

Office of the Secretary Manager
Kittitas Reclamation District Board of Directors Meeting
September 14, 2021 Minutes

The Board of Directors of the Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) met in Regular Session on September 14, 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, Field Supervisor Bob Main, Treasurer Stacy Berg, GIS Specialist Roger Satnik, Construction Supervisor Robby Main, Legal Counsel Jeff Slothower and land owners Kyle Kennedy and Mark Charlton.

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

The minutes for the August 3, 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: Landowner Kyle Kennedy had a lengthy discussion with the KRD Board regarding the Cle Elum Siphon Resolution and how it affected his property. He requested the Board reconsider their stance on the subject and allow him to retain the previous access to his property through the KRD right-of-way. After hearing the land owner out, Mr. Eberhart made a recommendation of a gate installation as well as possibly clearing some trees and for moving the access road further away from the canal. The improvements would allow for greater safety while still allowing Mr. Kennedy to use an access road to get to his property. The KRD is working with a surveying company to assess the area and will report back to the board at the next meeting. The Board chose to table the conversation until the next meeting when they have more information.

Water Master Report: As of September 14, the five reservoirs are at 40% capacity which is 109.8% of average. The KRD diversion is at 1129 cfs. The inflows are at 586 and the releases are at 3,715 of average. There has been no measurable precipitation at the reservoirs from September 1 to date. Precipitation for the Water Year to date is 216.57 inches, or 97% of average. Water is expected to stay on until mid-October.

Maintenance Report: The fall spraying program is in effect, mowing continues, maintenance crews are working on bridge repairs and preparing for fall maintenance.

Secretary Manager's Activity Report: Mr. Eberhart reported that with the current status of Covid, the office has remained open by appointment only. If subjects are vaccinated, they are not required to wear a mask. A Covid Attestation Form has been drafted for the staff to verify vaccination.

On September 13, at approximately 6:18 pm, a report came in of smoke coming from the KRD Shop. Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue Personnel as well as KRD personnel responded to the property. As a precautionary measure, KRD personnel moved selective maps and documents outside of the office for the night. Several vehicles in the side yard were relocated to a safer area for the night. There were KVFR personnel on site throughout the night at the shop. There were no injuries associated with this event.

It is expected that the shop will be out of service for at least 8 months as it is being repaired. KRD personnel will be working in conjunction with the insurance company adjuster, investigators and the fire department as the equipment is evaluated and possibly salvaged. Director Haberman suggested that in the future we purchase a fire safe for critical documents. Legal Counsel Slothower also suggested that the KRD work with the fire department to establish a fire safe plan.

There were Water Resources Advisory Committee Meetings on August 9 and September 13, with Department of Ecology (DOE) focusing on the Trust Water Rights Program and the public outreach.

On August 22, Mr. Eberhart conducted a Reclamation Tour in Easton. In attendance were the Chief Financial Officer from the USBR WA D.C. Office along with the new examiner of the USBR from the Office of Management and Budget, also from WA D.C. The tour provided a unique opportunity for the KRD to provide an overview of the system and how it is expected to operate in the future. The attendees followed up with a larger group the following day to tour various USBR locations.

Washington State Yakima Basin Joint Board Lobbyist Isaac Kastama was given a tour on August 25 of the KRD system.

The United State Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) had a virtual briefing and forum on the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (YBIP) on September 8. In attendance were several management level employees from USFWS who were able to hear the importance of the work that is being done through YBIP.

Mr. Eberhart will meet with other districts at the Quarterly Tri-State Meeting on September 17.

On September 19, Mr. Eberhart and Paul Ward will be presenting for a University of Washington Group.

Mr. Eberhart and Brady Kent from the Yakama Nation, will be presenting to the PUD Association Water Workshop on September 23.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Snowpack and Alluvial Floodplain Research Group will give a presentation on September 27. The primary focus of the presentation will be on snow pack and ground water storage possibilities.

Roza Irrigation District Manager, Scott Ravel and Mr. Eberhart will be presenting to the Legislative Drought Committee on September 29.

On August 16, the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force Exit Interview provided an opportunity for Mr. Eberhart to comment on the process.

Paul Arrington and Mr. Eberhart were selected to represent the Columbia Basin Collaborative Integration/Recommendations Group for the River Economies.

Yakima Basin Focused Managed Aquifer Recharge Assessment is now focusing on funding opportunities for future phases of the project.

The Appropriations and Infrastructure Bill is currently held up in the U.S. House of Representatives. If the bill is approved, there is expected to be a more prolific funding opportunity for the KRD and the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Partners to utilize.

The Upper Yakima System Storage (UYSS) Phase II project is continuing. There has been a presentation given on one of the storage projects with the project goal to have at least 20,000 acre feet of new water storage available by Spring 2031.

Trout Unlimited continues to work on public outreach for the Water Marketing project.

The KRD is working in conjunction with the Joint Board to draft a letter to submit to the USBR regarding the billing for the Kachess Dam Safety Project & Reclamation's O&M Cost Distribution. There is believed to be a calculation error in how the USBR computes the water usage for the irrigation district. Further information will be forthcoming.

Recently there was an incident in the upper county when a resident jumped into the canal to rescue his dog. The location of this incident is a particularly dangerous stretch of the system and although there were no serious injuries to the person the KRD has elected to emphasize the dangers over radio advertisements and social media public service announcements. In addition to the media releases, the KRD will be meeting with user agencies to revisit the trespassing and right-of-way issues. Director Haberman mentioned that he has seen some of the advertisements being distributed. Director Swanson asked if it was possible to cross post the advertisements on user agency social media sites as well. It was confirmed that this is being done currently.

Project Updates: The Notice to Proceed was submitted for the Turbine Lateral Piping Project.

The North Branch SCADA WaterSmart Grant for telemetry on the North Branch was presented in the amount of \$61,476.

The South Branch Phase I Canal Lining Reach 4 and Reach 5 will be revisited at the next board meeting. Due to some recent changes, it was not ready for the board to review Change Order #7.

A Notice of Completion was filed for the South Branch Phase II Robinson Siphon to MP 10.4 Piping Project.

Director Bland made a motion to approve the South Branch Phase II Piping Project R21AP10329-00 that totals \$6,031,071 which will be granted over several years. Currently there are \$50,000 that have been initially issued to the KRD through this funding source. A second was made by Director Swanson, the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: The Directors' monthly payroll vouchers were presented for signatures. Summary Vouchers for the August 2021 expenses and payroll which

included check numbers 45483-45554, direct deposit numbers 9902223 through 9902241 in the sum of \$357,610.89 were approved with a motion made by Director Swanson. The second was made by Director Bland, the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: Legal Counsel Slothower advised the board that the 2021 Foreclosure List is reduced to one land owner. At this point, there is no indication that the subjects will be paying and the process will move forward to litigation.

In addition to the public comment regarding public safety on the KRD right-of-way, Mr. Eberhart and Construction Supervisor Robby Main met with another land owner in the area of the Cle Elum Siphon Inlet. The subject was tabled until the next meeting when further details will be available.

There has been extensive research done on the Sunlight Waters Twin Lakes Bridge which is part of the Sunlight Waters Development in which the bridge crosses over the KRD canal. It was determined that the bridge is a farm bridge that was put in prior to the development of Sunlight Waters and is the responsibility of the development to maintain. The KRD did some initial analysis with Jacobs Engineering to determine the weight limit of the bridge which was a 5-ton limit on a single axle vehicle. Jacobs Engineering agreed to re-evaluate the analysis however it was emphasized that the updates and maintenance of the bridge is the responsibility of the Sunlight Waters Development. The KRD will continue to work with the Sunlight Waters Development as they navigate this process.

New Business: Director Swanson made a motion to approve the SPRAT Facility Lease Renewal for a monthly fee of \$1,300. A second was made by Director Haberman, the motion passed unanimously.

A collaborative effort by various legal teams, Jacobs Engineering and the KRD have developed Resolution 2021-07 KRD SEPA which is an outline to establish a SEPA process. Director Haberman made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-07 KRD SEPA. A second was made by Director Bland, the motion passed unanimously.

Other Business: The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 2:24 p.m. for 20 minutes per RCW 42.30.110(b), RCW 42.30.110(1)(c), and RCW 42.30.110(1)(i):(i) there was a motion made by Director Hansen and a second made by Director Swanson. The motion passed unanimously. The Board returned

to Regular Session at 2:44 p.m. with a motion made by Director Haberman, and the second was made by Director Swanson. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Haberman made a motion to authorize the emergency declaration for KRD Management to make decisions with the recommendation of legal counsel as the KRD moves through the process to continue business and rebuild the shop after the fire. A 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