

**Office of the Secretary Manager
Kittitas Reclamation District Board of Directors Meeting
November 2, 2021 Minutes**

The Board of Directors of the Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) met in Regular Session on November 2, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. Attending the meeting, were Division Three Director and Chairman Fred Schnebly, Division One Director and Vice Chairman Mark Hansen, Division Two Director Sherry Swanson, Division Four Director Larry Bland, Division Five Director Brad Haberman, Secretary Manager Urban Eberhart, Assistant Manager Kevin Eslinger, Field Supervisor Bob Main, Treasurer Stacy Berg, GIS Specialist Roger Satnik, Legal Counsel Jeff Slothower and Land Owners Rod McNickel and Stevin John.

The agenda was approved with the addition of an executive session for reasons consistent with RCW 42.30.110(b) and RCW 42.30.110(1)(i):(i) and (ii). The motion was made by Director Hansen and the second was made by Director Bland. The motion passed unanimously

The minutes for the October 5, 2021 Board Meeting were approved with a motion made by Director Swanson. The second was made by Director Bland. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Land Owner Rod McNickel stated he was present to hear the discussion regarding the Cle Elum Siphon.

Land Owner Stevin John introduced himself to the board and relayed his intention to build a cabin on his 170 acres of land. He stated there is an easement on the south side of the KRD canal and would be open to the working with adjacent land owners to maintain access to the property. Mr. Eberhart requested that Mr. John present a title report to RRA Specialist/Lands Clerk, Sara Vickers to assist the KRD in making a decision. Mr. John assured that he would do so.

Water Master Report: As of November 1, the five reservoirs are at 32% capacity which is 120.6% of average. The inflows to the five reservoirs are 126% and the releases are 124% of average. Inflows to the five reservoirs for the water year to date is 81KAF, or 131% of average and releases from the five are 95KAF, or 123% of average. Precipitation at the five reservoirs for October 1 to date is 16.67 inches, or 95% of average. Deliveries were stopped on October 15th, and the creek supplementation continues and is scheduled to end in Manastash Creek on November 1. After that, the KRD Main Branch canal will operate with

approximately 40 cfs for the tributary supplementation flows for Big, Little and Tucker Creeks.

Maintenance Report: The turbines were shut down at the beginning of October, due to a thrust bearing that went out. The bearing was replaced and the system was back in service within 3 hours. Crews have been moving the shop and getting set back up to be able to begin maintenance. The pipelines in the pumping plant have been winterized. Maintenance crews are pulling head gates and making a list for winter maintenance. A backhoe will be cleaning on the Gravity Lateral and then moving to the Pump Lateral. A second backhoe will be cleaning on the north side of valley. An excavator is working on Stevens Rd and the second excavator is cleaning the Taneum Canal. Pipe is being installed at 29.2 on Stevens Rd. Rope crews will be starting siphon maintenance next week.

Secretary Manager's Activity Report: Mr. Eberhart reported that COVID operations have remained the same as the prior month. The office is open by appointment only. A Covid Attestation Form has been drafted for the staff to verify vaccination.

The cleaning and removal of everything in the shop building has been completed. The interior now looks as it did in 1913. All of the additional rooms have been removed. There are weekly meetings with insurance company on loss of contents and structural repairs, an inventory list is being drafted and discussed at this time. Insurance company engineers have looked at the structure and the estimates are expected to come in shortly. At this point the priority is to make sure that the support structure is structurally sound and can support a snow load. Replacement of the roof and wood supports is forthcoming. Once the quotes come in, further information will be presented to the board and there will be more specific items to discuss. The shop in Kittitas is operational. Next week the owner of the building will be coming for an on-site visit.

Director Bland represented the KRD Board in the Reclamation Reform Act (RRA) Audit Entrance Interview on October 12. RRA Specialist/Lands Clerk Vickers is working with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) on the RRA process.

The Water Marketing Technical Work Group met October 20.

Mr. Eberhart presented at the Washington State Water Resource Association (WSWRA) Special Board Meeting on October 20.

The Schaake Virtual Celebration was held on October 27, with approximately 90 people on the call. The celebration commemorated the process of changing the property to a flood plain restoration area.

On November 1, the Water Supply Technical Work Group met.

Mr. Eberhart will meet with the Office of Management and Budget on November 2 to discuss budgetary needs.

On November 2, Mr. Eberhart will present to the Water Resource Mitigation Task Force.

The Kick-off Meeting for the Columbia Basin Collaborative Process is scheduled for November 30.

Kittitas County Conservation District (KCCD) and the KRD submitted an Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) application to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The KRD was named an EQIP WaterSmart Priority area for water conservation with \$1 million awarded for this year and \$6.8 million over the 5-year term.

A map of one of the future surface water storage sites was presented under the Upper Yakima System Storage (UYSS) Phase II.

The Yakima Basin Focused Managed Aquifer Recharge is continuing to work with the Department of Ecology (DOE) to add additional funding sources to the project.

The USBR was allocated \$200 million through the FY22 continuing resolution for drought funding. The KRD submitted an application for \$2.1 million that would be used for South Branch Phase I and \$2.9 million to be used for South Branch Phase II. The application is currently under consideration.

Director Hansen made a motion to approve the KCCD & KRD Interlocal Agreement Task Order 03. A second was made by Director Bland, the motion passed unanimously. It should be noted that Director Swanson abstained from the vote.

Mark Limbaugh assisted Family Farm Alliance with the extension for the USBR Directives and Standards (D&S) deadline. It has been requested that irrigation entities be included in the notification process when changes to the directives and standards are made.

The USBR Yakima Field Office Manager, Chad Stuart responded with a letter to the Yakima Basin Joint Board regarding the Kachess Dam Safety Project and the Reclamation's O&M Distribution. There is now a subcommittee which is set to talk to USBR where it can be discussed further.

Project Updates: Director Hansen made a motion to approve the Jacobs Task Authorization for General Environmental Services increase of \$70,000. A second was made by Director Haberman, the motion passed unanimously.

N. A. Degerstrom will be mobilizing in mid-November for the South Branch Phase I Canal Lining Reach 4 and Reach 5.

A Bid Package for the South Branch Phase II Robinson MP 10.4 Piping Project to MP 10.8 is in the review process and is expected to go out to bid in the next few weeks.

Treasurer's Report: The Directors' monthly payroll vouchers were presented for signatures. Summary Vouchers for the October 2021 expenses and payroll which included check numbers 45642-45736, direct deposit numbers 9902269 through 9902287 in the sum of \$460,800.38 were approved with a motion made by Director Bland. The second was made by Director Swanson, the motion passed unanimously. The September summary voucher was resubmitted to the board for signatures as the original voucher was printed with one check omitted which had been printed after the original voucher report was ran.

Old Business: Legal Counsel Slothower filed action to foreclose for the remaining property on the 2021 Foreclosure List. A publication is expected to be in the newspaper in the next few days. The publication provides notice that if the account is not paid, it will be sold in a foreclosure sale on February 11.

Mr. Eberhart reported that Cruse & Associates surveyed the right-of-way in the area of the Cle Elum Siphon which was part of the original land patent that the USBR had to build that area. The recommendation is to clear the trees on the upstream side of the canal and move the access road closer to the survey line. It will take further time through the winter to get the work done and will need the

crossing license extended. It should be noted that this will not be a permanent decision, permanent rights would need to go through the USBR. This process is intended to reconfigure the existing agreement so that a temporary right to use it would allow for a safer route for the landowner to access it. Currently there is hazard signage installed but there is not a gate. A gate will be part of the discussion as the process progresses. Director Hansen made a motion to extend the crossing license until April 1. A second was made by Director Haberman, the motion passed unanimously.

Legal Counsel Slothower reported that Jacobs Engineering completed a load rating for canal safety for the Sunlight Waters Twin Lakes Bridge. The KRD sent a letter to the Sunlight Waters Development stating that the KRD would have no more involvement with the future engineering inquiries. Legal Counsel is working with the KRD to evaluate the current permitting process and bridge policy.

The cost of the piping for the Turbine Lateral 1.1-0.4 has significantly increased since the project was drafted. The KRD will be asking the granting agency for an extension in the hopes that the cost of piping materials will decrease in the future.

New Business: Director Swanson made a motion to approve the 2nd installment of the 2021 USBR CDR payment in the amount of \$53,344.52. A second was made by Director Hansen, the motion passed unanimously.

The 2021 Fuel Bid had language included with the option to extend. Director Bland made a motion to continue to use A-1 Petroleum through 2022 for fuel. A second was made by Director Haberman, the motion passed unanimously.

Director Swanson made a motion to approve Employee Leave Transfers for Craig Raab and Terry Allred. A second was made by Director Bland, the motion passed unanimously.

Director Hansen made a motion to approve the payment for the CIAW Insurance renewal fee of \$124,250.78 and the Agent Fee of \$5,000.00. A second was made by Director Haberman, the motion passed unanimously.

Petition of Nomination for Irrigation Directors were submitted for Larry Bland, Mark Hansen and Fred Schnebly. No other petitions were submitted.

Director Haberman made a motion to publish the Notice of the Board of Equalization on November 11, 2021. A second was made by Director Hansen, the motion passed unanimously.

Other Business: The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 9:43 am for 30 minutes per RCW 42.30.110(b) and RCW 42.30.110(1)(i):(i) and (ii) there was a motion made by Director Haberman and a second made by Director Swanson. The motion passed unanimously. Executive Session was extended an additional 9 minutes. The Board returned to Regular Session at 10:22 a.m. with a motion made by Director Hansen, and the second was made by Director Swanson. The motion passed unanimously.

All business having been concluded the meeting was adjourned.

Mr. Schnebly KRD Board of Directors Chairman

Mr. Eberhart KRD Secretary Manager