

COLUMBIA IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

August 21, 2026

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of August 7, 2026

Director Thackham motioned to approve the minutes of August 7, 2026. Director Ayde seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

IWS Headgate Cleaner/Ecology Grant

Mr. Strifert showed a video of the working screens at the headgates.

Conservation Plan

The request for qualifications has been sent out. The District expects to be able to make a selection in 6 to 8 weeks.

Oak Street Bridge

No new information to report.

Budget 2026/27

Mr. Strifert reported that a field employee is expected to be off work for two to three months due to an on-the-job injury. To address the staffing need, the Manager recommended hiring the employee previously planned for the next fiscal year. Mr. Strifert reviewed adjustments to the wages and vehicle line items, with no change to the overall budget.

Director Thackham motioned to move \$81,000 to into the wage category for the addition of a new employee. Director Dickenson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vacation Payout Program

The Board reviewed the edits to the draft update of the Vacation Payout Program.

Director Thackham motioned to approve the Vacation Payout Request Form with the presented changes. Director Dickenson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

West Richland ROW/Benton County

Mr. Strifert reported that he met with Benton County to review the 1949 easement agreement between Benton County and the District, which provides that Benton County would maintain a portion of West Canal Drive. This is the section of roadway requiring repair that was discussed at the previous Board meeting. Benton County informed Mr. Strifert that the area has since been annexed into the City of West Richland and, therefore, the County is unable to maintain a roadway that has been annexed into the City. Benton County will contact the City of West Richland to discuss the matter and work toward resolving the issue.

NEW BUSINESS

Operations Report

The Manager shared before-and-after drone photographs showing the results of weed harvesting in front of the District's headgates. District crews used the Benton Conservation District's Weedoos in conjunction with CID's tether boat. The majority of the harvested weeds flowed through the headgates and were removed by the automated screens. The harvesting effort has resulted in improved flows into the headgates. After the District receives the required HPA permit, District crews will remove the silt berm in front of the headgates.

CID Conferences

Mr. Strifert notified the Board of upcoming conferences and asked that they let him know if they want to attend any of them.

ROW Letters/Attorney

Mr. Strifert informed the Board that several property owners had not responded to the District's right-of-way encroachment letters. He requested Board approval for Mr. Sperline to send a final letter to those property owners.

Director Thackham motioned to approve the District's attorney to send out right-of-way letters. Director Dickenson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Yakima Basin Joint Board Tour Review

President Shawver and Mr. Strifert reported on the June 25, 2026 tour.

Family Farm Alliance Membership

The agenda item was tabled until the next meeting.

Meeting Date Changes

Mr. Strifert notified the Board that he will be unable to attend the September 4th and October 2nd Board Meetings in person. The Board decided to have Mr. Strifert attend the September 4th meeting virtually. The decision on the October 2nd meeting will be addressed at the September 18th meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Shawver moved the meeting into executive session at 11:06 a.m. for 15 minutes, to discuss legal risks of current or proposed action. The meeting was extended at 11:21 a.m. for 5 minutes and extended again at 11:26 for an additional 5 minutes. The meeting was moved back into open session at 11:31a.m.

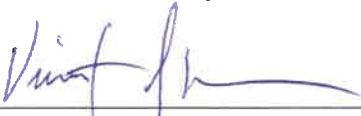
No action was taken.

DIRECTOR DISCUSSION

No discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

President Shawver adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.



Vincent Shawver, President



Neil Martin, Director



Sherri Thackham, Director



Dallas Ayde, Vice President



Marilyn Dickenson, Director

ATTEST: 

Curt Strifert, Secretary/Manager