COLUMBIA IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING
August 15, 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
Lila Freshment, Recorder
Jeff Sperline, Attorney

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 August 1, 2025
Director Thackham motioned to approve the minutes of August 1, 2025. Director Martin seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Water Stargrass – ILA Benton Conservation District
Mr. Strifert reported that the interlocal agreement was finalized and the boat purchase was approved by the Department of Ecology. The purchase paperwork has been signed, and delivery is expected in early September. The total cost of $77,000, which includes the trailer and necessary equipment, falls within the $100,000 approved budget. Payment will be made upon receipt of the invoice, with reimbursement from Ecology anticipated within 45 days. The boat will be stored at the district shop.

Sale of 10 E Kennewick Avenue

Mr. Strifert informed the Board that he has scheduled a meeting with Lance Bacon of Keimle Hagood, to discuss the list price of the property.

Director Thackham motioned to authorize Mr. Strifert to approve the price negotiated for the sale of 10 E. Kennewick Avenue and approve the recommendation made by Lance Bacon of Kiemle Hagood. The motion was seconded by Director Dickenson. Motion Carried.

Drought Resiliency Grant

Mr. Strifert reported on the Department of Ecology Drought Resiliency grant application for the purchase of Rubicon gates. Following a Zoom meeting with Ecology, minor corrections were made to the application. The revised application has been resubmitted, and a response is expected within two to three weeks. The grant request totals $63,464, requiring a matching contribution from the District.

CID Annual Right of Way Permits

Moved to executive session.

NEW BUSINESS

Operations Report

Mr. Strifert reported on ongoing efforts to maintain water levels in the canal. Cooler temperatures have helped. He noted that without the Rubicon gates, the District would be in a much worse position. Mr. Strifert informed the Board that there may be a need to purchase more chemicals to treat the weeds this season, which could lead to going a little over budget on that line item. Additional challenges include dirty canal water with high levels of silt and sediment, particularly when weeds die off after treatment. Mr. Strifert has prepared a power point presentation on the District's Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) and CIP charge that is included in annual assessments. The presentation will be shared on the District's Facebook page and website.

Review of Stargrass Presentation

Mr. Strifert was invited to speak to a tour group of representatives from state agencies and legislators at the Wanawish Dam, regarding the challenges faced by the District due to stargrass. The issue is now receiving greater attention from key agencies and decision-makers.

Fee Schedule Revision

The Board reviewed the draft revision of the District's Fee Schedule. Director Thackham motioned to approve the revision. Director Dickenson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Policy 4.2 Revision

The Board reviewed the draft revision of Policy 4.2. Director Thackham motioned to approve the revision with changes as discussed. Director Dickenson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2025/2026 Budget
The Board reviewed and discussed the draft budget for fiscal year 2025/2026. Director Thackham motioned to approve the revision with changes as discussed. Director Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

YBJB Meeting Review
Director Ayde provided an overview of the recent YBJB meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Shawver moved the meeting into Executive session at 10:45 a.m., for 20 minutes, to discuss legal risks of current or proposed action and performance of a public employee.

The meeting was moved to open session at 11:05 a.m.

DIRECTOR DISCUSSION

Discussed adding the Board review and the upcoming YBJB September tour to the next agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

President Shawver adjourned the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

Vincent Shawver

Vincent Shawver, President

Neil Martin

Neil Martin, Director

Sherri Thackham

Sherri Thackham, Director

Dallas Ayde

Dallas Ayde, Vice President

Marilyn Dickenson

Marilyn Dickenson, Director

ATTEST:

Curt Strifert, Secretary/Manager