

COLUMBIA IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING  
September 20, 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  
Marilyn Dickenson, Director

Curt Strifert, Secretary/Manager  
Lila Freshment, Recorder

**Guests:**

Lloyd & Locha Bender

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Director Martin motioned to approve the agenda as submitted. Director Thackham seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Bender addressed the Board regarding concerns about standing water near his residence that he believes is coming from the canal or a broken pipeline. He addressed the Board in 2022 about this issue. He stated that the water is now affecting several properties in the area and there has been damage to his home. Mr. Bender reported that on April 30th, water reached a depth of eleven inches in the drainage ditch over the course of six days. He stated that he has not used irrigation since 2018 and has kept detailed documentation since that time. Mr. Bender expressed that they cannot wait for the canal to be lined and asked for something to be done to help alleviate the problem now. Mr. Strifert will research and contact Mr. Bender next week.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Minutes of September 06, 2024**

Director Martin motioned to approve the minutes of September 06, 2024. Director Thackham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**CID/KID Drought A**

Mr. Strifert indicated that he is awaiting a response from Kennewick Irrigation District (KID). Mr. Strifert has provided KID with an overview of his expectations regarding the terms of the agreement. Once he receives a reply, he will inform the board accordingly.

### **YBJB September Tour**

Mr. Shawver informed the board that he will be unable to attend the tour. The board discussed travel arrangements for the upcoming tour.

### **Policy Revisions (Policy 1.3, 2.3,3.2,3.3)**

Director Ayde motioned to approve revisions to Policy 1.3. Director Martin seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Director Ayde motioned to approve revisions to Policy 2.3. Director Martin seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Director Ayde motioned to approve revisions to Policy 3.2. Director Martin seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Director Ayde motioned to approve revisions to Policy 3.3. Director Martin seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

### **Fee Schedule**

The board reviewed the proposed changes to the fee schedule. Director Ayde moved to approve the revised fee schedule, and Director Martin seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Operations Report**

Mr. Strifert reported that the field crew have been working around the clock at the dam to clear weeds. Mr. Strifert explained that the issue is a combination of factors, including weed harvesting efforts by Benton Conservation District upstream of Prosser, the subsequent release of water, and cooler nighttime temperatures. The water temperature has dropped by 12 degrees, causing the weeds to break off. Mr. Strifert also noted that he previously served on the Water Stargrass panel and is now part of a Water Stargrass coalition, formed as a result of the CID canal tour to raise awareness of this ongoing issue.

### **West Richland Ground Water**

Mr. Strifert provided an update on the Larkin property, noting that the District will need to get permission from the trailer park owner for the pipeline, which should be straightforward as there is a utility easement on the property. The estimated cost to complete the project is approximately \$9,000 to \$10,000. Once the dam stabilizes and the pipe is in place, work could begin as early as next week. By the next board meeting, the project should either be underway or completed.

### **December 6, 2024, Meeting Change**

Mr. Strifert advised the meeting on December 6, 2024, will need to be changed due to attending the WSWRA conference. Director Ayde motioned to move the meeting to December 4, 2024, at 8 am. Director Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**YBJB Meeting of August 23rd**

Mr. Shawver provided a comprehensive review and led a detailed discussion regarding the outcomes and key topics addressed during the Yakima Basin Joint Board meeting.

**Vacation Payout Program**

Mr. Strifert presented the new vacation payout program, which permits employees to cash out up to forty hours of vacation time, provided specific criteria are met. Director Thackham motioned to approve the vacation payout program; Director Martin seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**DIRECTOR DISCUSSION**

Director Ayde motioned to move the October 18, 2024 meeting to October 25, 2024, at 9 am  
Director Thackham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Shawver adjourned the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

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Vincent Shawver, President

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Neil Martin, Vice President

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Sherri Thackham, Director

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Dallas Ayde, Director

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Marilyn Dickenson, Director

ATTEST:

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Curt Strifert, Secretary/Manager