

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

April 6, 2022

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Duaine Anderson.

Present were:

Directors

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

Staff

Craig Simpson  
Rosa Dekker  
John McCourtie  
Nate Andreini  
Wendy Lange  
Anna Franz

Visitors present: Jennifer Hickenbottom, USBR; Darvin Fales, CBHP; Kevin Brown, DOE; Kristina Ribellia, GCCD; Paul Wollman, Randy Reber, Gavin Johnson, Orman Johnson, Jake Wollman, Derek Friehe, Lynn Olsen and Jennifer Korfiatis.

Visitors

Visitors via teleconference: Marc Maynard and Amy Rodman, USBR; Mike Schwisow, Government Relations Consultant; Brian Kuest, Harold Crose, Randy Kiesz, Michele Kiesz, Kirk Rathdrum, Ben Walker, Sydney Anderson and Christina Wyatt.

Minutes of the regular meeting of March 2, 2022, had been mailed to the Directors. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 2, 2022, as written. Director Baker seconded and the motion carried.

Minutes  
Approved

Mr. Jake Wollman commented the lateral costs per acre is incorrect and shouldn't include grant funding in the District's calculations.

Public Comment  
Period

Manager Simpson presented Resolution 2022-11, Amending the Form of Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract. Director Lyle requested the new water service contract for review. The contract was provided to the board for review later in the meeting.

Resolution 2022-  
11

Manager Simpson reported staff approved and issued the following permit a., consistent with Resolution 2018-12:

District  
Improvements

Approved & Issued Permits Report

a. Duaine Anderson

Buried Pipe Crossing

Block 49, FU 209

Manager Simpson presented the following agreements a. and b., for board consideration:

Agreements

- a. Cancellation of Permanent Release of Water Allotment, Mary Falconer, Block 40, Lot 8, Crab Creek Estates, Farm Unit 152, 4.9 acres
- b. Permanent Release of Water Allotment, Gustavo and Maria Bravo, Block 42, Farm Unit 294-218-002-00, 2.0 acres

Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve agreement a., as presented. Director Baker seconded and the motion carried.

Director Osborne also moved to approve agreement b., as presented. Director Lyle seconded and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson presented the following variance a., for board consideration:

Variance

- a. Combination over 500 acres, WHB Trust is requesting an 1,106 acres combination

Manager Simpson reported WHB Trust, has had this same combination since 2017 but with the recent change to the combination policy, is asking for a variance for the 2022 irrigation season. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve WHB Trust's request for a variance to the combination policy with the fee of \$500 for the 1,106 acre combination. 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 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. 320904 through 321098 in the amount of \$775,149.93 and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of \$415,335.75 for a total of \$1,190,485.68 from the O&M Fund. Director Osborne seconded and the motion carried.

Vouchers

Manager Simpson reported Round Lake Farms has requested an emergency water supply similar to the 2021 irrigation season. He reported Round Lake Farms continues to work with Ecology and is still waiting for a determination regarding water supply deficiencies. Manager Simpson reported the land is eligible to receive water but the District is limited to a smaller amount of acres at this time than was contracted last year. That can change after April 30<sup>th</sup>, the last day for landowners to pay and be current on their 2021 assessments. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to authorize Round Lake Farms request for emergency water for 842 acres, provided the District has the water available. Director Baker seconded and the motion carried.

Round Lake Farms  
Emergency Water Request

Manager Simpson reported NRCS has awarded \$775,000 in funding to develop a Watershed Plan (PL-566) for the OGWRP. The funding will pay for developing the plan. The press release regarding the award was a joint effort of those involved. Manager Simpson recognized members of the funding steering committee that helped achieve this funding; Michele Kiesz, Clark Kagele, Jake Wollman, Jr., Paul Wollman,

OGWRP:  
Development Office Report  
1) PL-566  
Watershed Plan

Representative Dye, Mark Booker, Senator Schoesler, Senator Warnick, Representative Dent, Jed Crowther, Kristina Ribellia, Harold Crose and the Farm Conservation Alliance. He reported the timeline to complete the Plan is two years or less. Once the watershed plan is accepted by NRCS, there will be a separate effort needed to acquire the funding through Congress for the appropriations. Plan completion will make NRSC able to pay for design work. Grant funding for construction will be 75% or less, and is dependent on congressional appropriations at the funding level we'll be requesting. State and District funding can be used as a match and the landowner contributions can also be a part of the match as long as it hasn't be utilized ahead of time. Manager Simpson reported the District may still have to go to the bond market for financing.

Manager Simpson reported the District is still waiting for a response from USBR. EFO Manager Maynard reported he is processing a response and it's largely the same as the State's. The District should receive USBR's response within the next couple weeks. Manager Simpson reported meetings will be conducted following receipt of all responses.

2) Director Lyle's Tabled Motion

Manager Simpson reported 60% design of the EL22.1 Delivery System is moving ahead. Easement issues are also being addressed.

EL22.1 Delivery System

Manager Simpson reported meetings with the EL80.6 and EL84.7 landowners were held last week. Updated design agreements and MOUs were provided to the landowners for review and signature. The 30% design of each system continues.

EL80.6 & EL84.7 Delivery System Update

Manager Simpson reported the EL86.4 Delivery System designs continue. There is potential grant funding being pursued with the State. He reported the timeline for completion of the EL86.4 Delivery System is different than the other systems due to it being a gravity systems not requiring the complexities of a pumping plant design. Manager Simpson reported discussions continue with the Fox Family regarding easement acquisition for a portion of the alignment.

EL86.4 Delivery System Update

Manager Simpson reported the three District managers have received the draft risk analysis statement of work for the Main Canal section at Trail Lake. The risk analysis is estimated to cost \$137,000.00. The East District's portion being \$38,000.00. Manager Simpson requested time in executive session to discuss the topic further.

Trail Lake

CBHP Manager Fales reported the control systems upgrade at Summer Falls is complete and requested time in executive session. Manager Simpson reported East District crews had assisted with seepage repairs along the Main Canal above Summer Falls Dam.

Columbia Basin Hydropower

Manager Simpson presented Resolution 2022-10, Website Policy, for board consideration. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to adopt Resolution 2022-10, as presented. Director Baker seconded and the motion carried.

Resolution 2022-10

Project Manager Erickson presented the following website hosting quotes for board consideration:

Public Relations Update

	Supplier	Amount	Additional Fees
a.	Pixel to Press, LLC	\$ 50.00/month	None
b.	Elevate	\$195.00/month	\$100 set up fee

a. Website Hosting

Project Manager Erickson reported staff has confirmed that Pixel to Press, LLC and Elevate are able to work together for website hosting needs. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to accept the quote for website hosting from Pixel to Press, LLC, in the amount of \$50.00 per month as the lowest responsive quote. Director Baker seconded and the motion carried.

Jennifer Korfiatis presented the District's website for Board consideration. The website received great comments from the Board. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to authorize the launch of the District's website when complete. Director Baker seconded and the motion carried.

b. Website Review

District Engineer Adolphsen reported Anchor QEA has submitted the final report and it is currently being reviewed by District staff.

Re-regulation Reservoir Update

Assistant Manager McCourtie requested authorization to call for janitorial services quotes. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to authorize a call for janitorial services quotes. Director Osborne seconded and the motion carried.

Quotes & Bids

Assistant Manager McCourtie presented the following quotes for Dicamba 40% (Vision) for Board consideration:

	Supplier	Product	Amount
1.	Nutrien Solutions	Strut	\$12,390.00
2.	Helena Chemical	Vision	\$20,300.00

Assistant Manager McCourtie reported Nutrien Solutions quote provide salt not an acid as specified in the District's quote specifications. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to declare the quote from Nutrien Solutions non-responsive for not meeting District quote specifications and to accept the quote from Helena Chemical for Dicamba 40% (Vision) in the amount of \$20,300.00, plus sales tax, as the lowest responsive quote. Director Baker seconded and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson presented the insurance renewal quotes from PayneWest for 2022 Major Property, and the Engineer Professionals insurance coverage. He reported an 11% premium increase, to \$73,983, for Major Property coverage from 2021 due to the current market conditions and inflation. Manager Simpson recommended the insurance renewal with PayneWest in the total amount of \$88,135. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve the insurance renewal with our existing coverage in the amount of \$88,135. Director Baker seconded and the motion carried.

Insurance

Manager Simpson requested ratification of President Anderson's travel and expenses, to Washington, D.C. with the Columbia Basin Development League. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to ratify President Anderson's travel to Washington, D.C. with CBDL, as discussed. Director Lyle seconded and the motion carried.

Ratify Travel & Expense

Manager Simpson reported a draft final report of the CBP Economic Impact Study is expected soon. CBP Economic Impact Study

Manager Simpson reported a letter regarding wholesale transmission delivery and Reserved Power billing was sent to Grant PUD. Grant PUD

Manager Simpson reported the District has the opportunity to join NWRA's Municipal Caucus. He reported the District belongs to NWRA's Irrigation Caucus and it doesn't deem it a necessity of the District to join the municipal side also. NWRA Municipal Caucus

Manager Simpson reported the three Districts remain engaged in discussions awaiting a meeting with project members from the UCUT. Reintroduction of Fish above GCD

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m., and reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

Manager Simpson presented Resolution 2022-11, Amending the Form of Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to adopt Resolution 2022-11, as presented. Director Osborne seconded and the motion carried. Resolution 2022-11

Manager Simpson presented the following contracts a. through c. for board consideration: District Improvements

Contracts

- a. Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract, Marlin HB Trust, 390-066-809, 173 acres
- b. Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract, Treat Farms, LLC, 390-067-809, 184.8 acres
- c. Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract, WHB Trust, 390-068-809, 573.1 acres

Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve contracts a. through c., as presented and discussed. Director Lyle seconded and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson requested time in executive session to discuss negotiations. Collective Bargaining Unit

EFO Manger Maynard expressed appreciation for the quick response from East District and CBHP staff on addressing the seepage on the Main Canal above Summer Falls. He also reported the scope of work for the risk analysis at Trail Lake is estimated to cost \$137,000.00, to be shared the three Districts. USBR Report

Safety Supervisor Walraf gave the monthly safety report. Safety Report

District Engineer Adolphsen gave the monthly Engineering Department report. She reported Engineering staff has been busy with permits, short plat review, and planning next year's projects. Engineer Report

Assistant Manager Andreini reported Engineering Staff is working on OGWRP pump plant designs, managing consultants on various levels. He also reported the new radial gates have been installed and are in operation. Technical Services Report

Assistant Manager McCourtie reported for Treasurer Dekker during her absence. There were three new investments made and one maturity. Treasurer Report

Assistant Manager McCourtie reported on both Watermaster sections, the ELC is at elevation, crews are on schedule with priming laterals and re-burning weeds after the windstorm. Assistant Manager McCourtie presented a slideshow of the EL85C washout and the corrective measures taken. Assistant Manager O&M

Manager Simpson reported on past and upcoming meetings. He requested board approval of sending letters of support of funding Grant and Adams County bridge funding. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the board to send letters of support. Manager Report

Mr. Jake Wollman commented on calculation methods to stay within the \$190/acre capital cost cap. Public Comment Period

Mr. Derek Friehe commented on the collective bargaining unit negotiations stating that both bargaining unit and non-bargaining District employees don't make the same wages as South and Quincy Districts. Manager Simpson commented the District bargaining unit employees are still at the 2020 rates until a new collective bargaining agreement is in place. Executive Session

President Anderson declared an executive session at 2:15 p.m., for a total of 60 minutes, to discuss potential litigation, personnel matters, sale of District property, and CBA mediation. At 3:15 p.m., executive session was extended for 50 minutes. At 4:05 p.m., executive session was extended for 55 minutes. The meeting came out of executive session at 5:00 p.m. Meeting Adjourned

At 5:00 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Board at that time, President Anderson adjourned the meeting.

  
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President

  
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Secretary