

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

March 14, 2024      Pasco, Washington

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District was called to order by Director M. Balcom at 9:00 a.m. on March 14, 2024. Those in attendance were:

DIRECTORS

Maurice Balcom  
Richard Conrad  
Charles Lyall  
JJ Danz  
Jared Balcom

OFFICERS AND STAFF

John O'Callaghan, Secretary/Manager  
Kellie Pierson-Geddes, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer  
Eric Dixon, Assistant Manager  
Brian Scott, Chief Engineer  
Terrie Larson, Executive Assistant  
Larry Martin, Attorney

OTHERS

Clyde Lay, United States Bureau of Reclamation  
Mike Schwisow, Schwisow and Associates  
Amy Rodman, United States Bureau of Reclamation  
Roger Danz  
Grant Morris  
Bob Ransom

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 8, 2024, regular meeting were presented for Board approval. Director Conrad moved to approve the minutes as presented. Director Danz seconded the motion and it carried.

PE59.4 CANAL BREACH

Secretary/Manager O'Callaghan updated the Board on the cleaning and repair process for the PE59.4 canal breach. Water delivery was planned for March 13<sup>th</sup> and with the exception of the PE59.4, water deliveries are taking place as water orders are received. Block 17 will receive water when the PE59.4 extension repairs are complete. Areas of Block 18 that are provided water from the East Low Canal are also delayed due to excessive water seepage in the main canal.



FINANCE AND BUDGET

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Pierson-Geddes reviewed the summary of investments and the February 2024 month-end financial statements.

Secretary/Manager O’Callaghan reviewed the budget for February 29, 2024.

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

Investments		
Electronic funds transfer 102256 through 102266		\$4,043,836.82
Check Nos. 221383 and 221631		\$16,580.03
Monthly Expenditures		
Electronic funds transfer 102254 through 102269		\$362,475.73
Check Nos. 221302 through 221475		\$715,607.10
Payroll		
Check Nos. 29460 through 29464		
and electronic funds transfers to employee accounts		\$435,265.94

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

WATER SERVICE CONTRACTS

Secretary/Manager O’Callaghan presented and recommended approval of the following water service contract cancellations and renewals:

WSC #232	Franklin Co. Cemetery Dist. No. 2	12 Acre-Feet
WSC #350	C. Steve & Marla J. Price	29 Acre-Feet
WSC #353	Michel Living Trust	48.9 Acre-Feet

Director Conrad moved to approve the Water Service Contract Cancellations and Renewals as presented. Director Lyall seconded the motion and it carried.

AGREEMENT FOR PERMANENT RELEASE OF WATER ALLOTMENT

Secretary/Manager O’Callaghan presented and recommended approval of the following Agreements for Permanent Release of Water Allotment:

Michael J. Lye, Sr.	Parcel #003-039-002-03260-0	12 Acre-Feet
Pro Made Construction	Parcel #001-099-005-03400-0	210.45 Acre-Feet
William Dean Cooper	Parcel #002-005-000-03230-0	4 Acre-Feet
William Dean Cooper	Parcel #002-005-000-03235-0	2.12 Acre-Feet

Director Conrad moved to approve the Agreements for Permanent Release of Water Allotment as presented. Director Lyall seconded the motion and it carried.

### CONSENT FOR WATER DELIVERY CHANGES

Secretary/Manager O'Callaghan presented and recommended approval of the following Consent for Water Delivery Changes:

Bellflower Farms, LLC. - WB5 STA 450+00 LT to WB5 STA 448+03 +/- LT

Director Conrad moved to approve the Consent for Water Delivery Changes as presented. Director Lyall seconded the motion and it carried.

### RESOLUTION S-24-10

Secretary/Manager O'Callaghan presented and recommended the adoption of Resolution S-24-10 Approval of a Consent to Build a Warehouse. Director Danz moved to adopt Resolution S-24-10 which is an approval of consent for Jonathan and Sara Bauman to build a warehouse on a portion of the easement for the PE47Q3 in Block 15, Farm Unit 119. Director J. Balcom seconded the motion and it carried.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Reclamation Reform Act reports are being generated through the water ordering portal (Storm). Water users are continuing to sign up for Storm, utilizing the computer located at the front counter. GIS Coordinator Scott has updated the operating systems and the Storm mobile application on District iPads.

The Washington State Auditor's Office (SAO) exit conference took place and the exit conference documents have been emailed to the Directors.

Mr. Najera contacted the District office to make payment arrangements for his account in foreclosure. The first payment was received. Mr. Najera has been notified that the balance must be paid in full before he is eligible to receive water and if payments cease, the foreclosure proceedings will continue.

2023 financial statements are in progress. Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Pierson-Geddes participated in the WSWRA Legislative calls, an SAO webinar, the Family Farm Alliance Annual Conference, and the Columbia Basin Hydropower board meeting.

Funds were invested into the Local Government Investment Pool, United States Treasury Bills and Notes. After receiving the SAO Bank Analysis, certificate of deposit rates were reviewed.

Steve Wolf submitted a public records request for water delivery reports on Block 15, Unit 204 for 2015-2023.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Chief Engineer Scott reported the status of the following projects:

Grant application for The United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) WaterSMART grant application has been submitted. Award recipients will be announced in July. Engineers managed the remainder of the fieldwork and construction and will be preparing as-built drawings. Project plans for 2024 are being reviewed and designs will begin.

The Block 24 valve replacement project and the lower Scootene Pump manifold replacement project are complete. Potholes East Canal (PEC) headworks repairs are complete.

The final two Rubicon gates will be completed this week. Once the water season begins, water saving data will be tracked and provided to Bonneville Power Association by mid-summer.

Engineers assisted with the damage assessment from the washout of the PEC and the PE59.4 on March 7<sup>th</sup>. They assessed damage and supported contract drafting and contractor oversight for the structures that need to be rebuilt. We have surveyed and staked the centerline of the canal for rebuilding and will continue to support the field crews with this rebuild effort.

PERMITS

Chief Engineer Scott presented the following permits for Board consideration:

BLOCK/ FARM UNIT	APPLICANT/LANDOWNER	PERMIT REQUESTED	FEE
11/1	Ryan Perry	Encroachment	\$50
11/55	Patrick Laughlin	Convenience Turnout	\$350
16/286	Jed Pauley	Encroachment	\$50
17/49	Muzzy Construction	Yard Water	\$350
17/49	Muzzy Construction	Yard Water	\$350
16/342	Steve Smillie	Culvert Crossing	\$50

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 status of the following topics:

The elevation of the Potholes Reservoir was 1043.6 (385,200 acre-feet active storage). Potholes East Canal discharge at O’Sullivan Dam was 800 cubic feet per second (CFS). Potholes Canal discharge at Scooteny Outlet was 280 CFS. Wahluke Branch Canal diversion was 430 CFS.

Priming is taking place throughout the District. A leaking gasket was discovered in the piped siphon of the Eltopia Branch Canal extension under the railroad tracks just south of Eltopia. A sinkhole developed approximately 20 feet away. Repairs have been completed. The area will be reinspected after the current water season.

The Scooteny power line has been repaired and re-energized without issue.

The City of Pasco is moving forward on a Municipal and Industrial (M&I) station. USBR has sent a draft M&I contract to the City.

The Wahluke Watermaster (WM) Chuck Eagy is retiring at the end of the month. Assistant WM Cochran will be promoted to WM. Interviews for a new Assistant WM are taking place. A selection will be made before the end of the month.

RECESS

Director M. Balcom called for a 10-minute recess at 10:40 A.M. The meeting reconvened at 10:50 A.M.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Secretary/Manager O’Callaghan reported on events since the February board meeting which included various meetings he attended and upcoming events.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Secretary/Manager O’Callaghan reviewed the March and April calendars.

USBR REPORT

Ephrata Field Office Deputy Manager Clyde Lay reported on the progress of the excessive seepage at the Main Canal below Pinto Dam.

2024 WINTER POOL HERBICIDE BID PURCHASE

Assistant Manager Dixon presented the pricing for the 2024 winter herbicide pool and recommended approval. Director Danz moved to approve the purchase of 19,000 pounds of Copper Sulfate Crystals from Cygnet Enterprises for \$2.045 per pound for a total price of

\$38,855 and 550 gallons of Captain XTR from Helena for \$32.74 per gallon for the total purchase price of \$18,007.00. The price includes delivery but does not include sales tax. Director J. Balcom seconded the motion and it carried.

#### AUTHORIZATION TO PAY

At the August 2022 Board meeting, Mr. Dennis Nipper addressed the Board regarding the PE38.9 siphon crossing on his land. The District was requiring Mr. Nipper to put in a hardened crossing where the access to a newly built house crosses over the District operation and maintenance road. Mr. Nipper disagreed that the \$5000 anticipated financial burden falls on him. The Board authorized the District to pay half of the expense of the crossing up to \$2750.00. Mr. Nipper provided receipts that totaled \$2,838.44 to complete the crossing. Director Conrad moved to authorize payment of \$1,419.22 according to the agreement. Director J. Balcom seconded the motion and it carried.

#### TERRESTRIAL HERBICIDE APPLICATION CONTRACT

The lowest quote for the Terrestrial Herbicide Application Contract was received from Woodland Resource Services in the amount of \$11,891.00. Director Danz suggested expanding the spray area for 2025. Director Conrad moved to authorize the contract with Woodland Resource Services, Inc. in the amount of \$11,891.00 for the Terrestrial Herbicide Application Contract. Director Danz seconded the motion and it carried.

#### DIVERSION RATE UPDATE

Secretary/Manager O'Callaghan updated the Board on the progress of the diversion rate meetings.

#### CBP WATER RIGHTS

There were no matters to discuss.

#### COLUMBIA BASIN HYDROPOWER

There were no matters to discuss.

#### TITLE TRANSFER

Assistant Manager Dixon updated the board on the progress of the title transfer process.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public in attendance.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to discuss.

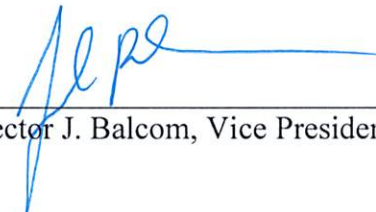
NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, April 4th, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Director M. Balcom adjourned the meeting at 12:12 P.M.

  
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John O'Callaghan, Secretary/Manager

  
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Director J. Balcom, Vice President