

**Office of the Secretary Manager
Kittitas Reclamation District Board of Directors Meeting
March 3, 2020 Minutes**

The Board of Directors of the Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) met in Regular Session on March 3, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. Attending the meeting were Division Three Director and Chairman Fred Schnebly, Division One Director and Vice Chairman Mark Hansen, Division Two Director Ed Wakkuri, Division Four Director Larry Bland, Division Five Director Brad Haberman, Secretary Manager Urban Eberhart, Assistant Manager Kevin Eslinger, Field Supervisor Bob Main, Treasurer Stacy Berg and Legal Counsel Jeff Slothower. Also, in attendance were KRD land owners Mark Charlton and Janeice Jump.

The agenda was approved with a motion made by Director Haberman and the second was made by Director Bland. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes for the February 4, 2020 Board Meeting were approved with a motion made by Director Bland and the second was made by Director Hansen. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Mark Charlton asked if there was a possible turn on date for the irrigation water. The conversation was deferred until the water master report.

Water Master Report: As of March 3, 2020, the five reservoirs were at 59% capacity which is 107% of average. Precipitation at the reservoirs from March 1st to date is 1.34 inches, or 133% of average and 9% of the months average. Precipitation for the Water Year to date is 187.4 inches, or 115% of average. The Snotel sites for the Upper Yakima are reporting 94% of average and the Lower Yakima Basin sites are reporting 108% of average. The next River Ops Meeting will be on March 5th. The water startup is expected to be between April 1st-15th. Mark Charlton asked if we are expecting a full water year. At this point, it is believed to be a full water year.

Maintenance Report: The maintenance crews returned to work this week. Currently there are three burn crews and three temporary employees working. All three backhoes and the excavator are cleaning ditches.

Secretary Manager's Activity Report: On February 6th, Mr. Eberhart gave a TED Talk in Yakima, WA. When the video is published it will be made available.

Mr. Eberhart presented at the Kittitas County Timothy Hay Growers & Suppliers Meeting on February 18th.

There was a Habitat Subcommittee Meeting on February 18th that Mr. Eberhart attended.

The Family Farm Alliance Annual Conference in Reno, NV was on February 19th-21st. The Directors and Secretary Manager who attended felt it was a very productive conference. It was very interesting to see President Trump's Water Cabinet present to the group. Director Hansen was elected into a position on the Family Farm Alliance Board. Director Haberman noted that the transferred works trend appeared to be irrigation districts were paying off the USBR to align themselves better for future funding opportunities. There were numerous networking opportunities which allowed KRD representatives to speak with various government officials.

There was a Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee Columbia Basin Partnership Meeting in Boise, ID on February 25th and 26th. These committee meetings are expected to conclude in the next few months.

The 2020 Environmental Law Conference on March 7th has been canceled, due to COVID-19.

Mr. Eberhart and Field Supervisor Main are expected to attend the Taneum Canal Company Meeting on March 7th.

There is a Water Resources Advisory Committee Meeting on March 9th.

On March 11th at 9:30 AM, there will be a Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) Workgroup Meeting at the Kittitas County Armory.

Mr. Eberhart will be presenting to the Leadership Kittitas County on March 13th.

On March 13th, Mr. Eberhart will be attending a Columbia River Policy Advisory Group Meeting.

The 2020 Tributary Supplementation Program Committee Meeting will be held at Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue Station 29 on March 26th.

Director Hansen made a motion for Mr. Eberhart to attend the Reclamation Stakeholder Workshop in Denver, CO on March 31st - April 1st. A second was made by Director Haberman, the motion passed unanimously.

The Central Washington University Salmon Run is scheduled for April 25th. Director Wakkuri made a motion to sponsor the event in the amount of \$150. A second was made by Director Hansen, the motion passed unanimously.

The State Water Marketing Committee is tentatively scheduling a meeting on March 31st or April 1st. Mr. Eberhart is scheduled to attend the meeting if his schedule allows.

The United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) approved the WaterSmart South Branch Phase II grant in the amount of \$975,000.00. The project is currently in the design phase.

The Retro Safety Quarterly Report was presented and it was noted that the KRD's safety ratio has improved dramatically since 2017.

KRD Lobbyist Bill Clarke continues to be very effective. He has been working in conjunction with the Yakima Basin Joint Board Lobbyist Isaac Kastama who are jointly working on water issues. The Senate Bill 6514 written by Senator Schoesler did not come up for a vote and is believed to be tabled until the next legislative session.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) along with our other Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (YBIP) Partners, have made progress on the Swauk Creek Supplementation Project. There are efforts currently being made to obtain funding for the design and analysis work as the next step.

WDFW Regional Director Mike Livingston, is helping with a work group for the Manastash Ridge Trail. There is a section of the South Branch Canal that is near the trail where hikers are often walking in close proximity to the canal. The purpose of the work group would be to establish a safety plan for the area and future planning.

The Flip Flop Discussion has been continuing with the USBR, who is compiling a project description. In the next several weeks, the KRD will meet with the USBR for further discussions.

The Upper Yakima System Storage (UYSS) Phase II agreement is being finalized at the Department of Ecology.

Upper Yakima System Storage Sites are also being considered in the Water Supply Framing Process while decisions are being made on the Wymer and Bumping Sites.

The Yakima Basin Focused Managed Aquifer Recharge Assessment Phase II is expected to have the report complete on the first phase in March. It will include water storage opportunities in the Taneum and other areas.

The South Branch Phase I Reach 2-3 Construction is wrapping up. Field Supervisor Main reported that the 4,000 lineal feet of lining is complete and the canal is ready for water. The construction crews are cleaning up, there is a company chipping all the logs and debris along the edge of the canal. The fencing is expected to start next.

Belsaas & Smith presented the lowest bid for the North Branch Phase IIIB project. The USBR awarded an additional \$1,000,000.00 to the existing North Branch Lining Contract. Director Hansen made a motion to approve Belsaas & Smith for the project and to accept the Change Order 01. A second was made by Director Bland, the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: The Directors' monthly payroll vouchers were presented for signatures. Summary Vouchers for the January 2020 expenses and the February 2020 payroll which included check numbers 43986-44060, direct deposit numbers 9901836 through 9901849 in the sum of \$804,809.04 were approved with a motion made by Director Wakkuri. The second was made by Director Bland, the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: Treasurer Berg presented an updated 2020 Foreclosure List to the Board. Further efforts will be made to collect on the accounts before submitting the list to legal counsel.

New Business: Director Haberman made a motion to accept the WaterSmart Small-Scale Water Efficiency Resolution 2020-04. A second was made by Director Hansen, the motion passed unanimously.

Other Business: Zirkle Fruit and Chiawana Orchards have approached the KRD regarding installing an elk fence on the south side of the lateral down stream of Harold Rd. To keep the elevation of the fence high enough to deter the elk, they

are requesting permission to install the fence within the KRD right-of-way. There was a lengthy discussion that followed. It was determined that there were other landowners that would be affected by the fence and may not have an interest in the installation of the fence adjacent to their property. It was determined that at the present time, KRD would not allow the fence to be installed on the KRD right-of-way.

All business having been concluded the meeting was adjourned.

Mr. Schnebly KRD Board of Directors Chairman

Mr. Eberhart KRD Secretary Manager