

COLUMBIA IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING February 20, 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
Marilyn Dickenson, Director
Sherri Thackham, Director

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

Guests: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Director Martin amended the motion to add *Budget Line Items* to *New Business* on the agenda. Director Thackham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of February 06, 2026

Director Thackham motioned to approve the minutes of February 06, 2025. Director Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Drought Resiliency Grant (Rubicon Gates)

Mr. Strifert reported that the final gate is scheduled to be installed today. The project is currently awaiting final paperwork from Ecology; once received, Mr. Strifert will complete and submit the final report.

Shop Improvements

Mr. Strifert stated that the installation of the cameras will begin next week. The company who is doing the installation is still waiting on parts, as soon as they have those, they will begin installing the nine additional cameras.

IWS Headgate Cleaner / Ecology Grant

Mr. Strifert reported that a mock screen frame from IWS is expected to arrive late next week to allow for guide and plate alignment prior to installation. The actual screens are still in production. This process is intended to ensure proper fit and avoid issues during final installation.

Conservation Plan

Mr. Strifert provided an update regarding the Conservation Plan Project. The funding source is currently running behind schedule; however, the representative from Trout Unlimited stated he is confident enough in the funding to begin soliciting Requests for Qualifications from vendors for the plan development.

Union Contract

Item moved to executive session.

KID Water Carriage Billing

Item moved to executive session.

Defense Coalition

Item moved to executive session.

NEW BUSINESS

Operations Report

Mr. Strifert reported that settling basin cleanup efforts are ongoing, with hauling continuing today. The final Rubicon gate is also being installed. Due to a significant buildup of tumbleweeds in the canal this year, burning is planned for next week.

Mr. Strifert also reported that the District is now fully staffed. One new employee started last Wednesday and the other started Monday. Both are performing well.

Two crossing projects are underway simultaneously. At Dayton Street, a gas line replacement is in progress. Additionally, work related to a 2024 permit for a sewer main crossing under the canal near Steptoe and Tapteal is moving forward. One project is ready for concrete placement, while the other is currently being backfilled and is expected to pour concrete next week.

Water Right Policy / Procedures

The Board reviewed the proposed policy changes. After discussion, the item was tabled for further consideration.

Water Start Date

Mr. Strifert recommended the District begin filling the canal on March 30th and starting pump stations the following week. This approach would provide the crew with additional time to complete necessary work before full operations begin.

Director Thackham motioned to set the water start date to March 30, 2026. Director Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Budget Line Items

Mr. Strifert will draft up the changes for the budget, to be reviewed and approved at the next meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Shawver moved the meeting into Executive session at 10:35 a.m., for 45 minutes, to discuss the performance of a public employee and legal risks of current or proposed action. The meeting was moved to open session at 11:20 a.m.


DIRECTOR DISCUSSION

Director Thackham motioned to schedule a special meeting on Friday, March 13, 2026, to discuss policies and procedures for water delivery. Director Dickenson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Strifert notified the Board that Friday, April 24th Joint Board Meeting will be held at the District Office at 8:30 a.m. Afterward, District board members and management have been invited to attend the Bateman Island Causeway Removal Celebration from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

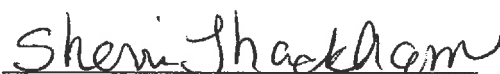
President Shawver adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.



Vincent Shawver, President



Neil Martin, Director




Sherri Thackham, Director



Dallas Ayde, Vice President



Marilyn Dickenson, Director

ATTEST:


Curt Strifert, Secretary/Manager