

Office of the Secretary Manager
Kittitas Reclamation District Board of Directors Meeting
July 13, 2021 Minutes

The Board of Directors of the Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) met in Regular Session on July 13, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. Attending the meeting, were Division Three Director and Chairman Fred Schnebly, Division One Director and Vice Chairman Mark Hansen, Division Two Director Sherry Swanson, Division Four Director Larry Bland, Division Five Director Brad Haberman, Secretary Manager Urban Eberhart, Assistant Manager and COVID Officer Kevin Eslinger, Treasurer Stacy Berg, GIS Specialist Roger Satnik, Construction Supervisor Robby Main, Legal Counsel Jeff Slothower.

The agenda was approved with the addition of an executive session for reasons consistent with RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i):(i). The motion was made by Director Hansen and the second was made by Director Haberman. The motion passed unanimously

The minutes for the June 8, 2021 Board Meeting were approved with a motion made by Director Bland, the second was made by Director Haberman. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Water Master Report: As of July 13, the five reservoirs are at 91% capacity which is 109.0% of average. The KRD diversion is at 1108 cfs. There has been no measurable precipitation at the reservoirs from July 1 to date. Precipitation for the Water Year to date is 214.77 inches, or 100% of average. The latest projection is showing that the KRD will receive 100% of entitlement. Storage Control began on June 30. The canal has been running at capacity and rationing the water based on acreage. If drought funding becomes available, it was noted that KRD would be eligible.

Maintenance Report: KRD crews have completed work on the Big Creek Bridge and are currently working on the Cooke Creek Bridge. Spray crews are working through the district for a second time. There is also a crew weed eating and clearing the areas around weir pools and gauges. The Gravity Lateral is being treated for aquatic weeds. There were several power outages last month affecting operations at the pumping plant. KRD employees were able to modify the drive system on the automated screens and hooked trash pumps to the spray bars to manually operate the screens until power was restored. Catlin Electric will be installing a switch for a generator to power the automated screens and gates during future outages.

The system is operating at maximum capacity. There was a small hole that developed on the Pump Lateral, down-stream from Silica Rd. Water was diverted for a short time while the repair was made.

Secretary Manager's Activity Report: Legal Counsel Slothower summarized the current Covid Restrictions based on the latest Governor Order and the Department of Labor and Industries regulations. The current restrictions allow businesses to choose to remain closed or open to the public. If subjects are vaccinated, they have the ability to enter without a mask, if they are unvaccinated, they are required to wear a mask. Employees do not need to wear a mask while working outside. Employers are responsible for requiring the attestation of proof of vaccination. The KRD has chosen to leave the office closed to the public, by appointment only. There will be a sign posted on the door that specifies if a subject is vaccinated, they are allowed to enter the office without a mask, otherwise they are required to wear a mask at all times while in the building. The employees will be required to sign a document stating their vaccination status. Legal Counsel Slothower reiterated that this is a rather fluid subject and it is very likely that the restrictions will continue to fluctuate as time goes on.

Mr. Eberhart reported that the infrastructure bill now includes irrigation water infrastructure funding that resulted from the list of requests from the KRD and multiple other water organizations for approximately \$8.3 billion dollars over the course of the next 5 years. The board agreed to send a support letter to the Senate Leadership.

Multiple agriculture and water groups in Washington, Oregon and Idaho support the nomination of Paul Arrington as the primary and Mr. Eberhart as an alternate on the Integration/Recommendations Group of the Columbia Basin Collaborative. represent. The board supported the positions.

Mr. Eberhart gave a presentation to a Central Washington University Field Class on the Taneum Managed Aquifer Recharge Program on June 22.

The Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Team gave a briefing to the Washington members of the Power Planning Council on June 23. The Yakima Basin Integrated Plan will give a similar presentation to the full council in the future.

Trout Unlimited Washington Water Project Director Lisa Pelly and Mr. Eberhart presented a briefing to the Deschutes Watershed Group on June 28. The emphasis of the briefing was the process that the Yakima Integrated Plan went through to achieve success.

On June 28, there was a meeting on the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Adaptive Management Process discussing new projects that could be included in the Integrated Plan. The Springwood Upper Yakima System Storage could be one of these projects.

Director's Haberman and Swanson participated in the Audit Entrance Meeting on June 30. The audit is well underway at this point. There hasn't been anything that has been brought to the attention of the KRD to date. The completion of the audit is not expected for several weeks.

Mr. Eberhart participated in the video production on the Taneum for the Nature Conservancy. The 3-4 minute video is intended to be presented to several congress members and the general public at a future date.

The Bloomberg News published a National article on July 7 on climate resiliency and mentioned the water storage and other work that the KRD is doing in conjunction with the Yakima River Basin Integrated Plan.

The Kittitas County Joint Control Board No. 1 met on July 13.

Mr. Eberhart has been working with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) on funding opportunities through the Appropriations and Infrastructure Programs. Together, they will be working on a 10-year plan for KRD infrastructure budgeting purposes.

The Easton Bull Trout Facility Proposal has been successfully moved through Senator Murray Office and is now in the US Senate Appropriations Committee. Both the Daily Record article on Bull Trout and the Bloomberg Press Article were sent to the congressional offices.

There were several trespassing issues on KRD right of way that came up in the last month. A wood structure was located off of Upper Peoh Point Road. The landowners were contacted and agreed to the removal. A letter was mailed to a landowner regarding recreational use occurring on KRD right of way off of Vanderbilt Road.

The Cle Elum Siphon Inlet area was recently surveyed. The area is currently being used by several residents as an access to their property. Since all of the residents have alternative access and the area has significant safety concerns the KRD will likely be terminating the crossing permits.

Landowner Gaylon Rogers received the letter from the KRD regarding his concern of flooding. The landowner stated he was unaware that the property in question was on

KRD right-of-way. Legal Counsel Slothower reiterated that the board will need to decide how to move forward on this issue since the fence is impeding the ability for KRD to clean out the ditches.

The Yakima Basin Focused Managed Aquifer Recharge Assessment was amended for an additional \$15,000.

Approval has been given to allow the Upper Yakima System Storage (UYSS) Phase II to move to the next phase.

The Reclamation Water Marketing grant was extended through next year. A substantial report is being prepared. The Department of Ecology (DOE) continues to explore trust water programs.

Project Updates: The North Branch Lining Above Johnson is proceeding with the historical and cultural work. The design work is being done on the portion between Stevens Road and I-90. This is in preparation for congressional funding.

The final pay request has been completed for the South Branch Phase II Robinson Siphon to MP 10.4 Piping Project. The notice of completion is pending until the contractor submits some additional paperwork. There was some funding that was awarded by DOE from the last session and the KRD will be working with USBR to attempt to acquire additional funding to continue the piping.

There is funding available to continue the South Branch Canal Lining. The KRD is attempting to acquire additional funding to complete Phase 1.

Treasurer's Report: The Directors' monthly payroll vouchers were presented for signatures. Summary Vouchers for the June 2021 expenses and payroll which included check numbers 45323-45397, direct deposit numbers 9902177 through 9902195 in the sum of \$1,407,806.29 were approved with a motion made by Director Bland. The second was made by Director Hansen, the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: Legal Counsel Slothower stated that there are 2 properties that are currently on the foreclosure list. One of the landowners have been in contact with the KRD and we are reasonably certain that we will be able to collect the assessments, interest and legal fees for that property. There has not been any contact made with the second property owner and it appears that property will be on the county property tax foreclosure list as well.

The invitation to bid for a 2019 John Deere Excavator is complete. The only submission to the bid invitation was Pape Machinery, Inc. Director Hansen made a motion to enter into a 48-month lease for the excavator. A second was made by Director Haberman, the motion passed unanimously.

New Business: Trout Unlimited contacted the KRD regarding some High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Pipe that they want to sell. There is an area that the pipe can be used within the KRD system. The pipe would need to be transported. There is approximately 1,700 feet of piping that is \$5.00 per foot. Director Haberman made a motion to purchase the pipe. A second was made by Director Swanson, the motion passed unanimously.

There was an extensive conversation about the repayment process for the Kachess Dam Safety Project. 15% of the project costs will be covered by the users. The KRD portion of the expenses will be approximately \$2 million. Further information will be forthcoming as the user group explores repayment options.

Other Business: The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 2:23 p.m. for 10 minutes per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i):(i) there was a motion made by Director Haberman and a second made by Director Bland. The motion passed unanimously. The Board returned to Regular Session at 2:33 p.m. with a motion made by Director Haberman, and the second was made by Director Hansen. The motion passed unanimously.

All business having been concluded the meeting was adjourned.

Mr. Schnebly KRD Board of Directors Chairman

Mr. Eberhart KRD Secretary Manager