

COLUMBIA IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

November 21, 2025

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:

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of November 8, 2025

Director Thackham motioned to approve the minutes of November 8, 2025. Director Ayde seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Minutes of November 14, 2025

Director Ayde motioned to approve the minutes of November 14, 2025. Director Thackham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Funds Transfer Approval

Director Thackham motioned to approve the transfer of \$567,000, received from the sale of 10 E. Kennewick Avenue, from the O&M Fund to the Surplus Fund. Director Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Employee Handbook Policy 5.1 – Shared Leave

The revised draft of Policy 5.1 was reviewed by the Board. Director Thackham motioned to approve Policy 5.1 – Shared Leave. Director Martin seconded the motion. The Motion carried.

Ecology Loan Program

The topic was tabled to a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Operations Report

Mr. Strifert reported on canal cleaning and projects that are underway. Four of the six Rubicon gates have been installed. The remaining gates are expected to be installed by the end of December. Other projects scheduled for this year are Lateral 1, phase 3 lining, Divide screen replacement, and installation of three Rubicon gates funded by the Department of Ecology Grant. Tree trimming is continuing.

Tether Boat Reimbursement Funds

Mr. Strifert informed the Board that the reimbursement for the tether boat purchase was received. Mr. Strifert asked for a motion to transfer those funds to Surplus.

Director Thackham motioned to approve the transfer of \$74,500, for the reimbursement of the tether boat, from the O&M Fund to the Surplus Fund. Director Martin seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Conservation Plan Grant Funds – Trout Unlimited

Mr. Strifert stated that the District's current conservation plan is outdated and emphasized that an updated plan could significantly strengthen future funding opportunities. The District, in partnership with Trout Unlimited, has been awarded \$250,000 to develop a water conservation plan. Any remaining funds may also be used to prepare a drought contingency plan.

Shop Improvements

Mr. Strifert explained the need to extend power to the new parking structure at the shop in order to install lighting and additional cameras for increased security. It would cost approximately \$16,000 for the electrical work.

Director Martin motioned to grant Mr. Strifert authority to obtain the necessary electrical upgrades to the new shop building for the installation of lights. Director Thackham seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#35 Case Excavator

Mr. Strifert informed the Board that the #35 Case Excavator has broken down and needs to be replaced. The District will plan to replace it in the next fiscal year budget cycle. Options for disposal of the old excavator were discussed.

International Water Systems (IWS) Headgate Cleaner

A representative from International Water Systems visited the headgates with Mr. Strifert. The District received an estimate of \$360,000, excluding tax and shipping, for three individual screens and about seventy feet of take-away conveyor. Following research by Mr. Strifert and a consultant, the District may be able to obtain funding for about 50% of this cost. Further discussion was moved to Executive Session.

2025-2026 Newsletter

The District will begin working on the 2025-2026 Newsletter soon. Mr. Strifert asked the Board whether they preferred to mail a hard copy or distribute it only online. The Board opted to provide it online only.

December 5, 2025 Meeting Change

Director Thackham motioned to reschedule the Friday, December 5, 2025 meeting to Wednesday, December 3rd at 8:00 a.m. Director Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Shawver moved the meeting into Executive session at 10:23 a.m., for 20 minutes, to discuss legal risks of current or proposed action. The meeting was extended at 10:43 a.m. for 15 minutes. The meeting was moved to open session at 10:58 a.m.

Director Thackham motioned to authorize Mr. Strifert to purchase the International Water Systems headgate cleaner for the amount discussed in Executive Session. Director Dickenson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Director Thackham motioned to contract with a consultant for the installation of the headgate cleaner. Director Dickenson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

DIRECTOR DISCUSSION

Mr. Sperline notified the Board that he will be unable to attend the December 19th meeting. He offered to attend virtually or prepare a presentation for the Safety Meeting. A decision will be made at the December 3rd meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

President Shawver adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.



Vincent Shawver, President



Neil Martin, Director



Sherri Thackham, Director



Dallas Ayde, Vice President



Marilyn Dickenson, Director

ATTEST:



Curt Strifert, Secretary/Manager