

Office of the Secretary Manager
Kittitas Reclamation District Board of Directors Meeting
April 7, 2020 Minutes

The Board of Directors of the Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) met in Regular Session on April 7, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. Attending the meeting via conference call, were Division Three Director and Chairman Fred Schnebly, Division One Director and Vice Chairman Mark Hansen, Division Two Director Ed Wakkuri, Division Four Director Larry Bland, Division Five Director Brad Haberman, Secretary Manager Urban Eberhart, Assistant Manager Kevin Eslinger, Treasurer Stacy Berg, Lands Clerk and RRA Specialist Sara Vickers, Water Master Robby Main, GIS Specialist Roger Satnik and Legal Counsel Jeff Slothower. Also, in attendance was KRD land owner Mark Charlton.

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

The minutes for the March 3, 2020 Board Meeting were approved with a motion made by Director Haberman, the second was made by Mark Hansen. The motion passed unanimously. The minutes for the March 25, 2020 Special Board Meeting were approved as corrected with a motion made by Director Hansen and the second was made by Director Haberman. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Water Master Report: The five reservoirs are at 64% capacity. Storage is at 100.1% of average. Precipitation at the five reservoirs for April 1st to date is 0.75 inches, or 27% of average and 5% of the months average. Precipitation for the water year to date is 195.80 inches, or 106% of average.

Mr. Eberhart reported that water was turned on at Easton last Friday and was allowed to go to the 1146 Spillway. The water was diverted to the 1146 Spillway over the weekend and on Monday the water continued from 1146 to the Yakima Pressure Tunnel. There was an inspection port at river elevation that revealed a leaking gasket. After the gasket was adjusted, canal charge up resumed and water continued filling the system. The entire KRD system is expected to be fully operational by April 15th. Water orders will be taken with KRD employee social distancing measures in place beginning on April 13th for deliveries throughout the district beginning April 15th.

During the April River Operations Meeting, the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) adopted a 96% proration level as of April 1st. Director Wakkuri made a motion to approve the April 3, 2020 KRD canal startup date, the April 13, 2020 water order date and the district wide water delivery date of April 15th and set a water allotment at 2.5 cfs per acre. A second was made by Director Haberman, the motion passed unanimously.

Maintenance Report: Field Supervisor Main was not present at the meeting but did provide a report which was read on his behalf. The shotcrete work near the tail end of the Turbine Lateral will be complete tomorrow. Maintenance crews are doing some last minute burning and clean up prior to water being turned on. Matheson Construction applied 400 gallons of Aqualastic to concrete in the Main Branch near Tillman. They are scheduled to return in the fall to apply an additional 700 gallons in the same area. The excavation work is finishing up on the North Branch this week and the two backhoes are working on various laterals.

Secretary Manager's Activity Report: Mr. Eberhart took a moment to remember Janeice Jump who had recently passed away and offered condolences to her family.

There was a lengthy conversation regarding the KRD's approach to handling the COVID-19 Virus. Legal Counsel Slothower and his assistant have made a significant contribution to help with the rapid early response of the KRD to safely prepare for the situation and the delivery of water. An employee directive was drafted and distributed to staff which emphasized keeping the employees and public healthy while allowing the district to perform the essential function of water delivery. Each employee, contractor, consultant, legal advisor and director was provided a letter regarding operating critical infrastructure and maintaining social distancing measures. There is a cleaning and disinfection plan in place for the workplace and employees. The directive was also provided to the Department of Ecology so that the contracts the KRD has funding for will continue to be supported by the State of Washington. The KRD is also working with Family Farm Alliance and Trout Unlimited on possible stimulus funding.

The KRD has a policy in place which allows for employees to transfer sick leave to another employee if needed. Director Wakkuri made a motion to approve the transfer of 80 hours sick leave from Mr. Eberhart to Lands Clerk and RRA Specialist Sara Vickers. The second was made by Director Haberman, the motion passed unanimously.

On March 7th, Field Supervisor Main and Mr. Eberhart attended a Taneum Canal Company Board Meeting. An update was given at the meeting on current KRD projects.

There was a conference call meeting with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist on March 25th. Emphasis was provided to encourage the NRCS to include language which allows for smaller water companies to be included along with irrigation districts in the new NRCS rules that are being adopted for funding eligibility.

The 2020 Tributary Supplementation Program Committee Meeting was conducted by phone on March 26th. The group reviewed the prior year's statistics and discussed future planning.

Zirkle Fruit and Columbia Reach Chiawana Orchards have contacted the KRD regarding Elk being a nuisance animal to their crops. Initially they asked if they could install a fence on the north side of the lateral but have since corrected that request to install the fence on the south side of the lateral. After discussing the issue, the KRD is recommending entering into a special use agreement with Columbia Reach to install an elk fence within 1 foot of the military fence to discourage the animals from entering their property. The materials and maintenance on the fence will be the sole responsibility of the landowners. Once Zirkle Fruit reaches an agreement with the neighbors they are working with, they will request a similar agreement from KRD. Director Haberman expressed concern of the fence impeding the use of the KRD right-of-way. Legal Counsel Slothower advised that the subject had been discussed by Field Supervisor Main and as long as the elk fence followed the military fence closely on the south side of the lateral, it would not have an impact on operations. Director Hansen made a motion that subject to the Secretary Manager and Legal Counsel's approval the KRD will approve the use agreements. A second was made by Director Wakkuri, the motion passed unanimously.

The 2020 Kittitas County Water Purveyors (KCWP) Agreements were presented. The language in the agreements remained the same from the year prior. The service fee is 0.76 per acre. KRD received signed agreements from Eslinger Farms, Westside Irrigation Company, Bull Canal Company, Olson Ditch, Charlton Farms, Patrick Hand, Packwood Canal Company and Matthew Cox. Director Hansen made a motion to approve the agreements that were presented. A second was made by Director Wakkuri, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Eberhart reported that the Swauk Creek Supplementation Program is continuing to evolve. The committee is exploring funding options for the design portion of the project as well as adding language to include water marketing which adds potential future funding options. Additionally, there are some potential ground water opportunities that may be beneficial for this project as well.

Director Hansen made a motion to increase the “Not to Exceed” cap for Jacobs Engineering General Environmental Support from \$50,000.00 to \$75,000.00. A second was made by Director Haberman, the motion passed unanimously.

KRD was awarded the Upper Yakima System Storage (UYSS) Phase II WRY-1921-KittRD-0014 grant from the Department of Ecology in the amount of \$1,456,600.00. The grant allows for more surface storage analysis and the analysis of the costs associated with wheeling Flip Flop Water through the KRD system. The grant was effective March 7th. Director Hansen made a motion to approve the grant. A second was made by Director Wakkuri, the motion passed unanimously.

Director Hansen made a motion to approve the Jacobs UYSS Task Order KRD2017-PS-02.11 which is not to exceed \$242,250.00. A second was made by Director Haberman, the motion passed unanimously.

KRD Consultants Walter Larrick and Joel Hubble attended a meeting with the Department of Ecology and the USBR discussing the integrated plan. They provided a summary of where the Wymer and Bumping projects were. The group agreed that 20,000 acre-feet of water be included in the modeling to account for Upper Yakima System Storage.

The Yakima Basin Focus Managed Aquifer Recharge Assessment Phase II is continuing. Grant Managers, Roger and Kathleen Satnik have been assisting Jacobs Engineering and sub-contractors with meeting the June deadline. The initial report is expected to be released in the near future. The Department of Ecology was asked to approve the request of 2020 field work funding that was not included in the earlier agreement. The opportunity for water and ground storage in the Taneum area appears to be ranking very high in the initial analysis.

Mr. Eberhart and KRD Consultants Walter Larrick and Joel Hubble attended the System Operations Advisory Committee (SOAC) Meeting, where they brought to the attention of the attendees that some telemetry instruments were removed from the block house and other locations near Easton within the last year. It has since been difficult to manage water flows in the system. At the time, it was the KRD personnel’s understanding that the equipment was going to be reinstalled but it has not happened to date. The issue was brought up at the meeting to help everyone understand that the replacement of the equipment is a priority for the operation of that portion of the Yakima River.

The South Branch Phase I Reach 2-3 is operational. A fence crew will be on site finishing the fencing.

The North Branch Phase III B & C will have the concrete portion complete tomorrow. The relief joints will be complete the next day which will allow for water in the canal by Thursday evening which is ahead of schedule.

Treasurer's Report: The Directors' monthly payroll vouchers were presented for signatures. Summary Vouchers for the February 2020 expenses and the March 2020 payroll which included check numbers 44061-44140, direct deposit numbers 9901851 through 9901867 in the sum of \$1,084,692.70 were approved with a motion made by Director Wakkuri. The second was made by Director Hansen, the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: Treasurer Berg presented an updated 2020 Foreclosure List to the Board. There was a brief discussion regarding how to move forward with collections during the COVID-19 pandemic. The board elected to table the discussion until the next board meeting.

New Business:

Other Business: The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 2:21 p.m. for 30 minutes per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i):(i) and (iii) there was a motion made by Director Wakkuri and a second made by Director Haberman. The motion passed unanimously. The Board returned to Regular Session at 2:51 p.m. with a motion made by Director Wakkuri, and the second was made by Director Haberman. 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