

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

July 5, 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
Don Osborne
Dennis Swinger, Jr.
Reid Baker

Staff

Craig Simpson
Maria Garza
John McCourtie
Nate Andreini
Wendy Lange
Anna Franz

Visitors present: Marc Maynard and Amy Rodman, USBR; Kristina Ribellia and Cari Cortez, CBCD; Christina Wyatt, BBEC; Lynn Olsen, Orman Johnson, Brian Kuest, Gavin Johnson, Eli Stahl, and Jake Wollman, Jr.

Visitors

Visitors via teleconference: Jennifer Hickenbottom, USBR; Mike Schwisow, Consultant; Kirk Rathbun, Randall Fox, Paul Wollman and Brian Kuest.

Minutes of the regular meeting of June 7, 2023, had been mailed to the Directors. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 7, 2023, as written. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Minutes
Approved

Manager Simpson reported staff approved and issued the following permits, consistent with board authorization:

District
Improvements

Approved & Issued Permits

a. Grant PUD	Overhead Utility Crossing	Block 40, FU 206
b. Grant PUD	Overhead Utility Crossing	Block 44, FU 101/102
c. Grant PUD	Overhead Utility Crossing	Block 44, FU 178
d. Grant PUD	Overhead Utility Crossing	Block 44, FU 178
e. Grant PUD	Buried Utility Crossing	Block 44, FU 201
f. Grant PUD	Buried Utility Crossing	Block 44, FU 294
g. Stahl HB Trust	Temporary Diversion	WSC 390-072-809
h. WHB Trust	Metered Diversion	WSC 390-073-809

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

Variance

a. Steve Horst, End of Season Combination 960 Acre Limit Exceedance

Manager Simpson reported the variance request is for 962.1 acres which exceeds the District's policy of 960 acres. He reported the combination was under the 960 acre limit when first submitted. Then staff found more acres the landowner wasn't aware of that needed to be included in the combination which pushed it above 960 acres. Manager Simpson recommended approval of the variance and waiving of the variance fee due to the circumstances regarding the added acres after the application was submitted. Following discussion, Director Bake moved to approve variance a. and to waive the variance fee, as discussed. Director Swinger 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 Osborne moved to approve for payment check nos. 323738 through 323987 in the amount of \$2,540,049.73 and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of \$2,058,866.81 for a total of \$4,402,170.34 from the O&M Fund and \$196,746.20 from the Construction Fund. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Vouchers

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

Order for Hearing
for Petition for
Inclusion of Land

- a. Loeffelbein Family Trust, Inclusion No. 235
- b. Kevin J. Lyle, Inclusion No. 236

Manager Simpson also reported Reclamation has informed the District to expect the assents later this month.

Manager Simpson briefly reported on OGWRP related meetings and tours, including a tour with NRCS Chief Cosby and another with Annick Miller-Rivera.

OGWRP:

Manager Simpson reported staff met with the EL22.1 landowners to discuss phased development of the delivery system. He reported the District may need to go to the municipal bond market as was originally considered for development. More meetings are expected to continue this discussion. Mr. Brian Kuest commented there is a landowner meeting on July 13th and invited Manager Simpson to attend.

EL22.1 Delivery
System Update

Assistant Manager Andreini reported District staff met internally to discuss the EL 22.1 landowners' request to eliminate the building over the pumps. IRZ recommends not constructing a building due to the large size of the plant. The high cost of the HVAC system and overhead crane are a factor in the request. Engineering review of the request will continue.

Manager Simpson reported the warranty deed for the Kansas Prairie Siphons No. 1 and No. 2 was received this morning. He requested approval to execute the warranty deed conditioned upon review and acceptance by District staff and attorney. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to authorize Manager Simpson to execute the warranty deed upon review and acceptance by District staff and attorney. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

KP Siphons No. 1 and No. 2 Warranty Deed

Assistant Manager Andreini reported the Denver TSC hosted a zoom meeting to present the demo of the EL84.7 sump physical model.

EL80.6 & EL84.7 Delivery System Update

District Engineer Gonzalez reported the District received one response to the call for Engineering Services RFQs from RH2 Engineering. He reported the District has a good working relationship with RH2 and requested authorization to begin contract negotiations for engineering services. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to authorize District staff to begin contract negotiations with RH2 Engineering, as discussed. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

EL86.4 Delivery System Update

Manager Simpson reported he met with Ian Toevs from Lamb Weston in Quincy to discuss their point of view regarding the wastewater license and of the shared District's position. Manager Simpson stated the East District's processing plants are not authorized to discharge their wastewater into CBP facilities. The District remains against non-ag discharges into federal facilities for political, CWA and water quality reasons.

Quincy IUG Wastewater License

Manager Simpson reported CBHP is still discussing a Water Strategies contract to help with the Banks Lake project.

Columbia Basin Hydropower

Manager Simpson reported the three Districts want to explore control of the SCADA system from an operational standpoint. He reported the design will meet FISMA requirements for acceptance by Reclamation. EFO Manager Maynard reported Reclamation will have \$15-20M for design and construction of a new SCADA system. The funding would have no repayment obligations.

SCADA

Manager Simpson reported there may be a need for a water rights examiner to help prove up a CBP water right permit for the State.

CBP Water Rights

Manager Simpson reported OCR is delaying a request to start a Basin Study to discuss the need further with stakeholders. The District still believes that a Basin Study is unnecessary yet remains in support of a plan of study to evaluate the need for a Basin Study for CBP completion.

Basin Study for CBP Completion

Manager Simpson briefly reported on the Diversion Rate kick-off meeting, the next meeting is scheduled for August 24th.

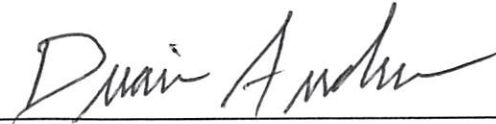
Diversion Rate

Manager Simpson reported on the Tri-State meeting and tour he attended. He reported the group toured the Grand Coulee Dam and met in Spokane the following day for the meeting. The meeting included updates from RD Carrington, Family Farm Alliance, NWRA, legal updates and from the State associations.

Tri-State Meeting Report

Manager Simpson requested time in executive session to discuss non-bargaining unit wages.	<u>Personnel</u>
EFO Manager Maynard reported the Potholes Supplemental Feed Route will be in operation next year and the drainage study report of the Fox Family's land is complete and under review in Denver.	<u>USBR Report</u>
Safety Supervisor Walraf presented the monthly safety report. She reported L&I has adopted a new outdoor heat exposure guideline and provided a staffing update.	<u>Safety Supervisor</u>
District Engineer Gonzalez briefly reported on the Engineering Department's activities last month.	<u>Engineer Report</u>
Assistant Manager Andreini reported his focus last month was on the OGWRP delivery systems, and tours and meetings he attended.	<u>Asst Manager Technical Services</u>
Accounting Assistant Garza reported there were eight maturities and six investments last month. The year to date interest earned is \$366,507.	<u>Treasurer Report</u>
Assistant Manager McCourtie reported on both Watermaster section activities, June was a busy water delivery month, and the concrete inspection at Rocky Coulee Wasteway.	<u>Assistant Manager O&M</u>
Manager Simpson reported on last month's meetings, tours and interviews.	<u>Manager Report</u>
Manager Simpson reported JR Simplot in Moses Lake is planning a plant extension that will end up being over an unconstructed drain. The unconstructed drain would need to be relocated but no facility is in place. Reclamation has been contacted and has stated it is the District's responsibility. With no constructed drain, the District doesn't have authority. EFO Manager Maynard commented he wasn't aware this was put back on the District and he will review it.	<u>Other</u>
Mr. Eli Stahl asked the board for a waiver for a return flow on one circle. It has been irrigated by seasonal changes for years. There are no real wasteways for the water. President Anderson stated the board would need more information to make a decision. Manager Simpson commented return flows go against District policy.	<u>Public Comment</u>
President Anderson declared an executive session at 12:00 p.m., for a total of 45 minutes, to discuss litigation with legal counsel under RCW 42.30.110(i) and to review the performance of a public employee under RCW 42.30.110(g). At 12:45 p.m., the meeting was extended for 25 minutes. The meeting came out of executive session at 1:10 p.m.	<u>Executive Session</u>
Director Swinger moved to approve Manager Simpson's non-bargaining unit salary increase recommendations. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried with Director Osborne voting nay.	<u>Non-Bargaining Unit Wages</u>

At 1:10 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Board at that time, Meeting
President Anderson continued the Hearing for Petition for Inclusion of Lands to the next Adjourned
regular meeting and adjourned the meeting.



President



Secretary