

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

March 6, 2024

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
John McCourtie
Rosa Dekker
Jon Erickson
Julio Gonzalez

Staff

Anna Franz
Tonya Richards
Bobby Bischoff
Jose Mendoza

Visitors present: Paul Wollman, Jennifer Korfiatis, Lynn Olsen, Gavin Johnson, Jerry Gross and Quincy Cook. Visitors

Visitors via teleconference: Mike Schwisow, Government Relations Consultant, Dannielle Walraf, Jake Wollman, Jennifer Hickenbottom, Odelia Linden, Kristine Robertson, 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 February 7, 2024, had been mailed to the Directors. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 7, 2024, as written. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried. Minutes Approved

Manager Simpson presented the following a. through d., for board consideration: District Improvements

Contracts

- a. Renewal Interruptible Water Service Contract for Temporarily Deferred Lands, Olsen, Christopher, Shelly, Owen, & Conner, 290-003-806, 260 acres
- b. Renewal Interruptible Water Service Contract for Temporarily Deferred Lands, Campbell Kirson Farms, LLC, 290-004-806, 553 acres
- c. Renewal Interruptible Water Service Contract for Temporarily Deferred Lands, Michel Land Co., LLC, 290-005-806, 446 acres

- d. Renewal Interruptible Water Service Contract for Temporarily Deferred Lands, Esmeralda Guzman, 049-806-803, 23.5 acres

Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve contracts a. through d., as presented. Director Osborne seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson presented the following new groundwater replacement contracts for the EL86.4 Delivery System contracts e. through n., for board consideration:

Contracts

- e. Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract, Abundancia, LLC, 390-079-811, 724 acres
- f. Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract, Bradley C. Bailie (Etux), 390-081-811, 233 acres
- g. Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract, Brett and Bryan LLC, 390-082-811, 345 acres
- h. Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract, Connell 76 LLC, 390-084-811, 764 acres
- i. Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract, Connell 76 West LLC, 390-085-811, 124 acres
- j. Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract, Dena & Gary LLC, 390-086-811, 230 acres
- k. Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract, Happy Acres LLC, 390-088-811, 265.68 acres
- l. Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract, O'Neal Land Inc, 390-089-811, 300 acres
- m. Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract Paradise Flats Land Co. LLC, 390-090-811, 931 acres
- n. Interruptible First Phase Continuation Water Service Contract, Robert E. King, 390-091-811, 311 acres

Following discussion, Director Osbourne moved to approve contracts e. through n., as presented. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Approved & Issued Permits

a. Joe Eldredge	M&I Siphon Turnout	Block 40 FU N/A
b. Simplot	Buried Crossing	Block 41 FU N/A
c. Clausen LLC.	Buried Crossing	Block 43 FU 144
d. GCPUD	Overhead Power Crossing	Block 42 FU 301
e. Callen Andersen	Turnout Connection	Block 49 FU 34

Manager Simpson presented the following agreement a. through e. for board approval:

Agreements

- a. Permanent Release of Water Allotment, Ross and Shirley Andrews, Block 40, Farm Unit 199-700-02, 0.8 acres
- b. Seasonal Change – SM West, 48-802-803-000-00
- c. Seasonal Change - WHB Trust, 390-100-810-000-15
- d. Seasonal Change - WHB Trust, 390-120-810-000-02

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- e. Consent to Water Delivery Changes, Callen Andersen, Trooper LLC. Block 49, Farm Unit 34-01

Following discussion, Director Swinger moved to approve agreements a. through e., as presented. Director Kyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson reported WSC 190-020 has expired and needs renewal before the 2024 water season. The landowner has passed away and an authorized representative for the estate has not been assigned. We are currently unable to execute a renewal contract. Manager Simpson would like authority to sign the renewal contract when the estate can execute the contract. Following discussion, Director Lyle moved to authorize Manager Simpson to execute a Conditional Contract Approval for the 2024 irrigation season. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

Jingling contract
Renewal

Manager Simpson reported that MHB – M&I Contract requests a Temporary Permit for Turnout Return Flow, for suction from the canal, until permanent delivery facilities are installed for 2025. After Discussion, Director Baker moved to grant Manager Simpson authority to sign Temporary Permit for Turnout Return Flow for 1 year. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

M&I Contract
MHB Turnout
return Flow
Request

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. 325530 through 325746 in the amount of \$1,274,249.46 and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of \$523,871.45 for a total of \$1,798,120.91 from the O&M Fund. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

Vouchers

Manager Simpson presented Resolution 2024-09, Establishing Rules and Regulations, for board consideration. The notable changes to the policy are related to amending the established rules and regulations to update them to current District Policy. Following discussion, Director Baker asked to change the title to Resolution to “Amending” Rules and Regulations and moved to adopt Resolution 2024-02, as amended. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

Resolution 2024-
09

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. G&O Johnson, LLC No. 237
- b. Mary Jantz, LLC No. 234
- c. Loewen Farms, Inc. No. 238

Development Coordinator Erickson reported he is working on additional funding and resource planning with ECBID staff and CBCD. Coordinator Erickson is working with CBCD on RCPP grants to identify pay schedule and progress billing. Development Coordinator Erickson asked board permission to write Partner Contribution Support Letters for CBCD’s RCPP asks in the spring of 2024.

OGWRP

Development Coordinator Erickson reported the FCA in person meeting for progress updates and site visits is postponed; internal decisions need to be made regarding the 11.8 and its inclusion in the Small Watershed Plan, with NRCS and FCA. He reported the landowner is looking at a private delivery system as an option until a public system is constructed. Staff will explore the coordination needed for a private system in a similar location, and prior to, the construction of a public system. There are discussions on how to move forward with the Private vs. Public System because of a couple of miles of land that is shrub steppe and additional NEPA review may be required. Staff is working through this with the landowner and the governing agencies.

EL11.8 Delivery System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported project moving towards 90% design completion. \$5.5 million in RCPP funding was requested from the State Supplement Budget. Coordinator Erickson is working with purchasing Agent Robertson to utilize funds.

EL22.1 Delivery System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported there have been no additional meetings. The EL40.2 landowner group has decided to meet privately and will contact the District when they are ready for further discussions.

EL40.2 Delivery System MOU

Development Coordinator Erickson Inquired with USBR about when the report would be complete and available for review. USBR reported that it should be complete this week or next. WHB has requested two additional turnouts to complete the capacity of the plant. Pipe is needed to install valving assemblies, which has been ordered. The EL47.5 delivery System will be at max capacity with the two new WHB contracts.

EL47.5 Delivery System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson reported staff will send a design services agreement for review, to the landowners and legal counsel. In the agreement, there will be a \$20 per acre landowner contribution, which will allow ECBID to move forward with getting the design work going. It is intended that the ECBID will utilize a consultant for the design, as there is a big workload on the Staff in place currently.

EL54 Delivery System MOU

Development Coordinator Erickson reported that he received information from RH2 that transformers have a lead time of up to 150 weeks. He stated that we should order the 2 transformers for 80.6 and 84.7 now, noting that OCR has agreed to allow funding reimbursement to accommodate the large lead time. This is consistent with action taken by OCR with the EL 22.1 delivery system. It would require a down payment, not full funding. Manager Simpson asked for permission to go to bid for the two large pump plant transformers. Director Baker motioned to Authorize Manager Simpson to go to bid for transformers. Director Lyle seconded, and the motion carried.

EL80.6 Delivery System Update

Development Coordinator Erickson also reported that Reclamation's exercise of the 1890 reservation to acquire easements for the delivery system was approved by Realty Supervisor Jonathan Brooks. Potential system startup for 2025. Landowners want top 12" of topsoil removed separately. This will add significant cost to project and was not included in the initial estimate. Estimated at an additional \$1.4 Million or could result in loss of last 2 miles of pipe. Per board consensus it will be include in RH2 estimate for now.

EL84.7 Delivery System Update

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District Engineer Gonzalez reported the design package will be at 100% by next week. Staff is working on procurement documentation to order the pipe and waiting on electrical design. The State has authorized procurement in advance of 90% design acceptance. Staff is preparing bid packages for the – pipe, so as to identify actual lead times and pricing of material. It is anticipated that those results would be presented at the next regularly scheduled BOD meeting.

[EL86.4 Delivery System Update](#)

Development Coordinator Erickson reported that he is concerned about the current funding available due to inflation and will be working with NRCS to request supplemental funding. He is also working on the schedule. Development Coordinator Erickson reported that the EIS adoption is nearing completion and that NRCS is working on responses to the comments received during the public comment period. Currently, the contractor is working on the scoping of the Small Watershed Plan. ECBID, CBCD, USBR, NRCS, FCA and other relevant agencies are in regular communication and collaboration to help move the project forward.

[Watershed Plan Project Update](#)

Ms. Jennifer Korfiatis reported on website traffic being up due to open positions. The e-newsletter is waiting on a bill pay feature. She is working with the three Districts on a joint advertising campaign for the continued development of the Columbia Basin Project, for the Irrigation Leader magazine, space available to the districts.

[Public Relations Update](#)

Special Projects Administrator Bischoff reported that he met with Architect Bernardo Wills to gather layout/ yard documents. Will have a follow up meeting with Bernardo Wills to review Have/Use recommendations.

[Space Utilization Study](#)

Special Projects Administrator Bischoff reported no progress, but we are on their radar because they asked a question. Troy Waters is putting a packet together for review at USBR.

[Title Transfer Update](#)

Manager Simpson reported Manager Darin Fales has announced his retirement. This will be his last irrigation season.

[Columbia Basin Hydropower \(CBHP\)](#)

Manager Simpson reported the SCADA Masterplan is being reviewed with USBR. The three Districts met with Reclamation and now have a better understanding of Reclamation's requirements and concerns. Expected approval action for April Board Meeting

[CBP SCADA](#)

Government Relations Consultant Mike Schwisow updated the board on legislative activities, including budget requests, State funding as match for federal funding, and HB1752 which could aid in serving additional acres under existing CBP water rights.

[CBP Water Rights](#)

Manager Simpson requested authorization to split EL86.4 pipe procurement into two bids to allow varied delivery dates, one for small diameter pipe and one for large diameter pipe. Manager Simpson also requested pre-authorization to award PIPE-EL86.4-01 and PIPE-EL86.4-02. Following discussion, Director Baker moved to

[Quotes and Bids](#)

authorize a. – d., authorization to call for PIPE-EL86.4-01 and PIPE-EL86.4-02 bids and pre-authorization for the Manager to award PIPE-EL86.4-01 and PIPE-EL86.4-02 bids, as requested. Director Swinger seconded, and the motion carried.

-2024-24-

Manager Simpson briefly reported on the FFA Annual Conference. He enjoyed the conference and thought that it provides a unique point of view and interesting panels. He reported that unfortunately, the weekend after the conference, the president of FFA Pat O'Toole passed away. [FFA Annual Conference Report](#)

Assistant Manager McCourtie reported on the conference. It was O&M oriented and had good workshops. Project Manager Mendoza reported that he really enjoyed the conference and is looking forward to next years tour in Canada. [Northwest Irrigators Conference Report](#)

Special Projects Administrator Bischoff reported that the Reclamation Operations training was educational. He commented on the water measurement information in class and the hands on in the lab. Quincy took gold this year in the Canal operations exercise. [CBP Canal Operations Training Report](#)

District Engineer Gonzalez reported that this was his first Reclamation workshop and he enjoyed the 5 million pound Concrete press, Lab tour, hydro models for the EL80.6 and EL84.7 and the tech lab. [Water Management Workshop Report](#)

EFO Manager Maynard reported the water from Billy Clapp was turned on 3/1/24. EFO Manager Maynard reported peer review comments have been received on the Fox drainage study and are currently being reviewed. He also reported on the Weber Coulee Siphon, TSC ground penetrating radar is being used to address District concerns regarding sinkholes from settlement. [USBR Report](#)

Safety Supervisor Walraf presented the monthly safety report. She reported no recordable accidents, 1 attempted theft and that she is working towards crane training in April. [Safety Report](#)

District Engineer Gonzalez reported on Engineering department activities. He reported staff has been working on surveying lands that will be piped next year, inspections and bid documents. [Engineer Report](#)

District Engineer Gonzalez reported he has been working on proposals for cost share on 84.6 and 84.7 BBEC. Manager Simpson reported that Assistant Manager Andreini has been working on reviewing OGWRP designs. [Technical Services Report](#)

Treasurer Dekker reported staff has been working on accepting payments, contracts, and scheduling Ditchrider meetings. They have completed the Audit and 2023 Financials and will have a presentation in April. [Treasurer Report](#)

Assistant Manager McCourtie reported on Power Issues at the Scootney Substation. Auto start failed BPA swapped out with a spare. Has not tripped since. Saddle Gap Start up scheduled for 3/18/24. On February 12th. District crews will begin to widen that portion of the East Low Canal. The back blade hit a pillar and was damaged and moved during high winds. After reviewing the options provided by Assistant Manager McCourtie, the Board gave consensus direction to pull down the bridge when the canal was still dry. Paul Wollman stated that WHB needs a long term plan to access the road.

O&M Report

-2024-25-

Manager Simpson reported that the district managers have made contact with Colville Tribal President Erickson and will be working on meeting with council to start conversations about Salmon reintroduction water rights and Lake Roosevelt elevation along with other topics. Manager Simpson asked for 15 minutes in executive session for personnel issues.

Manager Report

Future Meetings

- a. WSWRA Board Meeting, Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 10:00 a.m., QCBID, Quincy, WA
- b. Power Steering Committee Meeting, Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 9:00 a.m., CBHP boardroom, Ephrata, WA
- c. CBHP Board of Directors Meeting, Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 9:30 a.m., CBHP boardroom, Ephrata, WA
- d. ECBID Board Meeting, Wednesday, April 3, 2024, 10:00 a.m., ECBID Boardroom
- e. NWRA 2024 Policy Conference, April 9-11, 2024, Royal Sonesta Hotel, Washington, D.C.
- f. WSWRA Board Meeting, Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 10:00 a.m., SVID
- g. ECBID Board Meeting, Wednesday, May 1, 2024, 10:00 a.m., ECBID Boardroom
- h. WSWRA Board Meeting, Wednesday, May 15, 2024, 10:00 a.m., SCBID
- i. **Tri-State Meeting, June 25-26, 2024, Burley, ID**

Future Meetings

Manager Simpson briefly reported on future meeting and the only one the requires board approval is Tri State. After Discussion, Director Lyle moved to approve the Tri State Meeting. Director Baker seconded, and the motion carried.

President Anderson declared an executive session at 2:40 p.m., for a total of 15 minutes, to discuss personnel under RCW 42.30.110(g); litigation under RCW 42.30.110(i), and disposition of property under RCW 42.30.110(c). The meeting came out of executive session at 2:55 p.m.

Executive session

At 2:55p.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

Dina Andre

President

[Signature]

Secretary

Minutes continue on page -2024-26-