

COLUMBIA IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING
September 6, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

President Shawver called the meeting to order at 9:02 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
Jeff Sperline, Attorney

Guests:

Beverly Wardlow

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Beverly Wardlow expressed concerns regarding the recent tree removal along the canal behind Washington Elementary and the placement of clay rock on the canal road, which she finds unsuitable for walking. She was informed that public access to the canal road is prohibited and that walking there constitutes trespassing. Additionally, Ms. Wardlow noted debris on the right of way. Mr. Strifert responded that the wood chips on the Washington Elementary side will be distributed, and any remaining piles that cannot be spread will be removed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of August 16, 2024 & August 30, 2024

Director Dickenson motioned to approve the minutes of August 16, 2024. Director Ayde seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Director Ayde motioned to approve the minutes of August 30, 2024. Director Thackham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

August Vouchers

Voucher 01	Reimburse Revolving Fund	\$244,216.12
		<hr/>
Total All Vouchers		\$244,216.12

The Board reviewed and discussed the August Vouchers. Director Ayde motioned to approve the vouchers as submitted. Director Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

August Financial Statement

The Board reviewed and discussed the August Financial Statement.

OLD BUSINESS

Work Orders by Division

The Board reviewed and discussed the work orders in their respective divisions.

CID Office

Mr. Strifert informed the board members that he has rescinded the offer for the 1045 W Columbia Drive office after consulting with the architect. Upon review, the projected costs exceeded the budget allocated for acquiring a new office. Mr. Strifert also discussed and reviewed alternative properties located in the North Richland area.

Kennewick School District Tree Removal

Mr. Strifert reported that the blades on the woodchipper were damaged but have since been ordered and replaced. He also noted that work has been delayed due to breaks in the Hitchcock and Belmont areas. The wood chip piles behind Washington Elementary and the remaining tree debris still require removal. It is anticipated that cleanup will be completed by next week, enabling the field crew to resume adding rock to the canal road.

CID/KID Drought Agreement

Mr. Strifert met with KID to discuss the drought agreement. The Board has authorized Mr. Strifert to work with KID to finalize the contract. The agreement will feature a tiered payment structure based on the volume of water pumped each year. Additionally, KID will be required to pay an annual right-of-way permit fee for the pump's use on the District's property. This arrangement will involve cooperation between the Districts, with the District reserving the right to deny water access to KID if difficulties arise in securing sufficient water.

LID 63 Aqua Systems Screen

The Aqua Systems screen has been ordered and is scheduled to arrive by November. The installation process is anticipated to take approximately half a day. This timeline allows for efficient setup and ensures minimal disruption to ongoing operations.

YBJB September Tour

Mr. Strifert requested confirmation of each board member's attendance for the YBJB Tour scheduled for Thursday, September 26, 2024, and discussed travel arrangements.

2024/2025 Budget Update

Mr. Strifert advised that the budget needs to be reopened and reapproved due to the omission of employee raises in the initial version. Adjustments were made by reallocating funds without increasing costs to patrons or altering the overall budget amount. Director Thackham motioned to approve the revised budget, and Director Ayde seconded the motion. Motion carried.

LID #15 Highland Vineyards Petition

The District has received Matt Smith's petition to establish the Highland Vineyards Local Improvement District (LID). The next steps involve scheduling a hearing and completing the associated procedures. The area under consideration encompasses approximately 17 to 20 homes situated on the south side of 27th and Washington, within Phase 2 of Highland Vineyards.

Director Thackham motioned to approve the petition to form LID 15 for Highland Vineyard Phase 2, and Director Ayde seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Additionally, Director Thackham motioned to set the hearing date for October 18, 2024, with Director Ayde seconding the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Operations Report

Operations are currently focused on rocking and reinforcing the roads, as well as reshaping and narrowing sections of the canal. There was a brief influx of weeds at the dam over the course of a few nights, but the situation has since improved. Mr. Strifert noted that we expect a longer period of influx of weeds at the dam as temperatures drop. Efforts are being made to avoid an additional canal treatment, though it may become necessary.

West Richland Ground Water

Mr. Strifert has begun compiling initial cost estimates for addressing the groundwater problem in West Richland. These costs are expected to be in the range of \$8,000 to \$10,000, with the potential to be slightly higher. Additional information to come.

Surplus Equipment

Mr. Strifert presented a proposal to surplus the following items for Booker Auction: Dump Truck #24 with 400,000 miles, Dump Truck 1 Ton #1 with 140,000 miles, and a Miller portable gas welder. Director Thackham made a motion to approve the surplus Dump Truck #24, Dump Truck #1 and the Miller portable gas welder Director Ayde seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SePRO Sole Source Resolution

Mr. Strifert presented the SePRO Sole Source contract, identified as Resolution 2024-4, highlighting its importance in securing necessary chemicals under the terms of the agreement. Director

Thackham motioned to approve the 2024-4 SePRO Sole Source Resolution, and Director Martin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Shawver moved the meeting into Executive session at 11:15 a.m., for 20 minutes, to discuss current litigation, legal risks of current or proposed action, and incident report, Mr. Strifert review employee. It was extended by 5 minutes at 11:35 a.m. The meeting was moved to open session at 11:40 p.m.

DIRECTOR DISCUSSION

Director Ayde proposed addressing the distribution of meeting packets, noting that the current practice of mailing packets often results in them not being received, not being read, or becoming outdated by the time of the meeting. It was suggested that emailing the packets could be a more efficient alternative. The decision was made to continue mailing packets to Director Martin and Director Shawver, while discontinuing this practice for the remaining three board members.

ADJOURNMENT

President Shawver adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

Vincent Shawver, President

Neil Martin, Vice President

Sherri Thackham, Director

Dallas Ayde, Director

Marilyn Dickenson, Director

ATTEST:

Curt Strifert, Secretary/Manager