# COLUMBIA IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING
July 24, 2026

## CALL TO ORDER
President Shawver called the meeting to order at 9:02 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 July 24, 2026 agenda as submitted. Director Thackham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## PUBLIC COMMENT
None

## CONSENT AGENDA

**Minutes of June 5, 2026**
Director Thackham motioned to approve the minutes of July 2, 2026. Director Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## OLD BUSINESS

**IWS Headgate Cleaner/Ecology Grant**
Mr. Strifert presented a video of the working screens that were set on July 8th.

### Conservation Plan
Trout Unlimited is waiting on Ecology to approve the change of date before proceeding with the Request for Qualifications.

### Tenant Lease
Mr. Sperline reported that Mr. Strifert and Mr. Seitz have signed the lease assignment agreement and we are now waiting to receive a signature from the corporate tenant to finalize the agreement.

### Oak Street Bridge
There are no updates to report at this time.

### Columbia Center Blvd Trailer Court
A right-of-way permit has been mailed out, and we are awaiting the signed permit's return.

### Office Fence
Mr. Strifert reported that he has contacted the City of Richland to verify that there is nothing prohibiting the District from installing a block fence and is awaiting their reply.

### Administrative Salaries 2026/27
This item was moved to Executive session.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Operations Report
Mr. Strifert reported that the District is working to manage algae and aquatic weeds in the canal. Two crew members are currently being trained to operate the harvesters. Mr. Strifert also reported that, next week, the District will utilize the harvester and tether boat to harvest weeds in front of the headgates.

### Budget 2026/27
Mr. Strifert reviewed the draft budget with the Board. The discussion will be continued at the next meeting. He also presented a proposal from Enterprise Fleet Services for the management of the District's vehicle fleet. The discussion of both the draft budget and the fleet management proposal will continue at the next meeting.

### Hold Harmless Agreement – Wanawish Dam
Mr. Strifert reported that the company conducting the feasibility study for the Wanawish Dam Rebuild has requested permission to execute the *Hold Harmless Agreement*, have it notarized by a notary outside the District, and return a signed copy by email. Mr. Sperline recommended that a copy of the original notarized document be mailed to the District as well.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION
President Shawver moved the meeting into executive session at 11:02 a.m. for 10 minutes, to discuss the performance of a public employee. The meeting was moved back into open session at 11:12 a.m.

Director Thackham motioned to approve a salary increase for Ms. Leetch from $60,000 to $61,800. Director Martin seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

## DIRECTOR DISCUSSION

There was no discussion.

## ADJOURNMENT

President Shawver adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

Vincent Shawver, President

Neil Martin, Director

Sherri Thackham, Director

Dallas Ayde, Vice President

Marilyn Dickenson, Director

ATTEST:

Curt Strifert, Secretary/Manager