

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

August 2, 2017

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District was called to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room of the District Office in Othello by President Orman Johnson.

Present were:

Directors

Orman Johnson
Don Osborne
Bernie Erickson
Boe Clausen
Duaine Anderson

Staff

Craig Simpson
Richard Lemargie
Rosa Dekker
John McCourtie
Nate Andreini
Jed Crowther
Wendy Lange

Visitors: Sarah Maciel, Jennifer Hickenbottom, Amy Rodman and Nasha Flores, USBR; Kevin Brown and Melissa Downes, WSDOE; Paul Wollman, Brian Kuest, Mark Booker, Sandy Booker and John Stahl. Visitors

Minutes of the regular meeting of July 5, 2017, and the continued meeting of July 20, 2017 had been mailed to the Directors. Director Osborne moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 5, 2017, and the continued meeting of July 20, 2017, as written. Director Clausen seconded and the motion carried. Minutes
Approved

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

District
Improvements

Contracts

- a. Permanent Release of Water Allotment, Ryan Hopperstad, Block 40, Farm Unit 71, 19.2 acres
- b. Permanent Release of Water Allotment, Romana Investments, LLC, Block 45, Farm Unit 78-10, 3.0 acres
- c. Permanent Release of Water Allotment, Romana Investments, LLC, Block 45, Farm Unit 78-12, 0.3 acres
- d. Permanent Release of Water Allotment, Palos Verdes, LLC, Block 45, Farm Unit 87-2, 39.1 acres
- e. Permanent Release of Water Allotment, Palos Verdes, LLC, Block 45, Farm Unit 88-2, 40 acres

Following discussion, Director Erickson moved to approve contracts a. through e. 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 Clausen moved to approve for payment check nos. 308659 through 308868 in the amount of \$651,588.31 and electronic Payroll and AP transfer in the amount of \$330,620.76 for a total of \$784,173.39 from the O&M Fund and \$198,035.68 from the 2016 Project Fund. Director Osborne seconded and the motion carried.

Vouchers

Manager Simpson reported the District received a damage claim to repair a 3hp pump that was damaged when the EL68VWW flooded due to an illegal dumping of 27 tires into the wasteway. Mr. Jaime Suarez is requesting reimbursement of repairs to his 3hp pump in the amount of \$641.68. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to authorize payment in the amount of \$641.68 to Mr. Suarez for damages to his 3hp pump upon signature of release of property damage claim form. Director Erickson seconded and the motion carried.

Claim for Pump
Damage, Block
45, Farm Unit 244

Manager Simpson reported the landowner of Block 42, Farm Unit 142 has requested a waiver of three months interest accrued in the amount of \$141.06. The landowner had not paid the 2017 assessment and has been receiving delinquent statements from the office for three months. Director Osborne and Director Clausen both stated it is the landowner's responsibility to know what assessments are due. Following discussion, Director Clausen moved to deny the requested waiver of three months interest in the amount of \$141.06 for Block 42, Farm Unit 142 due to monthly delinquent statements being sent to the landowner. Director Anderson seconded and the motion carried.

Request Waiver
of Interest, Block
42, Farm Unit 142

Development Coordinator Crowther reported the Development Office staff's focal point has been the EL47.5, EL11.8 and EL22.1 delivery systems.

OGWRP
a. Development
Office Report

Manager Simpson reported the Board had been provided a letter from USBR regarding the EL47.5 delivery system and requested this letter be discussed in executive session to determine whether litigation is warranted.

b) EL47.5
Delivery System
Update

Assistant Manager Andreini reported engineering staff continues to address USBR's design comments. At this point, with the amount of time it is taking to address the USBR's comments it is not expected that the District will be able to make water deliveries in April 2018. Assistant Manager Andreini reported on items to be discussed with landowners; is taking water deliveries mid-season worthwhile, District and landowner coordination for infrastructure, power and wells. Mr. Paul Wollman commented the landowner has to pay full cost for power for the wells before start-up. He state there would be no benefit for to the landowner to have the water delivered June 2018. Mr. Wollman also recommended having a completed design before the District proceeds with further construction of the EL47.5. Assistant Manager Andreini reported he would prefer ordering the long lead time items when all the USBR's comments have been addressed. A meeting with the EL47.5 delivery system landowners will be scheduled to discuss delaying water delivery and possible system testing during the 2018 irrigation season.

Development Coordinator Crowther reported he met with the EL22.1 landowners and consulting engineer to discuss moving forward on the design. He reported MHB is moving forward with design of the EL11.8 delivery system and has invited the District to attend a meeting with them and their consultants.

c) EL11.8 MOU
and EL22.1 MOU
Update

Manager Simpson reported the EL22.1 is looking into the possibility of a shorter length system. A more economical solution is being considered and the system may not go out as far as originally planned.

Manager Simpson reported landowner, Mr. Berend Friehe, requests that the Board reconsider the \$120 Development Fee to be less than \$120.

Manager Simpson reported on the two MWSC negotiation sessions with USBR. Items that were discussed are the District's authority to deliver 70,000 acres of groundwater replacement water to the OSSS, request for an additional 10,000 acres for coordinated conservation water, request for 10,000 acres for ECBID conservation water, excess water for 390 water service contracts, water spreading/acreage expansion, RRA reporting and setting the construction repayment amount at \$0.00 based on USBR's ability to pay analysis.

MWSC
Amendment

Manager Simpson presented the three year contract renewal with PayneWest. He reported PayneWest had purchased Wells Fargo but retained the staff the District has worked with over the years. The insurance agreement includes all three Districts and CBHP and is the same rate as the previous agreement. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to renew and authorize execution of the PayneWest insurance agreement. Director Clausen seconded and the motion carried.

Renewal of
PayneWest
Agreement

Manager Simpson reported GCPUD and USBR have signed an MOA with interim rates for reserved power wheeling for the remainder of the year. The interim rates do not impact this year's budget. Manager Simpson reported the cost of service analysis was received yesterday but not review yet. The Quincy District has taken the lead on review of the rates.

Grant County
Reserved Power
Wheeling

Manager Simpson presented a Kleinschmidt Task Order No. 10, General Purpose Call-On Engineering Support-Small Hydro Projects, not to exceed \$30,000.00 for planning and licensing. No additional payment is needed from the three Districts. Funds have already been collected. Following discussion, Director Clausen moved to approve the Kleinschmidt Task Order No. 10 as presented and discussed. Director Anderson seconded and the motion carried.

CBP Hydropower
Development
Kleinschmidt
Task Order No.
10

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 the past few years. Following discussion, Director Clausen moved to make September 2, 2017, the last day for Saturday ditchriding. Director Osborne seconded and the motion carried.

Last Saturday
Delivery

Manager Simpson reported canal shut-off dates will be set at the August 14th Reserved Works meeting. Manager Simpson recommended the District shut-off all deliveries on Monday, October 23, 2017. Last day for delivery changes would be October 20th. He noted October 23rd falls within the range of dates previously determined by the Reserved Works Committee for shut-off. Following discussion, Director Osborne moved to set the canal shut-off date for Monday, October 23, 2017 and the last day for delivery changes will be Friday, October 20, 2016. Director Anderson seconded and the motion carried.

ELC Turnoff Date

USBR Realty Specialist Sarah Maciel reported on staffing updates, a scheduled Trail Lakes meeting and the Supplemental Feed Route.

USBR Report

Assistant Manager McCourtie presented the monthly safety report.

Safety Report

Assistant Manager Andreini reported a new Staff Engineer started this week and engineering staff continues working on the EL47.5 project.

Assistant
Manager
Technical

Treasurer Dekker presented the monthly Treasurer's report. She reported on investments and maturities for the month. She also reported she attended an investing training in Seattle.

Services Report

Treasurer
Report

Assistant Manager McCourtie gave the monthly O&M report. He reported on the potential crop damage in Block 41 following a Cascade treatment, SCBID's shut down of the EL85 and how it affected the District's laterals, and asbestos abatement in housing. It was also noted that Mr. Dale Evens, Adams County Maintenance Supervisor, complimented the District mowers on an excellent job done.

Assistant
Manager O&M
Report

Manager Simpson reported on past and upcoming meetings and conferences he will be attending. He reported office staff is reviewing office hour traffic and phone calls from 4:00-5:00 p.m. Manager Simpson reported staff has begun looking into replacing the boardroom table.

Manager Report

Manager Simpson reported on a draft cultural resources screening document to assist districts on when to contact USBR and what to expect.

Manager Simpson reported the updated District's Personnel Practices & Procedures Manual is expected to be finalized in September.

Director Erickson moved to authorize the Board, Manager Simpson and appropriate staff to attend the Tri-State Meeting, Friday, September 15, 2017, Boise, ID, the PNWA Annual Convention, October 17-19, 2017, Embassy Suites Hotel, Downtown Portland, OR and the NWRA Annual Conference, November 15-17, 2017, Loews Ventana Canyon Resort, Tucson, AZ. Director Clausen seconded and the motion carried.

Authorize Travel

Director Clausen moved to reimburse Director Erickson's mileage for travel to the MWSC negotiations in Yakima. Director Osborne seconded and the motion carried with Director Erickson abstaining.

Director Clausen reported LAD and Skone Irrigation have voiced their displeasure with the District's decision to support Siemens mag-meters. The irrigation companies reported issues on getting the Siemens meters and the pricing being more expensive than other alternatives. Assistant Manager Andreini reported that much research was done before staff presented the request to support only Siemens mag-meters. Siemens has a wider availability of sizes and the pricing the District received showed to be less expensive during evaluation. Assistant Manager Andreini also reported he had received some displeasure from LAD regarding the Siemens mag-meters also. Other

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:45 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

President Johnson declared an executive session at 1:00 p.m. for approximately 45 minutes to discuss personnel performance and potential litigation with USBR. The meeting returned to regular session at 1:45 p.m. Executive Session


Director Clausen moved to increase Staff Engineer Jeremy Underdown's salary to \$55,000.00 annually. Director Anderson seconded and the motion carried.

Manager Simpson reported the USBR has asked if the Board would be willing to sign the amended MWSC, as is, including the grammar changes. Manager Simpson stated staff does not recommend signing the amended MWSC as it is now. Director Erickson agreed with Manager Simpson and no action was taken.

Manager Simpson requested authorization to work with consultants to make legislative changes to the RRA for the Odessa Subarea. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Board for Manager Simpson to begin working with consultants as requested.

At 1:49 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Board at that time, President Johnson adjourned the meeting. Meeting Adjourned


Secretary


President