

COLUMBIA IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

March 20, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

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

Dallas Ayde, Vice-President
Neil Martin, Director
Sherri Thackham, Director

Curt Strifert, Secretary/Manager
Lila Freshment, Recorder
Jeff Sperline, Attorney

Absent:

Vincent Shawver, President
Marilyn Dickenson, Director

Guests: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice-President Ayde noted a change to agenda item *Procedure 3.5D – Annexation of Lands to the District* under *Old Business* advising it to be tabled until the next meeting when all board members will be present. Director Martin motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Director Thackham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of March 06, 2026

Director Martin motioned to approve the minutes of March 06, 2026. Director Thackham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Minutes of March 13, 2026

Director Thackham motioned to approve the minutes of March 13, 2026. Director Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Drought Resiliency Grant (Rubicon Gates)

The final report has been submitted to the Department of Ecology. The request for payment is still in process and should be finalized by the next board meeting.

Shop Improvements

Mr. Strifert stated that cameras have been installed. They are online and working. He will show the camera coverage at the next meeting.

IWS Headgate Cleaner / Ecology Grant

Mr. Strifert reported that we are waiting on the electrical control panel from IWS to be delivered. Once delivered staff will complete the wiring for the panel and as much pre-wiring for the screens as possible.

Conservation Plan

Mr. Strifert is waiting for Trout Unlimited to inform him when the *Request for Qualifications* from vendors is to be issued.

KID Water Carriage Billing

Attorney Sperline has notified KID's attorney of the Board of Directors' decision to include the District's Capital Improvement Charge in the KID water carriage billing each year. The charge will be on a per acre basis.

NEW BUSINESS

Operations Report

Mr. Strifert reported that field crews are currently burning tumbleweeds in the canal. Crews are working to complete this activity by Thursday of next week. If work is not finished by that time, weekend operations may be required to ensure the system is ready to bring water in on Monday, March 30th.

2026-2027 Attorney Contract

Ms. Freshment provided an update regarding the annual request for qualifications from attorneys. The District received responses from Sperline Law and Ogden Murphy and Wallace. The Board discussed the options.

Director Thackham motioned to renew the contract for Mr. Sperline for the 2026-2027 term. Director Martin seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Handbook Changes

Tabled until the next meeting.

2026-2027 Grant Application

The Bureau of Reclamation announced the availability of WaterSMART Grant funding. The small-scale grant category has increased to a maximum total project cost of \$250,000. Mr. Strifert expressed interest in applying for funding to install five to six Rubicon gates and requesting reimbursement of approximately 40% of the total project cost.

Director Martin motioned to authorize Mr. Strifert to apply for a Small Scale WaterSMART grant for six to seven Rubicon gates. Director Thackham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Elite Sod

Mr. Strifert reviewed an area of the canal by Elite Sod Spillway that needs repair. He will investigate options including exposed liner, jersey barrier, and piping.

Columbia Center Blvd Trailer Court

Moved to Executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION


President Shawver moved the meeting into Executive session at 9:56 a.m., for 20 minutes, to discuss legal risks of current or proposed action. The meeting was extended for 10 minutes at 10:16 a.m., and moved to open session at 10:26 a.m.

DIRECTOR DISCUSSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT


Vice-President Ayde adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m.



Vincent Shawver, President



Neil Martin, Director



Sherri Thackham, Director



Dallas Ayde, Vice President

Marilyn Dickenson, Director

ATTEST:


Curt Strifert, Secretary/Manager