COLUMBIA IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING
July 2, 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:

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 June 19, 2026
Director Thackham motioned to approve the minutes of June 19, 2026. Director Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

June Vouchers

Voucher 01	Reimburse Revolving Fund	$213,171.31
	Total All Vouchers	$213,171.31

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

May Financial Statement
The Board reviewed and discussed the May Financial Statement.

OLD BUSINESS

Work Orders by Division
The Board reviewed and discussed the work orders in their respective divisions.

IWS Headgate Cleaner/Ecology Grant
The HPA permit was approved. The conveyor was installed, and electrical lines for the screen were completed.

Conservation Plan
The request to revise the project dates has been submitted to Ecology, and a response is pending.

Columbia Center Blvd Trailer Court
The fence installation has been completed. The right-of-way permit will be submitted next week.

Tenant Lease
Mr. Sperline proposed changes which were adopted. The lease is still awaiting signature.

Oak Street Bridge
No new updates at this time.

Office Fence
The Board discussed fence proposals for the area behind the office to address ongoing concerns related to golf ball impacts and garbage accumulation. Options reviewed included both vinyl and block fencing.

Water Delivery Entitlement Procedures Approval
Director Thackham motioned to approve procedure 3.5A – Voluntary Relinquishment of Water Delivery Entitlement. Director Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Director Thackham motioned to approve procedure 3.5B – Water Delivery Entitlement Issuance to Land in the District. Director Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Water Delivery Entitlement Procedures Review (3.5C + 3.5D)
Moved to Executive Session.

Emrgy Update
A PowerPoint presentation outlining the updated proposal for the District will be prepared and presented to the Board at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Operations Report
Mr. Strifert reported that the primary focus at this time is preparing the screens at the dam to ensure a smooth transition and operation. He noted that weeds have increased throughout the canal system, but the recent canal treatment was highly effective. All three screens are currently operating on Variable Frequency Drives (VFD's), helping maintain water flow. As work orders begin to slow, crews will be able to focus on flushing lines. Pump station maintenance has continued to be prioritized.

Board Discussion - Restructure
Tabled to a future meeting.

Harvester Training

Mr. Strifert stated that we have a couple field employees out training on the new Weedoos, along with a refresher course on the original harvester boat. A harvesting schedule has been coordinated with Benton Conservation District for available dates. Harvesting will begin next week, with stargrass expected to increase near the headgates as the season progresses.

Resolution 2026-5 / Employment Contract

Director Thackham motioned to approve Resolution 2026-5 – Employment Agreement between the Board of Directors and Mr. Strifert. Director Ayde seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Administrative Salaries 2026/27

Moved to executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Shawver moved the meeting into executive session at 10:26 a.m. for 30 minutes, to discuss the performance of a public employee and legal risks of current or proposed action. The meeting was extended at 10:56 a.m. for 15 minutes. The meeting was extended at 11:11 a.m. for 10 minutes to 11:21 a.m. The meeting was moved back into open session at 11:21 a.m.

Director Thackham motioned to approve a salary increase for Mr. Amend from $85,000 to $90,000. Director Ayde seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Director Thackham motioned to approve a salary increase for Ms. Leetch $58,470 to $60,224. Director Ayde seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Director Thackham motioned to strike Ms. Leetch salary increase to be discussed at the next meeting. Director Ayde seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Director Thackham motioned to approve a pay rate increase for Ms. Wolfe of 3% plus $1 an hour. Director Ayde seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Director Thackham motioned to approve a salary increase for Ms. Freshment from $79,685 to $85,000. Director Ayde seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DIRECTOR DISCUSSION

The next meeting will be on Friday, July 24th at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

President Shawver adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Vincent Shawver, President

Neil Martin, Director

Sherri Thackham, Director

Dallas Ayde, Vice President

Marilyn Dickenson, Director

ATTEST:

Curt Strifert, Secretary/Manager