

COLUMBIA IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING  
May 17, 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:**

None.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Minutes of May 3, 2024**

Director Thackham motioned to approve the minutes of May 3, 2024. Director Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Roza Irrigation District Excavator**

Mr. Strifert has not yet received a response from Scott Revelle. He plans to wait until mid-next week before following up with him.

**Bond Discussion**

Mr. Strifert will reach out to a bond advisor and a bond attorney for guidance on the process of applying for a bond and report back to the Board with more information.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Operations Report.**

Mr. Shawver stated that he has noticed that the water has been much cleaner than normal this time of year. Mr. Strifert explained it is due to mild temperatures and a lack of heavy runoff, which

typically causes silt and debris. He noted that it is the first time in five years the bottom of the canal is visible. Weeds are minimal, and the water is still freezing. An algae treatment is planned for next week or the week after.

Mr. Strifert informed the Board of an issue developing at the Leslie Flume. A ¼-inch thick piece of liner peeled off, rolled up, and blocked the water flow. The crew cut it and let it pass through the flume before removing it. This issue will need to be addressed during the off-season unless it begins to leak significantly before then. It is being checked daily by the ditchriders.

### **Canal Crossing Permit-City of Richland (Tapteal & Steptoe)**

Mr. Strifert reviewed a permit application submitted by the City of Richland to construct a stormwater drain beneath the canal at Tapteal and Steptoe. Director Thackham motioned to approve permit #2024-3 for the drainpipe under the canal on Steptoe, with Director Martin seconding the motion. Motion Carried.

### **Encroachment Permit – Niederer**

Ms. Rebecca Niederer has expressed interest in constructing a block wall that will encroach twenty feet upon the District's right-of-way. Ms. Niederer acknowledges in her permit application that the wall may need to be removed if necessary. Mr. Strifert will further discuss alternative fencing options with Ms. Niederer. The issue was tabled until the next meeting.

### **Panorama Vista – Storm Pond Facility**

A homeowner in Panorama Vista contacted the District regarding a stormwater retention pond that is next to his property. Ownership of the parcel the pond sits on is split between thirteen people. Since his name is listed as primary on the parcel, he will receive the assessment and will then have to try to collect a share from the other homeowners. The possibility of approaching the Board regarding relinquishment was discussed. He would like to water the property, so it is not an eyesore but is concerned about the ownership and payment issue. He is currently contacting each of the owners to find out their interest in providing water to the parcel. He is also planning to contact the City of West Richland to see if they would be interested in taking it over. Discussion by the Board followed. Mr. Strifert will contact the homeowner next week to discuss further.

### **Policy 3.1 – Public Records Disclosure**

The Board reviewed the policy for Public Records Disclosure. Director Thackham motioned to approve Policy 3.1 Public Records Disclosure knowing that it may need to be amended once it goes through legal review. Director Dickenson seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

### **Kennewick Pathways**

Mr. Strifert was invited to join a committee aiming to connect trails across The Tri-Cities. The committee plans to assess potential routes and outline regulations, including no liability for the District, restrictions on landscaping, and signage guidelines. Mr. Strifert informed the board about his participation and will provide updates as he learns more. The initiative aims to encourage physical activity throughout the city.

**Lineage Water Permit**

Lineage reached out to Mr. Strifert asking to get water out of our canal at the end of Lateral 2, to fill their water trucks to help keep dust down and to help with fire control during demolition. Mr. Strifert quoted Lineage between \$1,000-\$1,500 per week, for 6-10 weeks. This estimate considers gallons used and ensures the benefit for both parties, this would also benefit the patrons by reducing dust. The permit would outline the cost, along with the need to document each water fill-up, and if the water usage becomes more than what is expected, the price may increase.

Director Ayde made a motion to approve lineage water permit and usage and have it monitored by the District Manager with a minimum payment of \$1200 a week, Director Martin seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**DIRECTOR DISCUSSION**

Mr. Strifert discussed the canal shutdown and praised the crew for their hard work. He noted that this year has been particularly challenging.

Ms. Freshment scheduled a time on May 24, 2024, at 1 pm for Director Dickenson and Director Thackham to come into the office and watch the video Your Role As a Board Member.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Shawver adjourned the meeting at 11:30 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