

COLUMBIA IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING
April 19, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Curt Strifert, Secretary/Manager
Lila Freshment, Recorder
Jeff Sperline, Sperline Raekes Law

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 March 29, 2024

Director Thackham motioned to approve the minutes of March 29, 2024. Director Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Heyden Permit

Mr. Sperline mailed out a letter to Wes Heyden, informing him of an expired permit and requesting both payment and a newly signed permanent permit. Mr. Heyden responded stating that he had not received any previous communication from the District and will promptly make payment.

Subsequently, Mr. Sperline responded to Wes Heyden's email, issuing instructions to return the signed, notarized permit alongside a fee of \$700 to CID no later than April 25th. Notably, the permit is stipulated to remain valid solely for the duration of Mr. Heyden's ownership of the property.

Gate Grant #R22AP00120

The final grant reports have been submitted and accepted.

Columbia Cottages Easement Release

The District received a request from the property owner to vacate the 10-foot irrigation easement on the back north side of parcel #1-0780-201-1404-002. Mr. Strifert has no objections to removing the easement, as CID will never need to utilize it. Director Martin motioned to allow the easement vacation. Director Thackham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Knutzen Engineering / Kennewick Housing Authority

There are no new developments or information to report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Operations Report.

Mr. Strifert reported on issues faced during water start-up. This year has been challenging, but as of April 18th all the water has been turned on except for a few isolated areas that are being addressed. The canal filling began five days behind schedule but only ended up being three days behind the targeted water-on date. Initial assessments indicate that the Hitchcock and Lakes AquaSystems screens are performing exceptionally well, possibly surpassing expectations. The Hitchcock system shows promising signs of improved water quality, prompting consideration for expanding similar screen installations to address filtration challenges in other LIDs.

Mr. Strifert informed the Board of a grant opportunity from the Department of Ecology. It is a 50% cost match grant. This could be used to acquire an automatic cleaner at the headgates. Cost estimates range from \$500,000 to \$600,000 for the best available option, while an auctioned one was priced between \$400,000 and \$500,000. The board is receptive to pursuing the grant opportunity.

CID received a call regarding a group of 4-5 homeless individuals near Auburn Street, whose encampment had completely blocked the canal road with garbage. The area was cleared of garbage and Mr. Strifert collected seventy-five needles along the canal road. Due to frequent encounters with needles, there is a need for field crew training on safe handling and disposal procedures. Needle disposal containers have been provided to the field crew.

City of West Richland Well Permit

Mr. Strifert is considering granting the City of West Richland a permanent permit for emergency well overflow discharge into our canal. Although there is a possibility, they may never need to discharge water into the canal, Mr. Strifert wants to ensure they have the proper permit. Director Ayde motioned to grant the permit. Director Thackham seconded it. Motion Carried.

Yakima Basin Joint Board Tour

The details for the upcoming YBBJ tour of CID's canal are almost completed. Kelsey Green has requested a mid-morning stop with coffee and cookies, which we plan to arrange at the DNR property. Curt will confirm ticket availability with Kelsey and inform the board accordingly, but strongly encourages any available board member to attend if there are enough openings. Tickets for the tour will be \$50 per person, covering lunch at Hubby's pizza. Mr. Strifert's ticket was complimentary. The primary focus of the tour will be the Wanawish Dam, featuring speakers from Benton Conservation District, Barker Ranch, Yakima Fisheries and Chris Para who will speak about possible dam reconstruction. The tour will include stops at the Lateral 2 concrete canvas, the

Hitchcock AquaSystems screen, and the DNR Property in West Richland. Scheduled for June 20th, the tour will conclude with a Meet and Mingle event at Ice Harbor.

Roza Irrigation District Excavator

Mr. Strifert stated that Roza Irrigation District has an excavator for sale similar to our current one but with some key upgrades. The 2006 excavator has close to the same hours as one of ours, but has undergone significant maintenance, including the replacement of the undercarriage, track system, and main pins and bushings in the arm. They are asking \$45,000 for it. Mr. Strifert will talk with Roza Irrigation District Manager, Scott Revell, to see if they are willing to hold it until October when the new fiscal year starts, with a small deposit. The excavator has a quick-connect and comes with a 5ft wide cleaning bucket, which suits our needs, along with a digging bucket. It is proposed that we keep our other two excavators. This additional excavator will enhance our capabilities moving forward.

Administrative Fee Schedule

Mr. Strifert presented a proposed fee schedule, aiming to align fees with the Districts invested time and effort. Director Martin motioned to approve the new fee schedule rates. Seconded by Director Ayde. The motion was carried.

Policy Review – Policy 1.1 and 2.4

Mr. Strifert reviewed changes to the Board of Directors Policy 1.1. Director Martin motioned to approve Policy 1.1. Director Thackham seconded. Motion Carried.

Mr. Strifert reviewed changes to the Pandemic Isolation and Quarantine Policy 2.4. Director Thackham motioned to approve the policy. Director Martin seconded. Motion Carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION


President Shawver moved the meeting into Executive session at 11:04 a.m., for 40 minutes, to discuss Personnel Disciplinary action and current litigation. At 11:44 a.m. the meeting was moved to open session at 11:45 a.m. No reportable action was taken.

DIRECTOR DISCUSSION

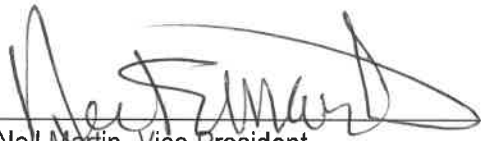
None.

ADJOURNMENT


President Shawver adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.



Vincent Shawver, President



Nell Martin, Vice President



Sherri Thackham, Director



Dallas Ayde, Director



Marilyn Dickenson, Director

ATTEST:



Curt Strifert, Secretary/Manager