

Office of the Secretary Manager
Kittitas Reclamation District Board of Directors Meeting
April 6, 2021 Minutes

The Board of Directors of the Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) met in Regular Session on April 6, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. Attending the meeting, were Division Three Director and Chairman Fred Schnebly, Division One Director and Vice Chairman Mark Hansen, Division Four Director Larry Bland, Division Five Director Brad Haberman, Division Two Director Sherry Swanson, Secretary Manager Urban Eberhart, Assistant Manager and COVID Officer Kevin Eslinger, Treasurer Stacy Berg, GIS Specialist Roger Satnik, and Legal Counsel Jeff Slothower.

The agenda was approved as presented. The motion was made by Director Haberman and the second was made by Director Bland. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes for the March 11, 2021 Board Meeting were approved with a motion made by Director Bland, the second was made by Director Swanson. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Water Master Report: As of April 6, the five reservoirs are at 63% capacity which is 99.4% of average. Inflow to the five reservoirs is 85% and releases from the five is 245% of average. Precipitation at the reservoirs from April 6 to date is .30 inches, or 13% of average. Precipitation for the Water Year to date is 194.47 inches, or 105% of average. The Snotel Sites for the Upper Yakima are reporting 128% of average and the Lower Yakima Basin Sites are reporting 121% of average. The process of filling Lake Easton began today and is expected to take up to 4 days to finish.

Director Haberman made a motion to start taking official water orders on April 19 and to set the allotment at 2 ½ cfs per acre. A second was made by Director Swanson, the motion passed unanimously.

Maintenance Report: Maintenance crews are installing safety ropes and closing drains. The drum gates are being set today and the system will be ready for water. Reed Environmental is sand blasting in the South Cle Elum area of the Main Branch and are scheduled to finish the crack sealing by Friday if it does not rain or snow at that location. Burn crews are working on Rides 1 and 5. Backhoes are

working on Rides 1 and 4, and an excavator on Ride 5. The pumps at the pumping plant will be reassembled by the end of the week. The Rope Crew finished the work on the Yakima Siphon that were slated to be done during this work period.

Secretary Manager's Activity Report: The KRD continues to follow the Governor's Order for COVID. Director Haberman made a motion to continue the Emergency COVID status, follow the social distancing requirements and the office will remain closed to the public until the subject can be revisited at the next board meeting. A second was made by Director Swanson, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Eberhart continues to be involved with the Water Infrastructure Group which consists of members from other Western States. A joint letter was drafted and the group is working with Lobbyist Mark Limbaugh and others to set up meetings with members of the House and Senate to talk about the importance of including funding for irrigation in the infrastructure legislation.

The Washington State Water Resource Association (WSWRA) Legislative Election Bill was determined to be too complicated and the state legislators asked for additional time to evaluate the bill during the next session. Mr. Eberhart spoke to the representatives during the House Capital Budget Session last week to request further funding. There was also discussion on the Agricultural Overtime Bill, which is an attempt for employers to have safe harbor from being required to retroactively pay overtime for agricultural employees from the last 3 years.

The DC Meetings were held March 15-18 through a series of virtual presentations. Mr. Eberhart presented several times and solicited for additional funding for the Integrated Plan.

On March 30, the KRD Tributary Supplementation Program Annual Meeting was well attended and had multiple presentations to report on the status of the projects.

The Kittitas County Joint Control Board No. 1 is continuing to progress well as preparations are underway to begin the water season.

A Change Order – Scope of Budget Task 11 for the Upper Yakima System Storage (UYSS) Phase II was presented which will increase the ceiling, not to exceed \$766,050.00. Director Swanson made a motion to approve the change order. A second was made by Director Bland, the motion passed unanimously.

Field Supervisor Main has been working with the Drill Team on the Springwood Project. The Geotechs and Engineers have been very satisfied with the results to date and as the project continues, they will have a better understanding of the type of rock that is in the area. If the location proves to be a prime area, Mr. Eberhart will continue to work on obtaining funding for the project.

The Yakima Basin Focused Managed Aquifer Recharge Assessment continues to be a work in progress. The measuring devices have been installed in the Taneum. Further information will be forthcoming.

Legal Counsel Slothower reported that Justin Bezold, Trout Unlimited may be getting some additional assistance from students at the University of Washington on the Water Marketing Project. The students would categorize and add matrix from the results obtained to date. There have been some delays in the project due to Covid restrictions, so it is likely that there will be a request to extend some deadlines to finish the project.

There were no additional Kittitas County Water Purveyors (KCWP) 2021 Contribution Agreements submitted to date

Mr. Eberhart is continuing to work on finding funding for the piping project at the Manastash Ridge Trail.

Project Updates: Field Supervisor Main reported that the South Branch Phase II Robinson Siphon to MP 10.4 Project is substantially completed. It is ready to run water, the punch list and grading is remaining. KRD will be working with a Department of Fish and Wildlife representative who will recommend native plants to be used in the area over the pipe. No trespassing warning signs will be installed to prevent pedestrian and other traffic.

Treasurer's Report: The Directors' monthly payroll vouchers were presented for signatures. Summary Vouchers for the March 2021 expenses and payroll which included check numbers 45053-45147, direct deposit numbers 9902105 through 9902124 in the sum of \$383,425.35 were approved with a motion made by Director Bland. The second was made by Director Haberman, the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: A notification letter from the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) was presented that stated the KRD's Operation and Maintenance Costs CY 2021 were underestimated and our yearly billing would be significantly

increased. Mr. Eberhart noted that the years that were used for the average were not allowing a realistic expectation for the estimate and reiterated that it was made very clear to the USBR that this was very unacceptable particularly with such short notice. The KRD staff will be working with the USBR staff to ensure that in the future calculations are done with more realistic statistics.

New Business: Director Swanson made a motion to allow sick leave to be transferred by other employees to a new employee who was injured outside of work. A second was made by Director Bland, the motion passed unanimously.

Other Business: Legal Counsel Slothower provided a description of a bridge in the northern portion of the Sunlight Waters Development. Research on the ownership of the bridge and who pays for the costs associated with work on it is being conducted by the KRD Lands Clerk, who is working with the USBR on it. In the meantime, Jacobs Engineering will be doing an assessment of the bridge to determine the weight limits and necessary signage that needs to be implemented.

An extensive discussion regarding access permits that were given out in the past near an Upper County Siphon which allows for shorter access to landowner's property but is also significant safety concerns. When the survey work is complete, the KRD intends to revoke crossing permits in the area of the siphon.

All business having been concluded the meeting was adjourned.

Mr. Schnebly KRD Board of Directors Chairman

Mr. Eberhart KRD Secretary Manager