

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

August 3, 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: Amy Rodman, USBR; Jake Wollman, Jr., Jennifer Korfiatis, Paul Wollman, Orman Johnson, and Gavin Johnson.

Visitors

Visitors via teleconference: Melissa Downes, DOE; Mike Schwisow, Government Relations Consultant; Harold Crose, GCCD; Michele Kiesz, Randy Kiesz, Randall Fox, and Kirk Rathdrum.

President Anderson opened the hearing of petition for Inclusions of Lands. The hearing remained open until the end of the meeting.

Open CBP  
Inclusion Public  
Hearing

Minutes of the regular meeting of July 6, 2022, had been mailed to the Directors. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 6, 2022, as written. Director Osborne seconded and the motion carried.

Minutes  
Approved

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

District  
Improvements

Contracts

- a. Renewal Waste, Seepage, and Return Flows Water Service Contract, Lee and Margaret Davis, 043-801-801, 12 acres

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

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

Agreements

- a. Permanent Release of Water Allotment, Maricela Gonzalez Espinoza, a portion of Farm Unit 250-Lot 2 RJK Short Plat, Block 45, 1.1 acres
- b. Permanent Release of Water Allotment, Elia Rodriguez, Block 045-225-054-032, 0.3 acres

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

Manager Simpson presented Resolution 2022-15, Authorizing WaterSMART Grant Applications for board consideration. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to adopt Resolution 2022-15, as presented. Director Swinger seconded and the motion carried.

Resolution 2022-15

Manager Simpson reported no assents were received from Reclamation for the following Petitions for Inclusion of Land a. and b.:

Petition for Inclusion of Land

- a. Triple C Land Co., No. 230
- b. PCEC, LLC, No. 233

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. 321698 through 321854 in the amount of \$470,334.19 and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of \$575,527.21 for a total of \$1,038,424.10 from the O&M Fund, and \$7,437.30 from the Construction Fund. Director Swinger seconded and the motion carried.

Vouchers

District Engineer Adolphsen presented the contract with Budinger & Associates for environmental services for approval of execution. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve execution of the Budinger & Associates contract for environmental services. Director Swinger seconded and the motion carried.

OGWRP: Development Report

District Engineer Adolphsen presented the contract with Western Pacific Engineering for geotechnical services for approval of execution. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve execution of the Western Pacific Engineering contract for geotechnical services. Director Lyle seconded and the motion carried.

District Engineer Adolphsen presented the contract with Anderson Perry & Associates for cultural resources services for approval of execution. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve execution of the Anderson Perry & Associates for cultural resources services. Director Baker seconded and the motion carried.

District Engineer Adolphsen requested authorization to call for electrical engineering consultant RFQs for the EL86.4 Delivery System. Director Baker moved to authorize a call for electrical engineering consultant RFQs, as requested. Director Osborne seconded and the motion carried.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported MHB has directed IRZ to move forward with the 60-90% design. [EL11.8 Delivery System](#)

Development Coordinator Erickson reported that the 60% design from IRZ is now expected in the next few months. [EL22.1 Delivery System](#)

Development Coordinator Erickson reported RH2 is looking into the individual landowner requests for the EL80.6 and EL84.7 Delivery Systems, for no additional charge at this time. The 30% design for the systems is expected later in August. [EL80.6 & EL84.7 Delivery System Update](#)

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the Fox Family has fully executed the MOA for easement across Section 30. The family has expressed their thanks to the board and the EL86.4 landowner group. He also reported District staff continues to work on the 30% design. [EL86.4 Delivery System Update](#)

Development Coordinator Erickson requested authorization for Manager Simpson to sign the letter of engagement with Agri/Com Appraisals. He reported the easement through the Fox Family's land in Section 30 will need to be appraised to determine the value of the easement. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to authorize Manager Simpson to execute the letter of engagement with Agri/Com Appraisals. Director Lyle seconded and the motion carried.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported on the continuing efforts and weekly meetings. The NRCS Watershed Plan Grant agreement and the GCCD Inter-local Agreement will be discussed in executive session before approval. [Watershed Plan Project Update](#)

Manager Simpson reported the Adams County Commissioners have requested the District send them a list of bridge priorities listing importance of replacement. He reported Adams County's request for a grant has been approved for one bridge replacement. Grant County's request wasn't approved.

Director Lyle asked if the RCPP request was submitted. Manager Simpson affirmed it was by GCCD, and reported the RCPP doesn't include the District, just private landowner facilities that wish to join the District's system. Mr. Harold Crose commented GCCD is expecting confirmation this month. If approved it will enable entering into agreements with landowners. The RCPP funding will cover designs, materials and construction for on farm systems up to \$450,000. Mr. Crose stated the District facilities will need to be completed before the funding will be made available.

Manager Simpson reported the South District is beginning the SCADA RFQ process for the CBP. He reported there may be opportunities for grant funding for the SCADA system upgrade. Manager Simpson requested authorization for up to three District staff to travel to Modesto, CA, for a technology tour area irrigation Districts' SCADA operations. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to authorize three District Staff to travel to Modesto, CA, for a technology tour, as discussed. Director Baker seconded and the motion carried. [SCADA](#)

Ms. Jennifer Korfiatis gave a brief update on the District's website. She reported she is working on an online employment application and is meeting with the South District to learn about their software for online water ordering. Ms. Korfiatis also presented a potential East District Facebook page. She reported she would perform the administration in the beginning, then District staff would take over. Attorney Franz stated a District policy regarding social media will need to be drafted.

Public Relations Update

District Engineer Adolphsen reported staff will be meeting with Manager Simpson later this month to review the costs of the re-reg reservoirs and Project Manager Mendoza's report on their potential benefits.. She also reported due to canal fluctuation, Rubicon would like us to put SCADA Connect on six or seven sites to see what the benefits would be.

Re-Reg Reservoir Update

District Engineer Adolphsen reported Engineering staff is currently working on determining best use of the space for more offices. Manager Simpson reported the District needs a new location for the office and yards. It will be cost prohibitive to update the current office buildings since they were originally truck stalls.. The study will focus on what is needed for the District.

Space Utilization Study RFQ

District Engineer Adolphsen requested authorization to call for corbel removal quotes. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to authorize a call for corbel removal quotes as requested. Director Osborne seconded and the motion carried.

Quotes & Bids

Assistant Manager McCourtie presented the following quotes for an impeller for the North Warden Pump #3, for board consideration:

Supplier	Amount
Pump Tech	\$35,866.00
Lad Irrigation	\$39,228.01

Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to accept the quote from Pump Tech in the amount of \$35,866.00, plus sales tax, as the lowest responsive quote. Director Lyle seconded and the motion carried.

Assistant Manager McCourtie reported the deadline to order 2023 pickups for the District has been moved up to August 10, 2022. There is no cost to the District to place the order. He reported he has met with the Equipment Committee to inform them of the situation and it was agreed that the order should be placed now. Assistant Manager McCourtie requested authorization to order 4 half ton pickups through the state contract with Department of Enterprise Services before the August 10<sup>th</sup> deadline. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to authorize ordering 4 half ton pickups through the Department of Enterprise Services, as requested and discussed. Director Osborne seconded and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson reported a meeting with the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) is likely to be in October.

Reintroduction of Fish above GCD

Manager Simpson reported canal shut-off dates will be set at the August 8<sup>th</sup> Reserved Works meeting. Manager Simpson reported staff recommends the District shut-off all deliveries on Thursday, October 20, 2022. Last day for delivery changes would be October 18<sup>th</sup>. He noted October 20<sup>th</sup> falls within the range of dates previously determined by the Reserved Works Committee for shut-off. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve shutting down the ELC on Thursday, October 20, 2022, but up to October 24, 2022, at the manager's discretion regarding landowner demand for water. Director Baker seconded and the motion carried.

ELC Turn-off  
Date

Manager Simpson recommended the Board set the last day for Saturday ditchrider service. Manager Simpson stated that delivery on Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, the last Saturday before Labor Day, would be consistent with past years. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to set September 3, 2022, as the last day for Saturday ditchriding. Director Lyle seconded and the motion carried.

Last Saturday  
Delivery

Manager Simpson reported he has informed EFO Manager Maynard of the District's intent to move forward with title transfer of the District's three yards. He will work with the District's Special Project Administrator when he starts the new position. Manager Simpson reported the District will consider title transfer of sub-lateral facilities. Doing so would allow the District to defend easement issues and manage facilities more easily.

Partial Title  
Transfer

Manager Simpson reported briefly on the NWRA Western Water Seminar he attended at Fairmount Hot Springs, MT. Topics were wildfire prevention, forest management, Clean Water Act, Sackett v. EPA, effective board communication and the Colorado River power issue. Manager Simpson reported the NWRA Leadership Forum typically held in January will now be conjoined with the NWRA Annual Conference and will be held the first day of the conference.

NWRA Western  
Water Seminar  
Report

EFO Irrigation District Liaison Rodman gave a brief report. She reported on staffing, land reclassification process, and that Reclamation has decided not to charge a fee for exclusion of lands from the Project.

USBR Report

Assistant Manager McCourtie gave the monthly safety report.

Safety Report

District Engineer Adolphsen gave the monthly Engineering Department report. She reported Engineering staff has been busy with EL 86.4 designs, winter pipelines, conservation pipelines, permits, short plat review and other various activities.

Engineer Report

Assistant Manager Andreini reported he has been overseeing the EL 86.4 design work, coordinating with IRZ and RH2, discussions with Reclamation on the control panels for the radial gates and working on the 2023 budget.

Technical  
Services Report

Treasurer Dekker gave the monthly Treasurer report. She reported there were 8 investments and 8 maturities last month, the annual audit will begin in September and the Ag-Forestry class begins in October.

Treasurer  
Report

Assistant Manager McCourtie reported on both Watermaster sections. He reported the East District will supply the equipment for the Potholes Headworks wing wall repair and that the South District will perform the work on. He also reported on the water leak in the main office supply line.

Assistant  
Manager O&M

Manager Simpson reported Bobby Bischoff has accepted the position of Special Projects Administrator but will remain in the Othello Watermaster position until an Assistant Watermaster is hired, Rod Barker will then take the position as Othello Watermaster. He reported once in his new position, the Special Projects Administrator will provide more training for the Watermasters and Assistant Watermasters and begin working on the title transfer of the District's three yards.

Manager Report

Manager Simpson reported the entire Engineer Department will soon be located in the Watermaster office to facilitate access of the District Engineer with all department staff. Other employees will be moved around to provide an appropriate office for the new Special Projects Administrator.

Manager Simpson reported on the passing of the recently retired Moses Lake Watermaster Nick Albrandt.

Director Osborne moved to approve the board and appropriate staff travel to the NWRA Annual Conference and Leadership Forum, November 2-4, 2022, Santa Barbara Hilton, Santa Barbara, CA. Director Swinger seconded and the motion carried.

Travel  
Authorization

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:45 p.m., and the meeting reconvened at 1:45 p.m.

President Anderson declared an executive session at 1:45 p.m., for a total of 45 minutes, to discuss potential litigation and personnel matters. The meeting came out of executive session at 2:30 p.m.

Executive  
Session

Director Lyle moved to authorize President Anderson to execute the Cities of Seattle and Tacoma Purchase and Sale Agreement Amendment No.1. Director Swinger seconded and the motion carried.

Director Swinger moved to authorize President Anderson to execute the NRCS Watershed Plan grant conditioned upon approval of the final edits by the Manager. Director Baker seconded and the motion carried.

Director Osborne moved to authorize President Anderson to execute the GCCD Inter-local Agreement conditioned on the execution of the NRCS Watershed Plan grant. Director Lyle seconded and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson requested conditional approval of Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contracts for Citation Farms up to 842 acres and Desert Ridge Farms up to 360 acres. He reported they will be ready to take water from their permitted turnouts later this month. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract for Citation Farms and Desert Ridge Farms, as requested. Director Swinger seconded and the motion carried. Director Baker abstained from participating in the discussion and vote.

At 2:37 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Board at that time, President Anderson continued the Hearing for Petition for Inclusion of Lands to the next regular board meeting and adjourned the meeting. Meeting Adjourned

  
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President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary