

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

June 16, 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
Dennis Swinger, Jr.
Reid Baker

Staff

Craig Simpson
Bobby Bischoff
Nate Andreini
Anna Franz

Staff

Miriam Garcia
Julio Gonzalez
Jon Erickson

Visitors present: Michele Kiesz.

Visitors via teleconference: Christina Wyatt, BBEC; Willy Walter, Harold Crose, Paul Wollman, and Derek Friehe. Visitors

Ms. Michele Kiesz thanked the Board for all their work on moving forward with the complicated process of completing the delivery systems. She referenced the public meeting that was held yesterday regarding the \$3.2M grant made available by the State legislators. She reported that Development Coordinator Erickson advised Larry Matson with the Department of Ecology (DOE) that the grant agreement is ready for approval. She also reiterated the EL 40.2 landowner's letter of intent that was sent to the Board in September 2024. The delivery systems landowners have signed an MOU with the District and want to work in collaboration to complete the systems. She reported that there is a variation between each delivery system and its landowner contributions. Ms. Michele Kiesz commented that it is a tough time for landowners to allocate the funds for the \$100/acre design service agreement initial contribution, and they are worried about the priority list. She requested the Board to reduce the initial contribution to \$30 per acre instead of \$100 per acre and refund the landowners who have already made the initial contribution. She commented that the landowner group will continue to advocate for RCPP grant applications and work with Kristina Ribellia with the Columbia Basin Conservation District (CBCD). Public Comment Period

District Engineer Gonzalez reported the engineering staff sent a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to multiple engineering firms and received five Statements of Qualifications (SOQ). Engineering staff reviewed the SOQ and held interviews with three of the firms. After interviews, staff selected RH2 Engineering and HDR Engineering as Authorization to Negotiate Engineering

the most qualified consultants. District Engineer Gonzalez requested authorization to negotiate engineering consultant contracts with RH2 Engineering and HDR Engineering for General Engineering Services. Director Lyle asked if the General Engineering Service contracts are similar to the contracts for the EL 80.6 and EL 84.7 Delivery Systems. Manager Simpson replied that this request is to execute general engineering service contracts with the consultants, with the specific work being authorized through task orders. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to authorize staff to negotiate engineering consultant contracts with RH2 Engineering and HDR Engineering for general engineering services. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the Office of Columbia River (OCR) is working through the draft grant application for the \$3.2M grant awarded by the State Legislature for design of the remaining acres. He is hopeful the grant agreement process can start and be approved for execution. Manager Simpson asked for clarification of the request. Development Coordinator Erickson replied that he is requesting authorization to start the grant application process and seeking conditional approval to sign the grant agreement. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to authorize applying for the \$3.2M grant and approved conditional approval for the District to execute the grant. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported that the grant for the EL 22.1 Delivery System with OCR was previously approved by the Board. The grant will fund administration, a third-party estimate, and complete execution of an easement acquisition package with NRCS in the amount of \$3.5M. Manager Simpson reported there will be a meeting with the EL 22.1 Delivery System landowners to discuss an updated cost estimate of the delivery system and what to expect before executing water service contracts. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the \$3.5M grant agreement for the EL 22.1 Delivery System. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

District Engineer Gonzalez presented the following 34.5kV Line Extension bids for board consideration:

	Bidder	Amount
	Engineer's Estimate	\$4,704,140.00
1	DJ's Electrical	\$2,567,970.00
2	Palouse Power LLC	\$3,005,910.00
3	RiverLine Power	\$3,113,345.00
4	Magnum Power	\$3,683,026.00

District Engineer Gonzalez reported the District went out to bid for the 34.5kV line extension and received four bids. The 34.5kV line extension will power the EL 80.6 and EL 84.7 Delivery System pump plants. District Engineer Gonzalez recommended that the board accept DJ's Electrical as the lowest responsive bid in the amount of \$2,567,970.00, plus sales tax. He reported that Big Bend Electric Cooperative (BBEC) agreed with that contractor selection. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to accept the bid from DJ's Electrical in the amount of \$2,567,970.00, plus sales tax, as the lowest responsive bid. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson reported that he will be meeting with FCA to discuss additional Other Watershed grants.

Assistant Manager Bischoff requested time in executive session to discuss a potential tort claim.

President Anderson declared an executive session at 9:25 a.m., for a total of 10 minutes, to discuss potential litigation under RCW 42.30.110(i). The board came out of executive session at 9:35 a.m. Executive Session

At 9:35 am, there being no further business to come before the Board at that time, President Anderson adjourned the meeting. Meeting Adjourned


Secretary


President