

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

March 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

Staff

Craig Simpson
Rosa Dekker
Bobby Bischoff
Nate Andreini
Anna Franz

Staff

Julio Gonzalez
Miriam Garcia
Jon Erickson

Visitors present: Marc Maynard, Jennifer Hickenbottom, Holly Slininger and Joslin McClure, USBR; Griffin Hansen, CBCD; Alan Lackner, CBHP; Michael Rainis, and Paul Wollman.

Visitors

Visitors via teleconference: Mike Schwisow, Government Relations Consultant.

EFO Manager Maynard introduced Joslin McClure and Holly Slininger. President Anderson welcomed Ralph Hirz and all visitors.

Minutes of the regular meeting of February 4, 2026, had been mailed to the Directors. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 4, 2026, as written. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Minutes
Approved

Manager Simpson presented the following permits a. – c., for board consideration:

District
Improvements

Permits for Board Approval

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. Good Faith 4 All, LLC | Temporary Culvert Crossings | BLK 41, FU 89 |
| b. Frost Control | Multiple Landowners | BLK 49, Multiple Farm Units |
| c. Hyer | Encroachment | BLK 390, FU 98-809 |

Manager Simpson reported permit a. is an existing temporary permit that was requested for renewal again this year by Good Faith for All. This would make it the third time it has been requested. Staff does not support granting an extension consistent with policy and to prevent a temporary permit from becoming functionally permanent. There is a lateral that runs through the property being developed. The intent is to relocate the easement and pipe the lateral in a different location. Good Faith for All has indicated they are working with the Bureau to complete the cultural resources review and finalize the

easement acquisition. Currently, there is no agreement in place with Reclamation. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve an extension to Permit a. tTmportary Culvert Ccrossing for Good Faith 4 All, LLC. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson reported Permit b. is an Annual Frost Control Permit for multiple landowners in Block 49 and recommended board approval. This is a permit to deliver water earlier in the season if needed. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve permit a. as presented. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson reported Permit c. is an Encroachment Permit to allow a turnout delivery for water service contract a. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve permit c. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

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

Contract

- a. First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract for Groundwater Replacement, Chris A. & Nancy Hyer, 390-092-809, 390 acres

Manager Simpson reported Contract a. is a new water service contract for 390 acres that is intended to be part of the EL 22.1 Delivery System. This contract is for temporary delivery until the EL 22.1 Delivery System is completed. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve contract a. as presented. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson presented the following Seasonal Change in Place of Use Agreements a. - k., for board consideration:

Agreements

- a. Seasonal Change in Place of Use, SM West, 048-802-803-000-00
- b. Seasonal Change in Place of Use, Ralph Hirz, 190-030-805-000-00
- c. Seasonal Change in Place of Use, Marlin HB Trust, 390-051-809-000-00
- d. Seasonal Change in Place of Use, Citation Farms, LLC, 390-069-809
- e. Seasonal Change in Place of Use, Desert Ridge Properties, LLC, 390-070-809
- f. Seasonal Change in Place of Use, Chris Hyer, 390-071-809-000
- g. Seasonal Change in Place of Use, O'Neal Land Inc, 390-089-811
- h. Seasonal Change in Place of Use, WHB Trust, 390-100-810-000-15
- i. Seasonal Change in Place of Use, WHB Trust, 390-112-810-000-06
- j. Seasonal Change in Place of Use, WHB Trust, 390-120-810-000-02
- k. Seasonal Change in Place of Use, WHB Trust, 390-121-810-000-21

Manager Simpson reported the agreements will be for the 2026 season and recommended approval of agreements a. – k., with the exception of agreement b. In the past, seasonal transfer agreements were allowed for incidental acreages; however, agreement b. includes non-irrigable Class 6 land. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve agreements a. - f., with the exception of agreement b. as presented. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson reported Mr. Ralph Hirz has requested seasonal changes over several years. This seasonal change arrangement has been approved previously. There are 39 acres in the requested seasonal change; however, a significant portion of the transfer is on Class 6 land. Mr. Hirz shared a map of his land with the Board, displaying that Reclamation reclassified the land in 1976 to Class 6 land; however, the land is arable. The District isn't authorized to deliver water to the land until it is reclassified. President Anderson asked what the timeline is with Reclamation to reclass the Class 6 land. EFO Manager Maynard replied that the reclass needs to be submitted to start the process. Director Osborne asked why the land is not eligible for water deliveries after several instances of it being allowed. Manager Simpson replied that Class 6 land is not eligible to receive a water allotment but the non-irrigable land classification had been missed in the past..

Manager Simpson presented an alternate seasonal transfer agreement that will initially transfer eligible land and will restrict delivery to the Class 6 land until the land has been reclassified and recommended board approval. There will be two seasonal transfers for this request, with the first one being for all land except for Class 6 land, and the second will transfer the remainder of the land upon reclassification, estimated to be completed in June. Director Lyle asked if there would be an additional fee for the second seasonal transfer agreement if the transfer happens in June or thereafter. Manager Simpson replied there would not be an additional fee because the original request was timely. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to authorize the alternate seasonal transfer agreement for all non-Class 6 land and authorize the transfer for the remainder of the land upon reclassification. 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 Osborne moved to approve for payment check nos. 329431 through 329447 & 2170 through 2355 in the amount of \$2,128,121.92 and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of \$596,767.67 for a total of \$2,724,889.59 from the O&M Fund. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Vouchers

Development Coordinator Erickson reported there was a public landowner meeting on February 18th with the Columbia Basin Conservation District (CBCD) that he attended virtually. CBCD is working with landowners seeking funding opportunities. The meeting consisted of discussions about on-farm changes that were informative. He also reported that Director Swinger traveled to Washington D.C., with the Columbia Basin Development League (CBDL) for a legislative trip to advocate for the Columbia Basin Project (CBP). Erickson also requested permission to support the CBDL request for the Community Project Funding (CPF) through Congressman Newhouse's portal on behalf of the District. Manager Simpson reported the Community Project Funding Request (CPF) for the Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) support letter is due to Congressman Newhouse by the end of the week. Support requests for Senator Murray are due on March 25th, and due on April 6th for Senator Cantwell. The Board, by consensus, approved District support of the requests.

OGWRP:

Assistant Manager Andreini reported that he intends to go to bid in April for the 34.5kV line. The goal is for power to be available on February 1st, 2027, for both the EL 80.6 and EL 84.7 Delivery Systems. This will allow for pump testing prior to the East Low Canal filling in 2027.

34.5kV Line Extension

Assistant Manager Andreini reported that the District and BBEC would like to have an agreement in place to build, operate, and maintain the new powerline, pending legal approval, and requested authorization to execute an agreement. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve an agreement between the District and BBEC, pending legal review, to build, operate, and maintain the new powerline. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

BBEC Agreement

Assistant Manager Andreini reported that RH2 Engineering needs to complete additional work to update the powerline extension design. He is working on preparing a task order for this work. RH2 needs to complete the work in March in order to go to bid in April. He reported the changes that need to be made to the plans are estimated to cost about \$33,000, and the services to be performed during bidding and construction are estimated to cost about \$67,000. Assistant Manager Andreini requested authorization to execute a task order not to exceed the amount of \$100,000. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve the task order not to exceed the amount of \$100,000. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

RH2 Task Order

Development Coordinator Erickson reported that a final MOU for the EL 4.8 Delivery System, formerly known as the Brett Bair Delivery System, was received and recommended approval. The next phase following the execution of the MOU is to finalize a Design Services Agreement, and reported that he has notified the landowners about the process. President Anderson asked how many acres would be contracted. Development Coordinator Erickson replied that the approximate number of acres for the EL 4.8 Delivery System is 2,576 acres. Development Coordinator Erickson reported there is a chance that delivery systems may need to go to the bond market for construction funding purposes, subject to review and a recommendation by staff. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve the EL 4.8 Delivery System MOU. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

EL 4.8 Delivery System MOU

Development Coordinator Erickson reported that he and Manager Simpson met with IRZ, Dylan Hatch, and Jerry Gross with MHB earlier this week to discuss the EL 11.8 Delivery System. Jerry Gross with MHB is very motivated to move forward with a public delivery system. Jennifer Hickenbottom with Reclamation reported that Reclamation received the 100% design packet and will be reviewing the design. Development Coordinator Erickson reported that easements for the EL 11.8 Delivery System have not been acquired yet.

EL11.8 Delivery System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported that the grant for the EL 22.1 Delivery System with OCR is being established. The grant will be ready to be executed when OCR has finalized its review. NRCS is routing an easement acquisition package agreement to Reclamation for approval. Development Coordinator Erickson reported the EL 22.1 Delivery System has a motivated landowner group that is anticipating a public system and is committed to self-funding the remaining unfunded portion of the system. Director Lyle asked about the State requesting public comment for the EL 22.1.

EL22.1 Delivery System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported that the Department of Ecology requested public comments under the environmental justice law (HEAL Act) that involves the 22.1 Delivery System state funding. He reported the District is not involved with that process.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported that a final MOU for the EL 40.2 Delivery System was received and recommended approval. The next phase following the execution of the MOU is to finalize a Design Services Agreement. Development Coordinator Erickson reported that the approximate number of acres for the EL 40.2 Delivery System is 7,968.8 acres. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve the EL 40.2 Delivery System MOU. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

EL 40.2 Delivery
System MOU

Development Coordinator Erickson reported that a final MOU for the EL 73.3 Delivery System was received and recommended approval. The next phase following the execution of the MOU is to finalize a Design Services Agreement. Development Coordinator Erickson reported that the approximate number of acres for the EL 73.3 Delivery System is 1,276 acres. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve the EL 73.3 Delivery System MOU. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

EL 73.3 Delivery
System MOU

District Engineer Gonzalez gave a construction update and displayed a live video feed of the construction of the EL 80.6 Delivery System pumping plant. He reported C&E Trenching has been bracing inside the sump. They want to backfill as soon as possible before the start of the water season. It was determined that the native material is not suitable for structural fill and does not meet the backfill requirements. He also reported that staff engineers have inspected the pipe that is onsite and are expecting the remaining pipe in May. Director Lyle asked if easement acquisition for the EL 80.6 Delivery System was completed. Development Coordinator Erickson reported the easements on the system are not complete yet, as easement acquisition for the pipeline will come secondary to the powerline easements.

EL80.6 Delivery
System Update

District Engineer Gonzalez gave a construction update and displayed a live video feed of the construction of the EL 84.7 Delivery System pumping plant. He reported that Tapani completed all sump wall placements and installed bracing to start backfilling. Director Lyle asked if native material could be used for backfilling. District Engineer Gonzalez replied that Tapani will be using native material where it meets specifications. Native material can be used when it meets material specs. He also reported that a sump bulkhead has been installed. District Engineer Gonzalez reported there have been 4 ½ miles of 36" FRP installed, with 42" pipe left to install on the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) easement section. The engineering department and crew have made pipeline realignment design changes in the DNR section to minimize disturbance on land and FRP pipe cutting.

EL84.7 Delivery
System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported FCA is working through the Supplemental EIS (SEIS) for the EL 11.8, which is included in the Watershed Plan. He reported that FCA continues to work on the Executive Summary, previously referred to as the NRCS "waiver."

Watershed Plan
Remaining Acres

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the Development Office has identified seven public systems with executed MOUs. This is a milestone in the design agreement

process. The deadline for the execution of the Design Service Agreements is March 20th. He reported the Development Office will be presenting the executed Design Service Agreements for approval at the April Board meeting. Following the approval, the Development Office will be notifying the landowners and providing 14 days to submit a \$100/acre payment to the District to include land and begin designs on or before April 16th. Development Coordinator Erickson reported there are multiple active individual groundwater replacement Water Service Contracts that are required to join a public system when it's available. It is recommended that the Board entertains whether those systems are permitted to stay as a private delivery system or not. Manager Simpson reported that previously landowner had requested not to be included in a delivery system and the District determined that the delivery system remaining private was a benefit to the OGWRP. The Board directed the Development Office to continue discussions with the landowners moving forward. Development Office Coordinator Erickson reported there has been an amendment to the Capital Budget adding a flexible proviso for \$3.2M that can be used to supplement the design costs for delivery to remaining acres. Director Lyle asked for an update on the dispute with Grant County regarding the Road "W" bridge. Manager Simpson replied that the settlement offer authorized by the Board was proposed, but the County has not responded.

Remaining
Acres

Manager Simpson reported the PR update on behalf of PR Consultant Korfiatis. He reported there is no major update and gave an update on the newsletter. Director Lyle asked for an update on the short film collaboration scheduled to be produced. Manager Simpson reported the Columbia Basin Development League (CBDL) is still working on the production of the short film. There is a substantial amount of footage, specifically footage from the speakers at the EL 86.4 Delivery System ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Public Relations
Update

Assistant Manager Bischoff reported he and Manager Simpson met with Bernardo Wills to review the floor plan and massing study for the headquarters relocation. He presented three separate floor plan options with a staff preference for option 1.1. The Board selected and agreed to move forward with option 1.1, which includes 14,000 square feet in the floor plan. An agreement will be presented at the April Board Meeting. Assistant Manager Bischoff reported there has not been significant progress on land acquisition due to scheduling a travel by both parties. Assistant Manager Bischoff requested time in executive session to discuss land acquisition.

Headquarters
Relocation

Assistant Manager Bischoff reported he attended a meeting led by Lane Dickson with the Ferguson Group and Family Farm Alliance (FFA) Executive Director Samantha Barncastle to discuss the importance of the USDA Water Savings Commodities program and emphasize the need for the projects to receive the funding. He reported it seemed like the USDA was questioning the validity of the program and how grant recipients were selected. He reported he was not confident of the continued progress of the program.

USDA Water
Savings Grant

CBHP Manager Lackner presented the Second Amendment to the Power Purchase and Sale Agreement with Avista Corporation for board approval. He reported this amendment incorporates the Telemetering, Metering, and Equipment Maintenance Services provision. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve the Second Amendment to the Power Purchase and Sale Agreement with Avista Corporation. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Columbia Basin
Hydropower

CBHP Manager Lackner reported that CBHP needs to register the Quincy Chute and PEC Headworks to the Western Renewable Energy Information System (WREGIS) and requested approval by the Board. He reported this is to register and track renewable energy credits as required by the Avista Power Purchase and Sale Agreement. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve registration of the Quincy Chute and PEC Headworks to the Western Renewable Energy Information System (WREGIS). Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

CBHP Manager Lackner gave an update on FERC relicensing and reported there is a scheduled FERC relicensing meeting later this week.

REGIS
Registration

Assistant Manager Andreini reported the SCADA BABA waiver request was completed and submitted to Reclamation. He reported there was positive feedback on the quality of the waiver request. Much of the SCADA material is not manufactured in America. Staff will be responding to the requests made by Reclamation following the submission. Assistant Manager Andreini reported there is continued work with the NHPA process. He also reported on the design work for the tower sites in Warden and Quincy. SCADA Project Manager Porter and Communications Supervisor Meseberg have been working on path testing for the microwave towers. The estimated completion for SCADA is 2030, including multiple phases.

CBP SCADA

Manager Simpson gave an update on CBP Water Rights and reported there has been communication with the Colville Tribe. Government Relations Consultant Schwisow reported the focus was on certifying the water rights permit, granting an additional 50,000 acres of water in 1989. The Department of Ecology (DOE) published a draft of an ECY policy for public review and comment. This policy recognizes the unique nature of the Columbia Basin Project (CBP), including the reuse of diverted water, incorporates a 1992 Washington Supreme Court decision regarding the United States' rights to use and reuse water within the CBP. It incorporates the legislative changes made in 2024, removing the annual consumptive quantity test for an application to change the number of acres irrigated. Government Relations Consultant Schwisow reported the policy does not directly resolve the conserved water supply issue under the ARMWSC but does establish the foundation for moving forward with conservation projects that would create that water supply.

CBP Water
Rights

Assistant Manager Bischoff reported the crew has been making progress on the construction of the pipeline for the EL 68 M Wasteway. The crew has installed 400' of pipe, but has encountered hard caliche, which slowed down excavation. The crew was able to rip it out with a large dozer. They will likely encounter caliche for nearly 4,000'. He reported the project is still on schedule to be completed before this year's water start-up.

EL 68 MWW
Railroad Crossing

Assistant Manager Bischoff gave an update on the purchase of a 10-yard Mack dump truck that was authorized for purchase through a purchasing pool in January. He reported the dump truck had arrived for our fleet.

Quotes and Bids

Manager Simpson briefly reported on the Tri-State meeting held last month in Portland. The meeting consisted of drought discussions, the movement of water rights in Oregon,

Tri-State
Meeting Report

and how to maximize the usage of water supply. He reported that the record drought does not directly affect the District, nor the Columbia Basin Project (CBP).

Assistant Manager Bischoff reported on behalf of Othello Watermaster Carlson and Moses Lake Watermaster Whitaker on their attendance at the Water Management Workshop. He shared that they learned about O&M issues, concrete repair, vegetation and pest management, and financial aspects. They returned with new ideas to move forward with issues at the District. Manager Simpson asked if this workshop includes a curriculum for administration and Board member participation. EFO Manager Maynard replied this workshop is a good learning opportunity for Board members interested in water management.

Water
Management
Workshop
Report

Communications Supervisor Meseberg reported on the NWIO Conference in Boise that he and other staff attended last month. He reported the format of this conference included smaller workshops and break-out rooms, which gave an opportunity for these smaller groups to discuss and interact with the presenters. He also reported he was able to discuss topics with other irrigation districts and listened to their drought issues in nearby areas. Assistant Manager Bischoff reported that several crew members, such as ditchriders, relief riders, canal maintenance workers, and a supervisor, attended this conference. They reported it was eye-opening to learn about several topics that were discussed and deemed the conference valuable.

NWIO
Conference
Report

Manager Simpson presented a PowerPoint slide show of pictures of the Water Strategies New Zealand Tour he, Director Swinger, and Director Osborne attended. He reported the New Zealand tour was a educational and enjoyed touring the NZ irrigation schemes(districts). The tour consisted of learning about pasture management, Rubicon's Nuero-flow system, cattle halter systems, and visiting a hydro plant and a red deer ranch. Manager Simpson reported that irrigation districts in New Zealand are referred to as irrigation schemes that are privately owned, operated, funded and led by their landowners. Director Osborne commented and appreciated the cleanliness of all the facilities that were toured.

New Zealand
Tour Report

Manager Simpson reported he, HR/Safety Supervisor Walraf, and Assistant Manager Bischoff met to discuss the Warden ditchrides and their housing requirements. Currently, ditch riders in the Warden area are required to live within a 12-mile radius of their ride. HR/Safety Supervisor Walraf reported an offered ditchride position was declined due to the lack of affordable housing in the Warden area. It was determined there is a need for housing in the Warden area. There is one District house in the area currently; however, it is not restricted to just Warden area ditchriders. The Board directed Assistant Manager Bischoff to conduct a study/analysis on housing alternatives. Director Osborne commented that it is beneficial for a ditchrider to be within reasonable reach of their ride in the case of an emergency.

Warden Ditch
Rider Housing

EFO Manager Maynard gave an update on the water start-up season. He reported the Potholes Canal started to fill earlier this week and will continue to fill Billy Clapp Lake. He also reported that Reclamation staff are working on the cultural resources for Good Faith for All. He reported the SCADA BABA waiver application was submitted and is moving in a positive direction. During the review, Reclamation recognized the quality of the application; however, there were comments returned for clarification. He also

USBR Report

-2025-28-

reported that Reclamation authorized the Ephrata Field Office to hire four operational positions. The current positions authorized to hire are three Hydro techs and a Hydrologist in the near future.

Manager Simpson reported he met with the manager of NZ's MHV Water to discuss an exchange with operations personnel. He reported that MHV operations staff may be available in September and is interested in exchanging/hosting personnel. Manager Simpson reported that a letter of support was sent to the City of Othello regarding their Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) project. He also reported that the OGWRP 2016 bond will be callable later this year. A meeting with the financial advisor will be scheduled to determine what the options for the District are. Manager Simpson reported that long-term South District Board of Director J.J Danz has passed away and reported that Board members attended J.J Danz's memorial service.

Manager Report

Director Osborne moved to authorize the Board and appropriate staff to travel to the NWIO Reclamation meetings, March 2026, Boise, ID; the Watertronics Tour, March 31st – April 2nd, 2026, Hartland, WI; and the NWRA 2026 Western Water Conference and Leadership Forum, August 4 - 7, 2026, Boise, ID. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Future Meetings

President Anderson declared an executive session at 12:45 p.m., for a total of 15 minutes, to discuss. The meeting came out of executive session at 1:00 p.m.

Executive
Session

At 1:00 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Board at that time, President Anderson adjourned the meeting.

Meeting
Adjourned

President

Secretary

Minutes continue on page -2025-30-