

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
SOUTH COLUMBIA BASIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

May 11, 2023 Pasco, Washington

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District (SCBID) was called to order by Director Balcom at 9:00 a.m. on May 11, 2023. Those in attendance were:

OFFICERS AND STAFF

Maury Balcom	John O'Callaghan, Secretary/Manager
Richard Conrad	Kellie Pierson-Geddes, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
Charles Lyall	Eric Dixon, Assistant Manager
JJ Danz	Brian Scott, Chief Engineer
Jared Balcom	Terrie Chambers, Executive Assistant
	Larry Martin, Attorney Halverson Northwest

OTHERS

Amy Rodman, United States Bureau of Reclamation
Jacob Heinen, New Horizon Farms, Inc.
Burl Booker

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 13, 2023, regular meeting were presented for Board approval. Director Lyall moved to approve the minutes as presented. Director Danz seconded the motion and it carried.

FINANCE AND BUDGET

Treasurer Pierson-Geddes reviewed the summary of investments and the April month-end financial statements.

Secretary/Manager O'Callaghan reviewed the budget for April 2023.

Treasurer Pierson-Geddes presented the following vouchers for Board consideration:

Investments	
Electronic funds transfer 102104 and 102119	\$1,760,302.05
Check Nos. 219098 through 219216	\$8,395.79



Monthly Expenditures	
Electronic funds transfer 102103 through 102118	\$385,993.87
Check Nos. 219061 through 219248	\$2,170,307.21
Payroll	
Electronic funds transfers to employee accounts and	
Check Nos. 29412 through 29416	\$457,305.10

Treasurer Pierson-Geddes recommended approval. Director Lyall moved to approve the vouchers as presented. Director J. Balcom seconded the motion and it carried.

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY

Secretary/Manager O’Callaghan presented the Columbia Basin Hydropower Reserved Works Power Operations 2023 First Quarter Operation and Maintenance (O&M) billing to the three Districts for RDS and EB4.6 Power Plants in the amount of \$331,386.00. SCBID’s portion is \$100,045.00. There was discussion among the Board. Future agenda packets will include an accounting of expenses and revenue. Director J. Balcom moved to authorize the payment as presented. Director Conrad seconded the motion and it carried.

WATER SERVICE CONTRACTS

Secretary/Manager O’Callaghan presented the following water service contracts for cancellation and renewal:

Waste, Seepage & Return Flow WSC #306, Finkbeiner Family Land LLC, 300 acre-feet

Director J. Balcom moved to approve the cancellations and renewals of Water Service Contracts #306 as presented. Director Lyall seconded the motion and it carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Pierson-Geddes reported on the following projects:

Water Ordering Software – Updates to the water ordering portal were completed. Geographical Information Systems Coordinator Scott updated all the District iPads and provided training to the field staff.

General – Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Pierson-Geddes participated in the Washington State Water Resources legislative calls and the Family Farm Alliance board meeting. Work continues on the 2022 financial statements which will be submitted to the Washington State Auditor’s Office on or before May 30, 2023.



Investments – Two certificates of deposit (CD) matured in April. The Luther Burbank Savings CD was renewed for 13 months at 5%. The Yakima Federal Savings and Loan CD was renewed for 6 months at 4%. Funds received in April were invested in two United States Treasury Bills and one United States Treasury Note.

Upgrades - Assura upgrades are progressing. The Springbrook update took place on April 17th. The payroll module is being updated. Software issues and training needs are being addressed. Public Records Request – The District received two public records requests. Kennewick Irrigation District requested the District wage scale. The law office of Ray Quinney & Nebeker P.C. requested assessment information for parcels owned by three entities.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Chief Engineer Scott reported on the following topics:

The District Engineers have been working on as-built drawings for the work completed last fall. Design and contract drafting for projects planned for this fall are in progress.

Hydrologist Kildall is working on compiling data and drafting a grant application to Bonneville Power Association (BPA) for additional automatic gates and potential small and short pipeline projects in conjunction with the automatic gates.

The District received additional grant funding from the BPA Energy Smart Reserve Power Program. The funds will be used for additional flow meters and associated hardware at District pumping plants. The District is procuring materials and planning the installation.

Chief Engineer Scott met with Rubicon Water to discuss options for piping and automation in Burbank. Grant opportunities are being reviewed for the projects.

PERMITS

Chief Engineer Scott presented the following permits for Board consideration:

BLOCK/ FARM UNIT	APPLICANT/ LANDOWNER	PERMIT REQUESTED	FEE
Block 17	Port of Pasco	Service Crossing	\$250
15/113	Seth McGary	Encroachment	\$50
16/199	David & Angie Monterola	Driveway Crossing	\$250



Chief Engineer Scott advised that the permits met all District requirements, there were no further operations or maintenance concerns to be considered and recommended approval by the Board. Director Conrad moved to approve the permits as presented. Director Danz seconded the motion and it carried.

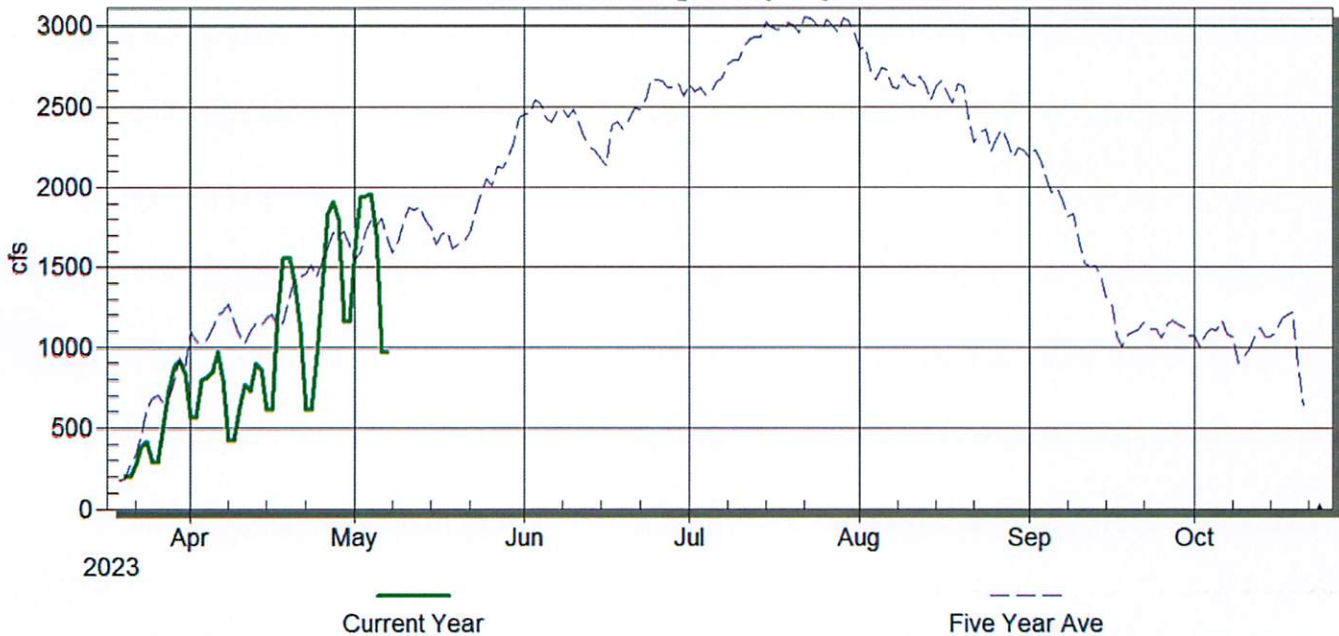
OPERATIONS REPORT

Assistant Manager Dixon reported on the following topics: The elevation of the Potholes Reservoir is 1044.8 feet (416,700 acre-feet active storage) as of May 8, 2023. Potholes Canal Discharge at O’Sullivan Dam was 1800 cubic feet per second (CFS). Potholes Canal Discharge at Scooteny Outlet was 920 CFS. Wahluke Branch Canal Diversion was 780 CFS.

There have been 1,270 acres sprayed to date. Mowing has not begun.

2023 POTHOLES CANAL FARM DELIVERIES

Plot for week ending Monday, May 8, 2023



Eltopia - Crews have been graveling roads. The PPL1.6 pumping plant has been started up and the old weed raker and bar racks have been removed. An upgraded traveling weed screen with bubble cleaner has been installed. A leak at the BP3 Pumping Plant discharge line required the pumps to be shut down for one night. The leak was welded up. The discharge line will be evaluated for future replacement. Crews have been trying out a walk-n-roll motor grader-mounted compactor to see if it would be useful for O&M road maintenance. This is a unit similar to what the county uses on its graders.



Mesa - Crews have been graveling roads, hauling spoil, and doing general maintenance. The expenses for the installation of the Rubicon gates at the EL85 headworks have been submitted to the Washington State Department of Ecology for reimbursement.

Wahluke – The WB5.4 pipeline is leaking at the intersection of Hendricks Road and Sagehill Road. Engineers are looking at options to either repair or replace the leaking section of the pipeline. Ditches are being cleaned.

Mattawa - The new chemical room is almost complete. Crews are hauling spoil, building weed racks, maintaining roads, and other general maintenance. Grant County Public Utility District replaced utility poles on the south side of the Wahluke Branch Canal. The new guy wires that were installed at the top of the canal embankment will be moved. Assistant Manager Dixon participated in a call with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to discuss a control structure at the outlet of the upper pond at the end of the Priest Rapids Waste Way. The structure would allow this area to be used as a holding area during chemical treatments. WDFW did not have any immediate concerns. The United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) right of way is being researched as the project moves forward.

Miscellaneous – A request for quotes for a title transfer cultural review is being prepared. A consultant will perform the review and prepare a report.

Engineers from Casne Engineering visited the Columbia Basin Project. Thursday, April 20th, was spent at East Columbia Basin Irrigation District with the communication shop personnel and touring sites in that area. The group toured sites in the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District (SCBID) on Friday, April 21st. Discussion continues between Casne Engineering and the District. An “all partners” meeting is scheduled for May 16th at SCBID.

Assistant Manager Dixon met with Columbia Basin Hydropower (CBHP) regarding a sinkhole in the switchyard at the Russell D. Smith Power Plant. The District will continue to work with CBHP on this issue.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Secretary/Manager O’Callaghan reviewed and discussed various meetings attended during the month.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Secretary/Manager O’Callaghan reviewed the May and June calendars.



USBR REPORT

USBR Ephrata Field Office Irrigation Liaison Amy Rodman reported on the following topics:

Deputy Manager Clyde Lay expressed his gratitude to the District for our participation in the bridge inspections. The Ephrata field office has rehired Jon Brooks to be the realty supervisor.

RECESS

Director Balcom called for a 10-minute recess at 10:10 A.M. The meeting reconvened at 10:20 A.M.

BURL BOOKER, BLOCK 11, UNIT 24

Water user Burl Booker discussed a flooding issue on his land located in Block 11, Unit 24. The water user who is downstream of Mr. Booker's land has installed several dams in the canal, creating an overflow that is flooding Mr. Booker's field. Solutions to the issue were discussed. Secretary/Manager O'Callaghan informed Mr. Booker that the District will investigate the situation for the most effective solution.

AUTHORIZATION TO CALL FOR BIDS

Assistant Manager Dixon requested authorization to call for bids for non-contact flow meters for the BPA Energy Smart Reserved Program Grant. The Board is in agreement. A motion was not necessary.

NWRA WESTERN WATER SEMINAR

The National Water Resource Association Western Water Seminar will take place on August 2-4 in Medora, North Dakota. There was discussion among the board.

WDFW FISH ENTRAINMENT

Secretary/Manager O'Callaghan discussed the ongoing fish entrainment study by WDFW with the board. No action was needed.

PAYNEWEST INSURANCE PROPOSAL

At the April board meeting, the board authorized Secretary/Manager O'Callaghan to sign the PayneWest insurance contract which has since been executed. The insurance contract was provided to the board.



VEHICLE PURCHASES

At the April board meeting, the board authorized Secretary/Manager O’Callaghan to approve the purchase of like-vehicles for vehicles previously approved by the board as they become available. Three such vehicles have been purchased and are being prepared for use.

COLUMBIA BASIN HYDROPOWER

There were no matters to discuss regarding Columbia Basin Hydropower.

TITLE TRANSFER

Secretary/Manager O’Callaghan updated the Board on the progress of the title transfer process. There were no public comments regarding the title transfer process.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were no matters to discuss in executive session.

OTHER BUSINESS


The Board was provided with a statement from the Booker Annual Spring Auction. The District received \$1,934.00 in restitution from Ray Garza for impacting operation of the canal system.

NEXT MEETING


The next regular meeting will be on June 8, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Director Balcom adjourned the meeting at 11:15 A.M.



John O’Callaghan, Secretary/Manager



Director Maurice Balcom, President

