder with Marsh McLennan Agency regarding excess liability coverage. The District may want to evaluate its excess liability coverage under current standards and market conditions.

CIAW Insurance
Renewal

Manager Simpson reported there was a collapsed pipe under CBRR railroad tracks where the EL68MWW crosses. The District attempted to help Columbia Basin Railroad find alternatives for the repair of the pipe this spring. EFO Manager Maynard reported it was found feasible to construct a conservation pipeline for the EL 68 M lateral to remove project water from the drain. Manager Simpson noted that while this will remove project water from the wasteway. This does not address landowner and natural runoff, for which the project is not responsible. District Engineer Gonzalez reported the preliminary design work of the conservation pipeline for the EL 68M for the abandonment of the EL 68M wasteway is complete, and staff are working on an engineer's estimate. The construction costs for the abandonment of the EL 68MWW are proposed to be covered by Columbia Basin Railroad. EFO Manager Maynard reported he will need to meet with Columbia Basin Railroad to finalize an agreement contingent upon the East District's approval. Water conservation would be a benefit to the District by decreasing the amount of water wasted. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to authorize the agreement between the East District, Reclamation, and Columbia Basin Railroad for the conservation pipeline work. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Columbia Basin
Railroad Proposa

Manager Simpson reported on the District's attendance at the NWRA Annual Conference, the CBDL Annual Conference, and the WSWRA Annual Conference. President Anderson reported the NWRA was a great conference to attend and enjoyed the panel discussions. Assistant Manager Bischoff agreed that panel discussions are beneficial. He also reported on the Yuma Ag tour and expressed his appreciation for attending, as it was insightful. Assistant Manager Bischoff reported he was reappointed to the NWRA Board of Directors. Director Osborne commented he spoke with farmers from different states regarding their water use. He spoke to Clay Scott, a farmer in Kansas, regarding the current rain issue and its effects during harvest season. Director Swinger commented he did not appreciate the Leadership Forum table discussion in a large group setting, as it was difficult to hear due to the background noise. The table discussions would be held more efficiently in smaller groups. Director Lyle reported on the presentation about the new desalination technology. Director Swinger commented

NWRA, CBDL
and WSWRA
Annual
Conference
Report

President Anderson called for any further comments or objections to the assessment roll. Seeing none, he requested the Board of Equalization be closed. Director Osborne raised an objection to the common delivery charge for parcels under the same ownership. Manager Simpson reported on the additional time and expense for tracking the exception to a \$25 charge. Director Swinger moved to close the Board of Equalization and to adopt Resolution 2025-18, equalizing the assessment roll and setting the 2026 assessments. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried, with Director Osborne voting nay.

Close Board of
Equalization –
Resolution 2025-
18

President Anderson declared an executive session at 12:45 p.m., for a total of 15 minutes, to discuss the acquisition of property under RCW 42.30.110(b) and potential litigation under RCW 42.30.110(i). At 1:00 p.m., the meeting was extended for 20 minutes. The meeting came out of executive session at 1:20 p.m.

Executive
Session

Director Lyle moved to pay the PEC Headworks amendment payment to Grant PUD under the reserve works formula and authorized Manager Simpson to send a letter to the other two CPB Districts requesting re-negotiation of the division of payments of revenue and cost for the hydropower projects. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Other

At 1:20 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Board at that time, President Anderson adjourned the meeting.

Meeting
Adjourned

Secretary

President