

COLUMBIA IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING May 15, 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
Sherri Thackham, Director
Marilyn Dickenson

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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of May 1, 2026

Director Thackham motioned to approve the minutes of May 1, 2026. Director Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

IWS Headgate Cleaner/Ecology Grant

Mr. Strifert stated that the screen is scheduled to ship today. The electrical panel and screens are expected to arrive by Wednesday, May 20, 2026.

Conservation Plan

Project is in the final stages and expected to be completed within the next couple of weeks. A few remaining items are needed from Mr. Strifert before the Request for Qualifications can be sent out.

Bond Discussion

Moved to Executive Session.

Personnel Discussion

Moved to Executive Session.

Columbia Center Blvd Trailer Court

Mr. Strifert drove through the area on Wednesday morning. Cleanup efforts have begun, and there has already been noticeable improvement. Mr. Sperline reached back out to the trailer park manager regarding the fence. The park manager responded via email indicating they are prepared to fill out the permit and want to begin construction of the fence. Discussion is still needed regarding the fence location and materials. Mr. Strifert will coordinate further with the manager.

NEW BUSINESS

Operations Report

Mr. Strifert reported that all systems are currently operational and repairs have been completed. Crews are continuing routine maintenance, including tree trimming in select areas. The District is also beginning efforts to address marmot activity along Highway 240 due to damage being caused to District property and infrastructure. Traps were purchased last week and are expected to be deployed next week in coordination with guidance from the Department of Fish and Wildlife. The District is planning to begin rocking portions of the canal by the middle of next month using clay rock sourced from the county pit.

Office Fence

Discussion took place regarding the possibility of fencing the back portion of the District building in the future. Approximately 150 feet of fencing would be needed. The proposed fence could help reduce damage from golf balls striking the building and air conditioning unit, as well as help limit garbage blowing onto the property from the adjacent golf course. Potential options discussed included both block and vinyl fencing. Board members agreed to Mr. Strifert looking into the project further and obtaining pricing information for consideration at a later date.

Letter of Support-Delivery Call by Yakima Basin Senior Diversers

Move to Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Shawver moved the meeting into executive session at 9:45 a.m. for 30 minutes, to discuss the performance of a public employee and legal risks of current or proposed action. The meeting was extended at 10:15 a.m. for 30 minutes. The meeting was extended at 10:45 a.m. for 30 minutes. The meeting was extended at 11:15 a.m. for 5 minutes. The meeting was extended at 11:20 a.m. for 5 minutes. The meeting was extended at 11:25 a.m. for 5 minutes. The meeting was moved back into open session at 11:30 p.m.

Director Thackham motioned that the District join with other districts and provide a letter of support as discussed in Executive Session. Director Dickenson seconded the motion. Directors' Ayde, Dickenson, and Thackham motioned to approve. Director Martin opposed. Motion carried.

DIRECTOR DISCUSSION

Discussion took place regarding the current teacup diagram and reservoir conditions. Combined reservoir storage is currently at approximately 96% capacity, while the snowpack is nearly depleted. Recent rain and a small amount of snowfall have helped maintain reservoir levels. It was noted that predicting how long reservoir storage will carry through the irrigation season is difficult at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

President Shawver adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.



Vincent Shawver, President



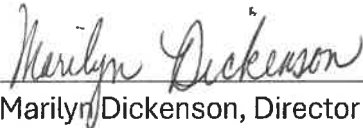
Neil Martin, Director



Sherri Thackham, Director



Dallas Ayde, Vice President



Marilyn Dickenson, Director

ATTEST:



Curt Strifert, Secretary/Manager