

COLUMBIA IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

October 17, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

President Shawver called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Present at the meeting were:

Vincent Shawver, President
Dallas Ayde, Vice-President
Neil Martin, Director
Sherri Thackham, Director
Marilyn Dickenson, Director

Curt Strifert, Secretary/Manager
Morghan Leetch, Recorder

Guests:

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Martin motioned to approve the agenda as submitted. Director Thackham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of October 3, 2025

Director Thackham motioned to approve the minutes of October 3, 2025 with the changes discussed. Director Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

October Mid-Month Vouchers

Voucher 01	Benton PUD	\$ 26,840.02
Voucher 02	Benton REA	\$ 11,993.12
	Total All Vouchers	<u>\$ 38,833.14</u>

The Board reviewed and discussed the October Mid-Month Vouchers. Director Thackham moved to approve the vouchers as submitted. Director Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried

OLD BUSINESS

Sale of 10 E Kennewick Avenue

Moved to executive session.

Water Right Procedures

The Board reviewed and discussed the water right procedures.

WSWRA Conference

Discussion was held regarding who will attend the upcoming Spokane conference, and plans were made to move forward with booking arrangements.

NWRA Conference

The Board discussed the upcoming conference and confirmed that Mr. Shawver and Mr. Amend will be attending. All travel and accommodations have been finalized.

Family Farm Alliance Conference

It was noted that Mr. Strifert will be attending the upcoming conference in Reno, and all travel and lodging arrangements have been completed.

Board of Director's Canal Tour

Mr. Strifert asked the Board for any suggestions or ideas for future tours. Mr. Strifert will plan tours based on what would be most beneficial to highlight. It was suggested to have one tour during the irrigation season when water is in the canal and another later in the year or during the off-season to highlight system features such as the Rubicon gates and their benefits.

Years of Service Awards

The Board reviewed the service award schedule, which recognizes employees at 5, 10, and 20 years of service. It was agreed that Fred Meyer gift cards will be given out before Thanksgiving.

Director Thackham motioned to amend the Agenda to add to old business, Review of Policy 2.1 – Employee Recognition and Annual Safety Meeting to old business. Director Dickenson seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Review of Policy 2.1 – Employee Recognition and Annual Safety Meeting

Director Thackham motioned to amend the policy to add, “the presentation of awards will be made every year in the Month of November, prior to Thanksgiving.” Director Martin seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Operations Report

Mr. Strifert reported steady progress on winterizing the lines and beginning tree trimming, with preparations underway to use the telehandler for needed maintenance work.

Fee Schedule Revision

Mr. Strifert presented the revised Fee Schedule to the Board for review. The Right-of-Way Permit fee was changed to a one-time fee of \$100.00. The aerial crossing fee was increased from \$250 to \$500 due to the extensive time required for inspections. The Board reviewed and discussed the changes.

Director Thackham motioned to approve the proposed changes to the fee schedule, Director Martin seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

September YBJB Tour Review

President Shawver reviewed the YBJB tour in Ellensburg.

Department of Ecology Curtailment Order

On Wednesday, October 8th, Mr. Strifert was contacted by Ecology regarding the curtailment order. He indicated he had not received prior notice, as the order had been mailed to the District's old address. The curtailment required

water diversions to stop beginning October 6th. The Board was advised that there are no penalties for continuing operations during the intervening days.

Employee Handbook Updates

The Board reviewed and made changes to Policy 5.I – Employee Shared Leave. Mr. Strifert discussed minor updates to the Employee Handbook, including revisions to the section on boots and safety wear. A full review of the Employee Handbook is scheduled for January 2026.

Certificate of Elections Division 2 & 3

Directors Ayde and Martin were the only candidates to submit a “*Petition of Candidacy*” for their divisions. As they were unopposed, both will retain their seats on the Board. Their new terms will expire December 31, 2028.

Truck #4 and #7 Auction

Director Thackham motioned to send truck #4 and truck #7 to Booker Auction. Director Dickenson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Shawver moved the meeting into Executive session at 11:03 a.m., for 20 minutes, to discuss legal risks of current or proposed action. The meeting was moved to open session at 11:23 a.m.

DIRECTOR DISCUSSION


The Board inquired about the status of the 10-year vehicle replacement schedule. Mr. Strifert confirmed that the schedule is being updated as vehicles are being replaced and will be distributed at the next meeting. Mr. Strifert stated that he is currently developing a 7-year plan to replace the previous version.

ADJOURNMENT

President Shawver adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m.



Vincent Shawver, President



Sherri Thackham, Director



Marilyn Dickenson, Director



Neil Martin, Director



Dallas Ayde, Vice President

ATTEST:



Curt Strifert, Secretary/Manager