

Office of the Secretary Manager
Kittitas Reclamation District Board of Directors Meeting
March 11, 2021 Minutes

The Board of Directors of the Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) met in Regular Session on March 11, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. Attending the meeting via conference call, were Division Three Director and Chairman Fred Schnebly, Division One Director and Vice Chairman Mark Hansen, Division Four Director Larry Bland, Division Five Director Brad Haberman, Division Two Director Sherry Swanson, Secretary Manager Urban Eberhart, Assistant Manager Kevin Eslinger, Treasurer Stacy Berg, GIS Specialist Roger Satnik, and 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) and RCW 42.30.110(1)(b). The motion was made by Director Bland and the second was made by Director Hansen. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes for the February 9, 2021 Board Meeting were approved with a motion made by Director Bland, the second was made by Director Swanson. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Water Master Report: As of March 10, the five reservoirs are at 61% capacity which is 108% of average. Precipitation at the reservoirs from March 1 to date is .70 inches, or 12% of average. Precipitation for the Water Year to date is 185.60 inches, or 111% of average. The Snotel Sites for the Upper Yakima are reporting 120% of average and the Lower Yakima Basin Sites are reporting 122% of average.

Maintenance Report: Two excavators are cleaning the North Branch Canal and will be moving to the Gravity Lateral next. There are backhoes working on Rides 1, 2, and 5. Two burn crews are working on rides 5 and 4. The Rope Crew will begin work again on the Yakima Siphon starting on March 22. The maintenance crews are working on the PRV valves and closing pipe drains in preparation for the water delivery season. Matheson painting is expected to start crack sealing by the end of the month in the Tillman area.

Secretary Manager's Activity Report: The KRD continues to follow the Governor's Order for COVID. Director Haberman made a motion to continue the

Emergency COVID status and follow the social distancing requirements and the office will remain closed to the public. A second was made by Director Bland, the motion passed unanimously.

KRD is participating in a western state Water Infrastructure Committee. The initial goal is to identify the extent of the need for irrigation water infrastructure funding. The Yakima Basin Project list has over 1 Billion dollars of projects that could be started within the next five years. The list is being prioritized and will then be sent to the legislators to continue the process.

The Washington State Water Resource Association (WSWRA) legislative election bill is now in the Senate. The WSWRA board members will be making individual contact to our representatives to emphasize the importance of the bill.

The Family Farm Alliance 2021 Virtual Meeting was held on February 18 & 19. There was a significant amount of valuable information that was presented at the meeting and the attendees were thanked for making the time to attend.

On February 24, the Columbia Basin Collaborative Organizational Workshop will be meeting. This meeting will be the beginning of the next iteration of the Columbia Basin Partnership. It is a collaborative process put together by the governors of the 4 major Columbia River states. This new collaborative process is building on the National Marine Fisheries Columbia Basin Partnership work to plan for the future of the Columbia River System with broad based indigenous and stakeholder representation.

Treasurer Berg attended a Washington Finance Officer's Association (WFOA) BARS Accounting Update Class on February 25. The class was an annual update to address changes in the auditing and year-end financial report.

The Washington, British Columbia and Montana chapters of the American Fisheries Society met for their annual meeting on March 1. Mr. Eberhart participated in a panel discussion to this group.

The 2021 KRD Equipment Rates were presented to the board. Director Swanson made a motion to accept the current equipment rates and have them reassessed annually. A second was made by Director Haberman, the motion passed unanimously.

Legal Counsel Slothower presented the Kittitas County Joint Control Board No. 1 (KCJB) – Interlocal Agreement for Water Management and Conservation Services. There was a discussion regarding the preparation process that went into preparing the document. The West Side Irrigating Company Board accepted the agreement after their legal counsel reviewed the document and suggested some minor edits. The Kittitas County Joint Control Board Members have agreed to the scope of work. As work is completed and invoices are paid through KRD, the KRD will then invoice the KCJB who will then invoice West Side Irrigating Company for payment. The intent behind this agreement is, that it's a starting point and it may be adjusted if needed as time goes by. Director compensation was also discussed and it was agreed that a resolution would be presented to the KCJB to resolve the issue and to remain in compliance with the legal requirements. Director Bland made a motion to approve the Kittitas County Joint Control Board No. 1 Interlocal Agreement for Water Management and Conservation Services. A second was made by Director Haberman, the motion passed unanimously.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 8:27 a.m. for 20 minutes per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i):(i) and RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) there was a motion made by Director Hansen and a second made by Director Bland. The motion passed unanimously. The Board returned to Regular Session at 8:47 a.m. with a motion made by Director Haberman, and the second was made by Director Swanson. The motion passed unanimously.

On March 30, the KRD will host the Tributary Supplementation Program Annual Meeting. The participants will report on the previous year activities and make plans for the upcoming year. The United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) representatives will also be attending the meeting.

Mr. Eberhart will be working with Lobbyist Mark Limbaugh to prepare for the virtual DC Meetings on March 15-18.

The Yakima Basin Focused Managed Aquifer Recharge Assessment is ongoing. Mr. Eberhart expressed his appreciation to the board for approving Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. WRYBIP-1921-KittRD-00017 between Department of Ecology and KRD. Drillers are setting up equipment to commence drilling on Taneum Creek. Mr. Eberhart explained that two weeks ago, KRD found out that even though the drilling was scheduled to begin, President Biden had established a moratorium to halt all ground disturbing activity on all federal property in the United States. This would have eliminated the scheduling slot for this project. Mr. Eberhart worked with the USBR and Interior to obtain a waiver. The waiver of the

Presidential Order was quickly granted to the KRD, this allowed the project to continue as scheduled.

Director Haberman made a motion to accept the Water Marketing – Contract Extension with \$10,034.00 Increase. A second was made by Director Bland, the motion passed unanimously.

Field Supervisor Main explained that after advertising for temporary employment there were no applicants who applied for the positions. After speaking to other agriculture employers in the area it was determined that the labor pool is getting paid an average of \$17.00 per hour. Director Bland made a motion to increase the temporary employment rate to \$16.00 per hour. A second was made by Director Haberman, the motion passed unanimously.

The Kittitas County Water Purveyors (KCWP) 2021 Contribution Agreements for Bull Canal, Matthew Cox, Packwood Canal Company, Olson Ditch, and Charlton Farms were presented. Director Swanson made a motion to approve the agreements. A second was made by Director Haberman, the motion passed unanimously.

Project Updates: A walk through to inspect the welds on pipes for the South Branch Phase II Robinson Siphon to MP 10.4 Piping Project is forthcoming. The rock work, intake and outtake structures are complete. There is some additional grade work that needs to be done. The project is expected to be operational by next week.

Treasurer's Report: The Directors' monthly payroll vouchers were presented for signatures. Summary Vouchers for the February 2021 expenses and payroll which included check numbers 44982-45052, direct deposit numbers 9902088 through 9902102 in the sum of \$857,991.75 were approved with a motion made by Director Swanson. The second was made by Director Bland, the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: Legal Counsel made some clarifying changes to Resolution 2101-01 after the last board meeting. Director Hansen made a motion to approve the Kachess Repayment Resolution 2021-01. A second was made by Director Swanson, the motion passed unanimously.

New Business: A request for a new turnout was submitted for the North Branch. The board had a lengthy discussion regarding the request and the process in which

it would take to fulfill the request. Director Swanson recused herself from the conversation since she has been working with the land owner through the Kittitas County Conservation District. The primary concern was the proximity of the potential turnout to the upper bay of the pumping plant and how the KRD personnel could regulate the sensitive water level when an irrigation system is turning on and off while irrigating. Due to operational reasons and the very limited capacity of the system, the board determined that it would be best to work with the landowner to find an alternative. The land owner will be contacted to advise them that the KRD is unable to support the request.

Director Hansen made a motion to approve the WaterSmart Small Efficiencies Resolution 2021-04, which allows for 4 new gauge stations on the North Branch. A second was made by Director Swanson, the motion passed unanimously.

Other Business: All business having been concluded the meeting was adjourned.

Mr. Schnebly KRD Board of Directors Chairman

Mr. Eberhart KRD Secretary Manager