

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

August 8, 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
Rosa Dekker
John McCourtie
Nate Andreini
Jon Erickson

Staff

Julio Gonzalez
Bobby Bischoff
Wendy Lange
Anna Franz

Visitors present: Marc Maynard and Amy Rodman, USBR; Darvin Fales, CBHP; Kristina Ribellia, CBCD; Orman Johnson and Paul Wollman Visitors

Visitors via teleconference: Jennifer Hickenbottom, USBR; Mike Schwisow, Consultant; Randall Fox, Jake Wollman, Jr., Jennifer Korfiatis, Michele Kiesz and Brian Kuest.

Minutes of the regular meeting of July 5, 2023, had been mailed to the Directors. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 5, 2023, as written. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried. Minutes Approved

President Anderson presented Staff Engineer Nguyen with a 10 year pin recognizing his 10 years with the East District. President Anderson also presented Treasurer Dekker with a 10 year pin recognizing her 10 years with the East District. Staff Recognition

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 43 (multiple)
b. Grant PUD	Overhead Utility Crossing	Block 44 (multiple)
c. Grant PUD	Overhead Utility Crossing	Block 44, FU 47
d. Grant PUD	Overhead Utility Crossing	Block 44, FU 145, 150
e. Grant PUD	Overhead Utility Crossing	Block 44, FU 172
f. Prior Sisters, LLC	Turnout Removal	Block 44, 209, 210
g. Grant PUD	Overhead Utility Crossing	Block 44, FU 212
h. Grant PUD	Overhead Utility Crossing	Block 44, FU 291
i. Michael Heist	Additional Turnout	Block 49, FU 10-2

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

Agreements

- a. Permanent Release of Water Allotment, Carl and Lisa Caudle, Block 44, a portion of Farm Unit 160, 2.0 acres

Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve agreement a., as presented. 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. 323982 through 324190 in the amount of \$1,666,536.15 and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of \$569,673.20 for a total of \$2,236,209.35 from the O&M Fund. Director Osborne 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 reported that no objections, neither written or verbal, had been received and that the assent from the Bureau of Reclamation to the inclusion for Loeffelbein Family Trust, No. 235, a condition precedent to the inclusion of lands within the District, had been received. Director Osborne moved to grant the "Order of Petition for Inclusion of Lands" in accordance with the statutory proceedings for inclusion of lands within a District, pursuant to the order of inclusion, acting in accordance with provisions of the repayment contract and the master water service contract. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson reported that no objections, neither written or verbal, had been received and that the assent from the Bureau of Reclamation to the inclusion for Kevin J. Lyle, No. 236, a condition precedent to the inclusion of lands within the District, had been received. Director Swinger moved to grant the "Order of Petition for Inclusion of Lands" in accordance with the statutory proceedings for inclusion of lands within a District, pursuant to the order of inclusion, acting in accordance with provisions of the repayment contract and the master water service contract. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried with Director Lyle abstaining.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the EL11.8 landowners plan to request assistance for funding opportunities when the design has been completed.

OGWRP:
EL11.8 Delivery
System

Development Coordinator Erickson reported final designs are expected by the end of the year. He reported on a meeting with the landowners regarding multiple funding options and state funding. The landowners requested the District hold off on going to the bond market at this time.

EL22.1 Delivery
System Update

Assistant Manager Andreini reported he had met with GPUD regarding updates to their schedule, transformer delivery, and work being performed at the substation. He reported the transformer supplier is allowing the delay of transformer delivery for a few months which will offset storage costs. Staff agreed with Grant PUD's proposal since it avoids storage costs and does not impact the pump plant startup. Assistant Manager Andreini reported staff continues to review the landowners' request for no pump plant building.

Development Coordinator Erickson reported RH2 is working on the preliminary title reports for the easements for both systems.

EL80.6 & EL84.7
Delivery System
Update

Assistant Manager Andreini reported staff met with RH2 Engineering and landowners on their farms to discuss turnout locations. He reported on a potential realty issue with a landowner that doesn't want to give an easement through their ¼ section of dryland that is not participating in the delivery system. RH2's estimated cost to realign the pipeline around the ¼ section is \$462,000. He stated a decision will need to be made soon on how to address this issue. Manager Simpson stated there are two ways to obtain the easement if an alternate route is infeasible, by Reclamation's 1890 Reservation authority on certain lands or by Federal or District condemnation authority. EFO Manager Maynard gave a brief background of the United States 1890 Reservation authority. It reserves the right to build facilities for the Columbia Basin Project and is stated on the property title. Reclamation can put the landowner on notice that facilities will be built and compensation will be given for the easement. EFO Manager Maynard stated Reclamation was willing to exercise 1890 reservation rights to develop OGWRP.

Assistant Manager Andreini reported 60% design is expected to be complete at the end of the month.

EL86.4 Delivery
System Update

Manager Simpson requested ratification for executing Amendment No. 1 to OCR Grant # WROCR-2123-EaCID-00023. This amendment is only for time extension. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to ratify Manager Simpson execution of the Amendment as requested. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Development
Office Report

District Engineer Gonzalez reported last month the Board authorized contract negotiations with RH2 for general engineering services on multiple delivery systems. He then presented the RH2 General Services Agreement for board approval. Director Lyle moved to authorize execution of the RH2 General Services Agreement, as presented. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

District Engineer Gonzalez presented Anderson Perry & Associates Task Order 2023-02, for cultural resource study for conservation pipelines. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve the Anderson Perry & Associates Task Order 2023-02 as presented and discussed. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

District Engineer Gonzalez requested authorization to call for Material Testing Services RFQs. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to authorize a call for Material Testing Services RFQs as requested. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

District Engineer Gonzalez presented RH2 Engineering Task Order No. 1 for Cathodic Protection Design for the EL86.4 Delivery System, in the amount of \$47,122.00. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve the RH2 Engineering Task Order No. 1, as presented and discussed. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Development Coordinator Erickson requested the board authorize the District's support in a partner contribution for RCPP proposals being prepared by CBCD. The amounts would be the District's portion of the State grant funding limited by legislative proviso at 1% for admin expenses. This contribution was determined to not affect any PL-566 matches that might be needed and that it would be advantageous to the applications. Following Discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve the District's contribution of the State grant funding of 1% of the grant's authority for admin expenses as requested and stated above. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Watershed Plan
Project Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the project is moving towards the Notice of Intent for the adoption of Reclamation's EIS for the Odessa Subarea Special Study. He reported two endangered species issues are slowing the process, impacting the schedule of the Watershed Plan. The two endangered species are the White Bluffs Bladderpod and Yellow-billed Cuckoo which were listed after the OSSS EIS was issued.

Manager Simpson reported the DOE has decided not to move forward with the Basin Study after concerns were raised by the three Districts and insufficient time was available to discuss it basin-wide.

Basin Study for
CBP Completion

Manager Simpson presented the ECBID fee schedule for board review. He reported the \$100 combination fee doesn't cover current administrative costs and requested raising the fee to \$200 per combination. Also raising the late combination fee after the May 31st cutoff to increase from \$250 to \$500, and the late-late combination fee from \$500 to \$1,000 or ½ the savings, whichever is greater. Director Osborne suggested a \$150 combination fee for landowners who come in early to complete their combination paperwork. Following further discussion, Director Osborne moved to approve raising the combination fees as follows: \$150 per combination until April 30th, \$200 per combination May 1st – May 31st, \$500 per combination received after June 1st and \$1,000 per combination or ½ the savings (whichever is greater) after October 31st. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

ECBID Fee
Schedule

Ms. Jennifer Korfiatis gave an update on the website, newsletter, and video project. She reported a vendor for the video project has been selected and CBCD is drafting the narrative script.

Public Relations
Update

Special Projects Administrator Bischoff reported the partial title transfer of the District yards has been put on hold at Reclamation. EFO Manager Maynard stated the delay is due to realty staffing shortages in Ephrata.

Partial Title
Transfer

Special Projects Administrator Bischoff reported the RFQ has been sent out and the District has received some interest. RFQ submittals are due for review before the end of the month.

Space Utilization
Study

CBHP Manager Fales reported on outages due to fire and lightning. He also reported on the abundance of weeds at the Smith Plant. It has been so bad this year crews can't keep up. Manager Fales offered help with the purchasing of aquatic herbicides if necessary. He also requested time in Executive Session to discuss the Banks Lake Project.

Columbia Basin
Hydropower

Manager Simpson reported another meeting has been scheduled with Casne Engineering on the 23rd. He also reported that the South District is working with the District's Communication Department.

SCADA

Manager Simpson reported there may be a need to engage a water rights examiner to help prove-up the CBP water right permit with the DOE.

CBP Water
Rights

Manager Simpson reported the next Diversion Rate meeting will be up at the Grand Coulee Power Office on September 21st. The capacity demand study and net benefit study are currently being discussed.

Diversion Rate

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

Assistant Manager Andreini requested authorization to call for budgeted Acoustic Doppler Current Profiling Instrument bids. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to call for Acoustic Doppler Current Profiling Instrument bids, as requested. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Quotes & Bids

District Engineer Gonzalez requested authorization to call for PIPE-2023-01, conservation pipeline material bids. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to authorize a call for conservation pipeline material (PIPE-2023-01) bids, as requested. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson reported canal shut-off dates will be set at the August 14th Reserved Works meeting. Manager Simpson reported staff recommends the District shut-off all deliveries on Monday, October 23, 2023. The last day for delivery changes would be October 19th. He noted October 23rd falls within the range of dates previously determined by the Reserved Works Committee for shut-off. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve shutting down the ELC on Monday, October 23, 2023, at the manager's discretion. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

ELC Shutdown


Manager Simpson recommended the Board set the last day for Saturday ditchrider service. Manager Simpson stated that delivery on Saturday, September 2nd, the last Saturday before Labor Day, would be consistent with past years. Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to set September 2, 2023, as the last day for Saturday ditchriding. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Last Saturday
Delivery

Assistant Manager Andreini briefly reported on the NWRA Western Water Summit he attended with Manager Simpson in North Dakota. He reported a lot of the issues discussed were focused on the mid-west. Manager Simpson reported he is scheduled to become NWRA's president next year.

NWRA Western
Water Summit
Report

Manager Simpson requested time in executive session for personnel discussions.	<u>Personnel</u>
EFO Manager Maynard briefly gave a staffing update. He reported Realty Supervisor Jon Brooks is working on staffing the realty department.	<u>USBR Report</u>
Assistant Manager Andreini reported his focus last month was on conservation pipeline projects and OGWRP delivery systems.	<u>Asst Manager Technical Services</u>
Treasurer Dekker reported on WSC renewals, online payment will be available soon, the front office has a new credit card terminal, and the credit card processing fee went down from 4% to 3%.	<u>Treasurer Report</u>
Assistant Manager McCourtie reported on both Watermaster section activities.	<u>Assistant Manager O&M</u>
Manager Simpson reported on last month's meetings, tours, and interviews. He reported Assistant Manager McCourtie, Assistant Manager Andreini, and Special Projects Administrator will be attending the upcoming Reserved Works meeting during his absence.	<u>Manager Report</u>
Director Lyle moved to approve the board and appropriate staff to attend the Tri-State meeting, Friday, September 22 nd in Boise, ID, and the NWRA Leadership Forum/Annual Conference, November 8-10, 2023, in San Antonio, TX. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.	<u>Travel Authorization</u>
Manager Simpson reported the Family Farm Alliance (FFA) is hosting a dinner and tour on September 13, 2023. He reported both Quincy and South Districts are sponsoring a table. As an FFA member, the District will participate with two vehicles for the tour.	<u>Other</u>
President Anderson declared an executive session at 1:45 p.m., for a total of 30 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 2:15 p.m., the meeting was extended for 30 minutes. The meeting came out of executive session at 2:45 p.m.	<u>Executive Session</u>
Director Swinger moved to authorize Attorney Franz to begin collection actions against a former District tenant for damages to a District house. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.	<u>Other</u>
At 2:46 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Board at that time, President Anderson adjourned the meeting.	<u>Meeting Adjourned</u>



Secretary



President