

-2026-11-

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

February 4, 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

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

Staff

Craig Simpson
Bobby Bischoff
Rosa Dekker
Nate Andreini
Anna Franz

Staff

Julio Gonzalez
Miriam Garcia
Jon Erickson

Visitors present: Marc Maynard, Joslin McClure, Julie McPherson and Jennifer Hickenbottom, USBR; Randy Reber, Round Lake Farms; Griffin Hansen, CBCD; Alan Lackner, CBHP, Derek Friehe and Paul Wollman. Visitors

Visitors via teleconference: Eric Weber, Mike Schwisow, Randy Kiesz, and Kirk Rathdrum.

EFO Manager Maynard introduced Joslin McClure and Julie McPherson. President Anderson welcomed all visitors.

Minutes of the regular meeting of January 7, 2026, had been mailed to the Directors. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 7, 2026, as written. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried. Minutes
Approved

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

Approved & Issued Permits

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| a. Grant County PUD | Utility Bore Crossing | BLK 44, FU 100 |
| b. AJ Ochoa | Buried Pipe Crossing | BLK 45, FU 83/86 |

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

Agreements

- a. Seasonal Change in Place of Use, Roger Watkins, 290-25

Manager Simpson presented an application for Seasonal Change in Place of Use, Roger Watkins, 290-25. He reported this is an annual seasonal transfer and recommended approval. O&M has reviewed the seasonal change and determined that there are class 6 lands that need to be reclassified. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve the following agreement, Seasonal Change in Place of Use, Roger Watkins 290-25. Director Swinger 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. 329410 through 329429 and 1946, 1982 through 2169 in the amount of \$2,155,281.94 and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of \$636,813.27 for a total of \$2,792,095.21 from the O&M Fund. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Vouchers

Development Coordinator Erickson reported NRCS Chief Aubrey Bettencourt briefly visited the construction site during an unscheduled visit. He reported this was a pleasant visit and tour that Manager Simpson, Michael Crowder and Kristina Ribellia, with CBCD, also joined. He reported NRCS Chief Bettencourt is knowledgeable about the Columba Basin Project (CBP) and the Odessa Groundwater Project (OGWRP). Development Coordinator Erickson expressed gratitude to Michael Crowder, a past president of the National Association of Conservation Districts and Barker Ranch, for suggesting and coordinating the visit with the NRCS Chief.

OGWRP

Assistant Manager Andreini reported Reclamation is working on the easements for the 34.5 kV Power line extension. Big Bend Electric Company (BBEC) is working on an agreement for the installation and O&M with the District. There is a scheduled meeting at the end of the month to update and finalize the O&M agreement and the assignment of responsibility for construction costs. Assistant Manager Andreini reported that two out of three voltage regulators have arrived, and he is expecting to receive the remaining equipment soon.

34.5kV Line
Extension

Development Coordinator Erickson reported that Karissa McDonald with Reclamation has been working on the power line extension easements. EFO Manager Maynard asked if all the title work segments were completed. Assistant Manager Andreini replied that he has provided all the information that Karissa has requested regarding the power line extension easements. He also reported that the District will attempt to accommodate landowner requests along the power line to minimize impacts.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported that a final MOU for the Schrag Delivery System was received and recommended approval. The delivery system names will be updated to their mile marker locations along the East Low Canal. The next phase following the execution of the MOU is to finalize a Design Services Agreement. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the Schrag Delivery System MOU. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Schrag Delivery
System Update

Development Coordinator reported a final MOU for the Wheeler Corridor Delivery System was received and recommended approval. Following discussion, Director Lyle

Wheeler Corridor
Delivery System
Update

moved to approve the Wheeler Corridor Delivery System MOU. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the work for the supplemental EIS for the EL 11.8 Delivery System is moving forward. Jerry Gross with MHB Trust is interested in moving forward with a public delivery system.

EL11.8 Delivery
System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported there were revisions made to a grant application with Office of Columbia River (OCR) for the EL 22.1 Delivery System. There is a meeting scheduled with OCR to discuss the specific timeline of activities for construction, including the third-party estimate for verification. Development Coordinator Erickson gave an update on the easement acquisition process. Easement work will be completed within 12 and 24 months. Director Lyle asked if the cultural and environmental studies had been completed. Jennifer Hickenbottom, Reclamation Project Manager, replied that all studies have been completed. She reported NRCS has agreed to complete their work by September 2027. They have not decided on their process for how easement acquisition packages will be completed and sent to Reclamation for review; however, they will need all title work completed prior to starting. EFO Manager Maynard reported that Reclamation and NRCS are working to get an agreement completed for the assistance, prioritization, and streamlining of easement acquisition for the EL 22.1 Delivery System. Manager Simpson reported that easement acquisition for shorter pipelines should be a more streamlined process. He asked if there is a possibility for Karissa to help with other delivery system easements. Director Lyle asked for an update on Grant PUD. Manager Andreini replied that Grant PUD is working on the substation upgrade construction. He also reported that, based on the current construction estimates, the District will need additional funding.

EL22.1 Delivery
System Update

Development Coordinator reported that a final MOU for the EL54 Delivery System was received and recommended approval. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve the EL 54. Delivery System MOU. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried with Director Swinger abstaining from discussion and the vote.

EL 54 Delivery
System MOU

Development Coordinator reported that a final MOU for the EL56.5 Delivery System was received and recommended approval. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve the EL56.5 Delivery System MOU. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

EL 56.5 Delivery
System Update

Development Coordinator reported that there are four new design service agreements that will be moving into the next phase between the landowners and the District. The landowners are required to identify the acres that will be added to the design services agreement. The deadline to receive the design service agreements along with identified acres and payment up to \$100/acre is yet to be determined. Director Lyle asked what happened to the leftover grant funds from the ELC widening. Manager Simpson replied that those funds were used to add three siphons, radial gates, and address two county bridges. Manager Simpson also reported that there will be three additional MOU's to be presented at the March Board meeting. The Development Office will also be modifying an MOU for the Billy Clapp Delivery System and Round Lake Farms Delivery System once it has been decided whether they will be a public delivery system or private delivery systems.

District Engineer Gonzalez presented PIPE-EL80.6-01 Change Order No.1 for Future Pipe Industries. This change order is due to the District requesting additional couplers to be included in the order. The District also requested to include restrained joint couplers to be pre-installed on the 30-inch pipe prior to delivery due to issues with installing the restraint joint couplers on the pipe in the field. FPI requested an extension to the delivery date of the pipe. Director Osborne asked if there are damages if delivery dates aren't met. Manager Simpson replied that damages are included in the bid requirements. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve PIPE-EL80.6-01 Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$33,899.09. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

PIPE-EL80.6-01
Change Order
No. 1

District Engineer Gonzalez gave a construction update and presented photos of concrete slabs for the EL 80.6 Delivery System pumping plant. He reported that C&E Trenching completed the placement of the concrete slab. They will be completing a section of the walls later this week. A design for contractor-requested bulkheads, to prevent water from getting into the sump, was completed.

EL 80.6 Delivery
System Update

District Engineer Gonzalez presented CONCRETE VAULTS-EL84.7-01 Change Order No. 2 for M-1 Tanks. This change order is due to a delivery date extension request by the District. The District construction crew is not ready to receive the concrete vaults due to the lack of storage capabilities and has requested to extend the delivery date to April 15th at no additional cost. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve CONCRETE VAULTS-EL84.7-01 Change Order No. 2 for M-1 Tanks. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

CONCRETE
VAULTS-EL84.7-
01 Change Order
No. 1

District Engineer Gonzalez gave a construction update for the EL 84.7 Delivery System. He reported there have been 1,500 ft of FRP installed, with four and a half miles left. The concrete placement of the third wall section of the Orman Johnson pump plant was completed this week. Tapani will be placing the remaining wall section on Tuesday, February 10th. Director Lyle asked if the District is still waiting for the outstanding easement. Development Coordinator Erickson replied that the State and Reclamation are still working through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) easement transfer but ECBID has secured an easement for the interim.

EL84.7 Delivery
System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the EL 86.4 Delivery System is nearly complete. The weed screen that was damaged was rebuilt and will be placed back on its rack. District Engineer Gonzalez reported the cathodic protection at one of the turnouts will be repaired. President Anderson asked if the issues with the computer were solved. District Engineer Gonzalez reported that the computer was installed after the power supply was replaced. He also reported that the Engineering Department is still working on the SCADA system with Reclamation.

EL86.4 Delivery
System Update

Jennifer Hickenbottom, Reclamation Project Manager, provided clarification regarding Reclamation's review of delivery system sump designs. She clarified that Reclamation did not work on the 30% design of the sump. Reclamation has evaluated three sump model configurations to choose from that have been previously modeled and determined to produce acceptable hydraulic characteristics. Selection of one of these approved configurations will save time and expense for the review and acceptance of the sump designs. Development Coordinator Erickson reported FCA is working through the

Watershed Plan
Update

Supplemental EIS (SEIS) for the EL 11.8. He reported the contractor is working to complete the executive summary that FCA devised to help streamline operations for the Watershed Plan. The executive summary was previously referred to as an NRCS waiver. Development Coordinator Erickson reported the Watershed Plan schedule is on track to be sent for approval this year.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the Development Office is expecting to present five more MOU's at the March Board meeting. The majority of the delivery system MOU's have been received from landowners. The deadline for the Development Office to receive the signed MOU's is February 20th. The financial contributions made by the landowners will be included in Design Service Agreements that will be provided to landowners following execution of MOUs. Development Coordinator Erickson reported CBCD will be remotely attending a meeting on February 18th regarding potential future NRCS programs. The District will not be participating in this meeting. Griffin Hansen with CBCD announced the meeting will be held at the city hall in Moses Lake at 10:00 am. Development Coordinator Erickson reported the District is in support of CBCD and NRCS regarding RCPP applications.

Remaining
Acres

Manager Simpson presented Resolution 2026-03, Use of District Credit Cards, for board consideration. This resolution is to increase the limit of Manager Simpson's US Bank visa card and minimize limit issues in the future. There have been issues with the credit limit, causing inconveniences for group travel. An alternative to this would be to use multiple cards to make purchases; however, that causes a logistical issue. Using a single card makes it manageable to track. President Anderson asked what the limit to Treasurer Dekker's credit card is. Treasurer Dekker replied that her credit card limit is \$350,000. The reason for this limit is to receive credit card program rewards when utilizing the card to make purchases with vendors for materials such as pipelines. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to adopt Resolution 2026-03, Use of District Credit Cards increasing Manager Simpson's limit to \$25,000. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Resolution 2026-
03, Use of
District Cards

Manager Simpson reported Round Lake Farms has requested a temporary water service contract for the 2026 irrigation season. The request is similar to previous years for 842 acres. The ability to contract these acres is dependent upon acreage availability; however, Manager Simpson reported the District expects to have the adequate acreage this year. It was determined that the Potholes Supplemental Feed Route will not run this year. Manager Simpson explained if Reclamation does not allow deliveries out of Crab Creek in the future the District's ability to contract and deliver water to Round Lake Farms might change. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to authorize the Manager to request a temporary water service contract for the 2026 irrigation season for Round Lake Farms from Reclamation. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Round Lake
Farms
Temporary
Water Request
Public Relations
Update

PR Consultant Korfiatis reported on the increase in website traffic in January compared to last January, targeting the open positions page, and reported the e-newsletter decreased in views. She reported the Orman Johnson Pump Plant was the cover in the Irrigation Leader magazine. PR Consultant Korfiatis reported that NRCS Chief Bettencourt visited the District and is planning to return in late May/early. She suggested having the EL 80.6 groundbreaking ceremony during NRCS Chief Bettencourt's site visit

PR Update

to capture photos and videos with potentially nicer weather. She also reported the District is considering the review of a new website hosting vendor.

Assistant Manager Bischoff reported that a meeting with Bernardo Wills to discuss and review the floor plan study was rescheduled; therefore, they did not receive the complete package. There will also be a secondary plan that has not been reviewed but will be discussed at the end of the week. While discussing the requirement for charging stations Manager Simpson reported there has been staff discussions on purchasing EV pick-up trucks for ditchrides. Assistant Manager Bischoff requested time in executive session to discuss land acquisition.

Headquarters
Relocation

Assistant Manager Bischoff reported there is no update on title transfers. There has not been communication with Reclamation. EFO Manager Maynard reported there is possible work to be done. Manager Simpson reported he will be reviewing a draft letter to send to Reclamation regarding the lengthy and inconvenient process of title transfers.

Title Transfer

Assistant Manager Bischoff reported there is no update on the USDA Water Savings Commodities grant.

USDA Water
Savings
Commodities
Grant

Manager Simpson requested time in executive session to discuss collective bargaining agreement negotiations. He reported there was a mediation session resulting in an acceptable proposal between the Union and the District negotiation teams. The Union did not vote in favor of the proposal. Additional mediation sessions will be pursued.

Collective
Bargaining
Agreement

Manager Simpson gave an update on the process for the Lake Roosevelt adjudication. The Colville Tribe and Department of Ecology have been working together on HB 2544 to establish a pilot process for settlement negotiations of federal and tribal water rights. The Districts discussed the bill after a scheduled meeting between the Districts and Reclamation with consultant Dan Haller on January 14th. The consensus amongst the Districts was for Government Relations Consultant Schwisow to register with the Public Disclosure Commission, so that he is able to make contact with legislators regarding the bill as the need arises. Government Relations Consultant Schwisow reported he worked with Colville Tribe's representative, Larry Springer, to add language to the proposed bill to ensure that the CBP Districts have a seat at the table. He also gave an update on the bill introduced. The Yakama Nation provided testimony in opposition to the bill because of its potential in-stream flow rights.

CBP Water
Rights

Assistant Manager Bischoff gave an update on the construction of the pipeline for the EL 68M Wasteway per an agreement with Columbia Basin Railroad. He reported pipe has arrived and does not foresee an issue with the installation of the pipe. District Engineer Gonzalez reported the remaining materials are expected to be delivered on Monday.

EL 68M
Wasteway
Update

Manager Simpson reported that the annual agreement the District has with USDA regarding nuisance wildlife control is due for renewal. O&M has been exploring alternative options for the beaver control. The O&M department has been seeking a local private

USDA Wildlife
Control
Agreement

contractor, but are recommending renewing the current agreement with USDA this year.

Assistant Manager Andreini reported the BABA waiver will be submitted to Reclamation this month. He reported the designs for the microwave towers continue to be worked on. SCADA

CBHP Manager Lackner reported CBHP is working on finalizing the maintenance of facilities. He reported the FERC relicensing and exemption work is also moving forward. CBHP

Assistant Manager Bischoff gave an update on the polyurea sealant bid. Last month, the board authorized Manager Simpson to determine and award the contract to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. Manager Simpson declared Matheson Painting, Inc., non-responsive and awarded the contract to Columbia Industrial Coatings as the lowest responsive, responsible bidder in the amount of \$475,200. Quotes & Bids

Manager Simpson briefly reported on the Reserved Works meeting. The start-up date for the ELC has been set for March 24th. Reclamation gave an update on the maintenance work on the main canal. It was reported that the Potholes Supplemental Feed Route will not operate this year, and reported that the Port of Moses Lake requested a meeting to discuss the W20 project. Reserved Works Meeting Report

Manager Simpson reported that he, several staff members, and two board members attended the Irrigation Leaders Workshop in Chandler, AZ, in January. Manager Simpson reported that the format of this workshop differs from other association conferences. The workshop includes various vendors and topics relating to the theme. Manager Simpson, Director Swinger, and Director Lyle reported on some topics at the workshop, including how to organize a board meeting with Assura, how to engage in board participation, developing grant writing skills, fleet management, weed control, and insurance. They also attended a tour of the urbanized canal development site. Director Swinger reported there were interesting panel discussions that were interactive. Director Swinger and Manager Simpson were both presenters at the workshop. Irrigation Leader Workshop Report

EFO Manager Maynard reported title transfer acquisition for the East District was added to the budget for Fiscal Year 2027. He recognizes the District's frustration on the lengthy process. Assistant Manager Bischoff reported on the meeting with Reclamation on the Secretary's Order. It was reported that title acquisition was intended to be a streamlined process, but that does not seem to be the case in this region. Manager Simpson reported there is a disconnect between the Secretary's Order and the local Reclamation offices. EFO Manager Maynard also gave an update on the W20 project. The Port of Moses Lake and the Columbia Basin Conservation District (CBCD) are seeking ways to improve the water quality and develop a strategy for M&I water. They are seeking alternatives to use Moses Lake as a source for M&I water. There is a meeting scheduled to discuss this project on March 30th. EFO Manager Maynard reported that he informed the group that ECBID and SCBID will need to be involved in discussions in addition to QCBID and that an operational study will be required to determine that there is no negative impact on irrigation of any proposal. EFO Manager gave an update on the SCADA BABA waiver and reported SCADA Project Manager Portal is getting ready for the submittal to Reclamation. He also reported there has been panel erosion and USBR Report

concrete degradation along the canal lining near Trail Lake. Reclamation will be working on targeted evaluations to convey water to minimize degradation. Director Lyle asked for an update on the M&I water application process and the application fee cost. Assistant Manager Bischoff reported the letters to the landowner regarding the transition of water service contracts to M&I contracts have not been sent. EFO Manager Maynard reported that Reclamation has limited staff resources to work on M&I applications. The application fee is \$3,000 to process an M&I water delivery request.

Assistant Manager Bischoff presented a PowerPoint slide show of pictures of the Trail Lake canal panels. He reported there is damage to panels along the canal lining. President Anderson asked what the plan for Trail Lake is. Assistant Manager Bischoff reported Reclamation had conducted a risk analysis and provided three alternatives. Reclamation determined there was a low risk to the canal, which led them to proceed with the "No Action" plan. EFO Manager Maynard reported there had been funding for improvements of the canal lining along Trail Lake, but the CBP Districts did not agree with parts of the project. Since the funding was not used, it is no longer available.

O&M Report

Assistant Manager Bischoff reported the main office HVAC control system failed. Temporary repairs appear to be working. The cost for the replacement of the controller is estimated at \$7,600. He also reported there was a sewer repair and remodeling for new office space.

Manager Simpson reported the Federal Information Security Modernization (FISMA) requirement with Reclamation is being finalized and set in place this year. He reported he questioned the QB rate calculations for 2026 and met with Clyde Lay and Joslin McClure from Reclamation for clarification. He appreciated the discussion they had regarding the correct QB rate which Manager Simpson had miscalculated. He also reported he is scheduled to meet with the Moses Lake's City Manager, Rob Karlinsey, to discuss the Columbia Basin Project and the current water issues for Moses Lake. Manager Simpson reported he will be attending the Irrigation Leader's New Zealand tour this month and will be out of the office for 12 days.

Manager Report

Director Lyle moved to authorize the Board and appropriate staff to travel to the 2026 Reclamation Reform Act Training (RRA), February 18 – 19, 2026, Boise, ID; the Management & Leadership Skills for New Managers and Supervisors, February 26 – 27, 2026, Portland, OR; the CBDL Legislative Trip, March 3-4, 2026, Washington, D.C.; and the NWRA 2026 Policy Conference, April 27 - 29, 2026, Royal Sonesta Hotel, Washington, D.C. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Travel
Authorization

President Anderson declared an executive session at 11:35 p.m., for a total of 25 minutes to discuss acquisition of property under RCW 42.30.110(b) and union negotiations under RCW 42.30.140(4). At 12:00 p.m., the meeting was extended for 10 minutes. The meeting came out of executive session at 12:10 p.m.

Executive
Session

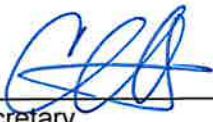
At 12:10 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Board at that time, President Anderson adjourned the meeting.

Meeting
Adjourned

-2026-19-



President



Secretary

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