

-2023-09-

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

February 1, 2023

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

Staff

Craig Simpson  
Rosa Dekker  
Jon Erickson  
Wendy Lange  
Anna Franz

Visitors present: Clyde Lay and Amy Rodman, USBR; Melissa Downes, Kevin Brown and McKenna Murray, WDOE; Kristina Ribellia, CBCD; Orman Johnson, Jennifer Korfiatis, Lynn Olsen, Michele Kiesz, Derek Friehe and Quincy Cook.

Visitors

Visitors via teleconference: Jennifer Hickenbottom, USBR; Mike Schwisow, Government Relations Consultant; Randall Fox, Gavin Johnson, Jake Wollman, Jr., Norm Getzinger 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 January 4, 2023, had been mailed to the Directors. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 4, 2023, as written. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Minutes  
Approved

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

District  
Improvements

Contracts

- a. Amendment to Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract, Treat Farms, LLC, 390-067-809, adding 29.1 acres for a total of 213.9 contracted acres

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

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

Permits

- a. Frost Control                      Multiple Landowners                      Block 49, Multiple Farm Units

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

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

Approved & Issued Permits

- a. John Hyer                      New Turnout Encroachment                      WSC 390-070-809
- b. Country Morning Farms      Temporary Pipeline                      Block 43, FU 156

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

Agreements

- a. Seasonal Change in Place of Use (2), Marlin HB Trust, 390-051

Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve agreement a. as presented and discussed. Director Lyle 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 Lyle moved to approve for payment check nos. 322860 through 323031 in the amount of \$382,784.16 and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of \$431,502.07 for a total of \$814,286.23 from the O&M Fund. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Vouchers

Manager Simpson presented Resolution 2023-02, Amend Bylaws for Manager Purchasing Authority and Resolution 2023-03, Purchasing Policy. He reported the amended Bylaws reflect and increase to the Manager's purchasing authority from \$10,000 to \$25,000 without prior approval of the board. These falls within the statutory limits of up to \$50,000 for purchases without prior approval. Manager Simpson reported a draft with the \$50,000 purchase authority is also present for board consideration of either amount. He reported Resolution 2023-03 has been updated to reflect the same change to the manager's purchasing authority about as reflected in Resolution 2023-02. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to increase the manager's purchasing authority to \$25,000 as allowed by statute and to adopt Resolutions 2023-02 and Resolution 2023-03 with said changes. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Resolution 2023-02 and Resolution 2023-03

Manager Simpson presented Resolution 2023-04, CBHP 2023 Budget for Project Reserved Works Activities. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to adopt Resolution 2023-04, as presented. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Resolution 2023-04

Manager Simpson presented Resolution 2023-05, CBHP 2023 Budget for Quincy Chute and PEC Headworks Power Plants. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to adopt Resolution 2023-05, as presented. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Resolution 2023-05

Manager Simpson reported no assents were received from Reclamation nor were any other comments received for the following Petition for Inclusion of Land:

Petition for Inclusion of Land

a. Triple C Land Co., ETAL, No. 232

Manager Simpson reported Mr. Derek Friehe is present to request a variance to the District's return flow policy. He reported the Friehe's will be relocating a pump plant for their 190 contracts off rented land and would like to continue to return flow into the ELC. Mr. Friehe commented they have been allowed to return flow for the past 40 years and would like to continue to do so with board permission. Manager Simpson reported there are ELC limitations downstream of the turnout. An undershot for overflow is available nearby but the drain may not be currently large enough to handle the return flows expected and may need upgrades to the facilities downstream. Mr. Friehe commented on concerns with liability issues of their overflow on downstream facilities. Manager Simpson advised that a permit would need to be in place which would indicate the District acceptance of the return flow and responsibility for its conveyance. He also commented that separate meters for each contract will need to be installed in a new pump plant. Manager Simpson stated the District will evaluate the drainage facilities downstream from Friehe's turnout for a recommendation. A permit to use the undershot with conditions could be a part of the new pump plant permit. President Anderson stated this will be readdressed at the March meeting to give District staff time to evaluate the facilities for a recommendation.

Friehe Return Flow Variance Request

Development Coordinator Erickson reported IRZ continues to work towards 60% design of the EL11.8 Delivery System. Assistant Manager Andreini is working with GPUD on power studies.

OGWRP: EL11.8 Delivery System Update

Manager Simpson presented GPUD Task Authorization No. 4. The task authorization is for auxiliary service line design and is not to exceed \$5,500. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve GPUD Task Authorization No. 4 as presented. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

EL22.1 Delivery System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported Reclamation has accepted the 30% Design of the EL84.7 Delivery System.

EL80.6 & EL84.7 Delivery System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported design work continues along with easement acquisition. He reported the landowners are hoping for outside funding and are planning on moving from design directly to construction without delay.

EL86.4 Delivery System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson gave an update on the legacy grant from OCR. He reported he continues to work with OCR for language changes that would allow the grant funds to be used for EL86.4 and other construction activities along with other Odessa projects and not be tied to a specific system.

Development Office Report

Development Coordinator Erickson reported on progress made at meetings with the Grant and Adams County Commissioners regarding bridges. He reported Grant County is now willing to work with Reclamation regarding the Road "W" bridge. It was reported a temporary bridge might be considered until funding for full replacement is received. Development Coordinator Erickson reported Adams County has received funding the Sackman Road bridge that requires a 20% funding match to it. He also reported Senator Schoesler is working on sourcing potential State funding for other Adams County bridges.

Ms. Kristina Ribellia with the Columbia Basin Conservation District (CBCD) asked the board for the District's support on the Climate Smart funding they are looking into. She mentioned that the USDA program is being looked into and the CBCD is willing to assist in the funding of the District's involvement. Manager Simpson stated staff will compile more information to give to the board for a decision on support.

Manager Simpson requested authorization to request that Reclamation request an extension of the Secondary Use Permit from Ecology. The current permit development expires in 2024. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to authorize staff request that Reclamation request an extension of the Secondary Use Permit from Ecology. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Assistant Manager Andreini reported the RFQ is out and due on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Each District will review the submitted RFQs.

SCADA

Ms. Jennifer Korfiatis provided an update of the District's website and online water ordering. She reported an e-newsletter will be sent out later this week.

Public Relations Update

Manager Simpson reported the three Districts' attorneys are providing language to Reclamation for provisions to include in a new Quincy IUG wastewater license.

Quincy IUG Wastewater Agreement

Special Projects Administrator Bischoff reported he met with Reclamation for direction to complete and submit the information sheet this month.

Partial Title Transfer

Purchasing Agent Robertson presented the following metal concrete cutting quotes for board consideration:

Quotes & Bids

Vendor	Amount
Pro-Cut Concrete Cutting & Breaking, Inc.	\$12,885.40
Straight Line Concrete Sawing & Drilling, Inc.	\$26,000.00

Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to accept the concrete cutting quote from Pro-Cut Concrete Sawing & Drilling, Inc., in the amount of \$12,885.40 plus sales tax, as the lowest responsive quote. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Treasurer Dekker reported briefly on the Tri-State meeting she attended in Portland.

Tri-State Meeting Report

Manager Simpson reported briefly on the Reserved Works meeting. He reported the ELC start-up date was set for March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Reserved Works Meeting Report

Manager Simpson requested authorization for Special Projects Administrator Bischoff to apply for the Ag-Forestry Class 45. He reported he will discuss the opportunity with Mr. Bischoff. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to authorize Special Projects Administrator Bischoff application to the Ag-Forestry Program with the financial obligation consistent with previous applicant's attendance. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Ag-Forestry

Manager Simpson reported the District's Engineer advertised salary is not competitive in the current market. It is not commensurate for the requirements we are seeking. He reported engineering staff retention is becoming an issue now and all engineers need a pay adjustment for retention purposes. Manager Simpson requested time in executive session to continue discussions.

Personnel

Safety Supervisor Walraf presented the monthly safety report.

Safety Report

Treasurer Dekker reported on a meeting with Reclamation regarding the exclusion process. Reclamation would prefer multiple exclusions instead of one at a time. She reported the audit exit is scheduled for tomorrow and a clean audit is expected. There were 10 maturities and 12 investments made.

Treasurer  
Report

Manager Simpson reported there was no additional information to add to the Treasurer, Assistant Manager O&M and Assistant Manager Technical Services reports provided in the board packets

Manager Report

Manager Simpson reported briefly on upcoming travel and meetings. He reported on a meeting with CIAW and the opportunity to discuss a higher insurance deductible to lower premium costs.

Manager Simpson reported in 2021 water had backed up at the Road "W" bridge during peak flows. 2021 represented the highest flows on record for the ELC. He reported this year the District will interrupt M&I contract water deliveries to avoid the same situation if it arises. Letters will be sent to M&I contract holders to warn them of potential interruption due to the Road "W" bridge.

Director Lyle moved to authorize the Board and appropriate staff to travel to the NWRA Federal Water Issues Conference, April 17-19, 2023, Embassy Suites by Hilton Washington DC Convention Center, Washington, DC. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Travel  
Authorization

Ms. Michele Kiesz commented Senator Schoesler is waiting to hear from the District or Mike Schwisow regarding the irrigation district election bill.

Public Comment  
Period

President Anderson declared an executive session at 12:30 p.m., for a total of 30 minutes, to discuss potential litigation and personnel matters. At 1:00 p.m., executive session was extended for 20 minutes. The meeting came out of executive session at 1:20 p.m.

Executive  
Session

-2023-14-

At 1:20 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

Minutes continue on page -2023-15-