

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

September 7, 2023 Pasco, Washington

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District was called to order by Director J. Balcom at 9:00 a.m. on September 7, 2023. Those in attendance were:

OFFICERS AND STAFF

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

OTHERS

Clyde Lay, United States Bureau of Reclamation
Jacob Heinen, New Horizon Farms, Inc.
Jacob Taylor, Columbia Basin Hydropower
Anna Franz, Law Offices of Kenison Franz

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The August 10th, 2023 regular meeting minutes were presented for Board approval. Director Danz moved to approve the minutes as presented. Director M. Balcom seconded the motion and it carried.

FINANCE AND BUDGET

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

Secretary/Manager O’Callaghan reviewed the budget for August 31, 2023.

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

Monthly Expenditures

Electronic funds transfer 102156 through 102171	\$373,859.35
Check Nos. 219812 through 220036	\$1,481,374.87



Payroll

Check Nos. 29432 through 29436
and electronic funds transfers to employee accounts \$459,911.10

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

RESOLUTION S-23-19 SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

Purchasing & Facilities Supervisor Johnson presented Resolution S-23-19 Surplus Equipment to the Board. The equipment included in the resolution is not necessary to the operation of the District and will be sold at auction to the highest bidder. Director M. Balcom moved to approve Resolution S-23-19. Director Danz seconded the motion and it carried.

BIDS & PRICING

Purchasing & Facilities Supervisor Johnson presented Washington State Contract No. 05916 pricing for one (1) Ford F-350 4WD extended cab pickup for the purchase price of \$53,507.00 and three (3) Ford F-350 2WD regular cab with a flatbed for the purchase price of \$182,421.00 excluding Washington State sales tax. Director Danz moved to approve the vehicle purchases as presented. Director M. Balcom seconded the motion and it carried.

The board discussed a motion passed at the April board meeting which authorized Secretary/Manager O'Callaghan to approve the purchase of like-vehicles for vehicles previously approved by the board as they become available due to unfilled orders for new vehicles and unavailability of used vehicles.

Assistant Manager Dixon discussed the bid received for the Partial Title Transfer Cultural and Historical Study of SCBID facilities and lands. In the interest of efficiency, Assistant Manager Dixon recommended approval of both Schedules A and B. Director M. Balcom moved to accept the bid from Plateau Archaeological Investments, LLC. in the amount of \$186,000.00 for Schedule A and \$173,000.00 for Schedule B. Director Danz seconded the motion and it carried.

The Board discussed the curation process for archaeological collections and associated archival materials that meet curation standards of the Washington State University Museum of Anthropology, the official repository for Pacific Northwest collections. Deputy Manager Lay confirmed the expenses associated with collection maintenance and rehabilitation of archaeological materials are a Reclamation responsibility.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Pierson-Geddes participated in the Family Farm Alliance board meeting, the Reserved Works meeting and a tour of the Grand Coulee John W. Keys, III pump generating plant, and the Washington State Farm Bureau Farmer for a Day event.

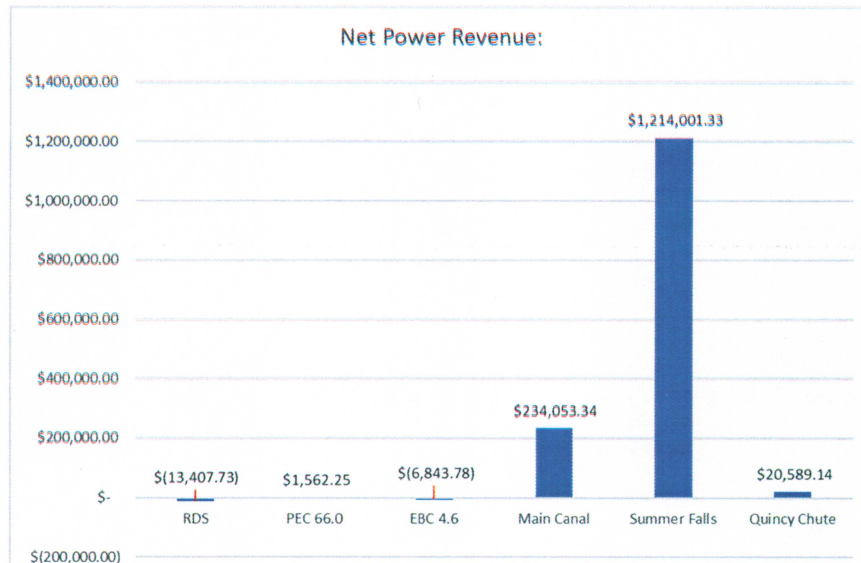
Financial Statements - A list of subscription-based information technology arrangements is being compiled pursuant to the new rule 96 for the Government Accounting Standards Board.

Investments - A United States Treasury Bill matured in August. There were no new investments.

The Reclamation Reform Act full cost billing has been received and is due at the end of September. An RRA audit is scheduled for September 12-14, 2023.

Foreclosures - The foreclosure list has been forwarded to Halverson Northwest, who will send warning letters on behalf of the District before the formal foreclosure process begins. In 2020, three delinquent accounts were sent to Central Bond Collectors who have since exhausted their resources without collection. Lauren Rice owes \$3,404.81 for an auto accident that damaged a powerline. Justin Beck owes \$1,906.84 for housing damages and his portion of health insurance. Randy Thompson owes \$689.32 for payroll deductions incurred when he took leave without pay.

2023 POWER REVENUE & EXPENSES



ENGINEERING REPORT

Chief Engineer Scott reported on the following topics:

Bids are being requested for the Block 24 valve replacement and the Lower Scootney Pump Discharge Manifold replacement. The site visit was successful. The bids close on October 10, 2023, and will be reviewed at the October board meeting.

Engineers are continuing to work on designs and procure materials for winter projects.

The O’Sullivan Periodic Facility Review Inspection on August 17th and 18th. There were seven recommendations, two of which are required that the District complete.

Chief Engineer Scott and Assistant Manager Dixon attended a USBR Emergency Action Plan (EAP) Tabletop Exercise to discuss the new plan and procedures.

Potential pipeline and other projects are being reviewed for grant opportunities. Chief Engineer Scott viewed a webinar presented by Reclamation learning about the current notice of funding for the WaterSmart grants.

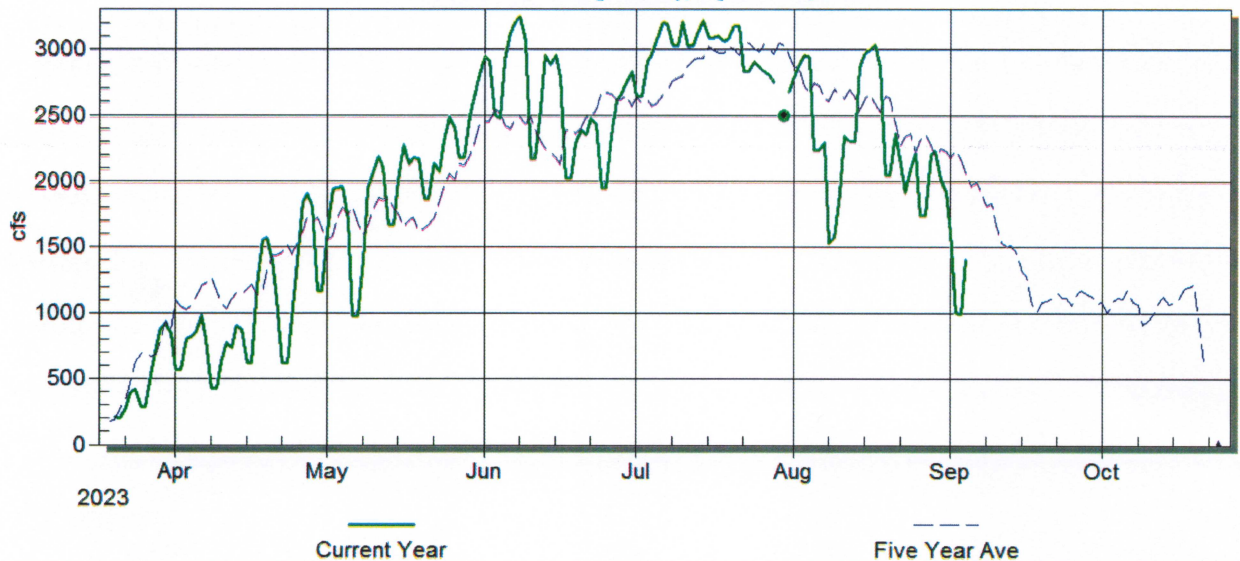
The 2023 Bonneville Power Association (BPA) grant installations are complete and the final reports have been submitted. The District has requested an increase in grant funding for \$2,400.00 that is over the budgeted grant amount. The District is underbudget for the flowmeter installations. The District has received preliminary notice from BPA of their intent to fund additional Rubicon gate to be installed during the 2023-2024 off season.

OPERATIONS REPORT

Assistant Manager Dixon reported on the following topics: The elevation of the Potholes Reservoir is 1028.0 feet (116,700 acre-feet active storage) and the feed is 60 cubic feet per second (CFS) as of September 5, 2023. Potholes Canal Discharge at O'Sullivan Dam was 2000 CFS. Potholes Canal Discharge at Scootney Outlet was 1040 CFS. Wahluke Branch Canal Diversion was 1035 CFS. There have been 4,179 acres sprayed to date. There have been 2,893 acres and 1,673 miles mowed.

2023 POTHOLES CANAL FARM DELIVERIES

Plot for week ending Tuesday, September 5, 2023



Eltopia - Crews are cleaning ditches and administering chemical treatments. On August 25, 2023, the Recloser on Block 1 power line tripped. Power was off to Block1 pumping plants for several hours while it was diagnosed. There was a small washout on the PE59 into a landowner's pond on August 30, 2023 but it did not cause damage. Assistant Manager Dixon met with the Pasco School District to discuss rerouting the PP6.0-0.5 pipeline in B1U80. The school district is progressing with design and intends to do construction this winter.



Mesa - Crews have been cleaning ditches, performing road maintenance, and administering chemical treatments. Work continues on the clay and sand storage area at the Russell Road pit. Materials are being stockpiled.

Wahluke - Crews have been cleaning ditches and administering chemical treatments. Potholes Headworks materials are ordered. Divers are scheduled to seal the gates on October 24, 2023. Reclamation completed the O'Sullivan Periodic Facility Review Inspection on August 17 & 18.

Mattawa - Crews have been cleaning ditches, performing road maintenance, and administering chemical treatments. A retaining wall is being built at the WB38 headworks. Additional lighting at the Mattawa Watermaster yard pickup parking area is being installed.

Miscellaneous – Assistant Manager Dixon attended the Columbia Basin Project Emergency Action Plan tabletop at the Ephrata Field Office for Dry Falls, O'Sullivan, and Pinto Dams on August 16, 2023. An All Partners SCADA meeting which included representatives from SCBID, East Columbia Basin Irrigation District, Quincy Columbia Basin Irrigation District and Columbia Basin Hydropower took place on August 23, 2023. Attorney Martin is proceeding with the insurance claim for the dump truck that was hit on Booker Road. Their insurance is denying any responsibility.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Secretary/Manager O'Callaghan reviewed and discussed various meetings attended during the month which included a tour of the District with Washington State Representatives Barnard, Connors and Klicker.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Secretary/Manager O'Callaghan reviewed the September and October calendars.

USBR REPORT

Ephrata Field Office Deputy Manager Lay reported that the partial title transfer documents have been routed to the Columbia-Cascades Regional office for review. Regional Manager Carrington will brief Commissioner Touton on the issue.

A draft of a temporary municipal and industrial (M&I) contract was sent to the Columbia Basin Project (CBP) managers. The City of Quincy has requested a temporary M&I contract while a revised long term M&I contract is in the approval process.

DIVISION NO. 3 ELECTION

Division No. 3 Director Conrad term expires on December 31, 2023. This will be discussed at the October board meeting.



OREGON WATER RESOURCES CONGRESS

Secretary/Manager O'Callaghan discussed the request for financial support from Oregon Water Resources Congress (OWRA) for the Amicus Brief on *Yurok Tribe, et al. v. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation*, appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The Amicus Brief is in support of appealing the decision that the Endangered Species Act trumps Reclamation contracts. The expected cost of the appeal is \$25,000.00. OWRA has committed to funding the appeal and is asking for financial support. Attorney Martin noted that it is beneficial for our District to participate in the appeal because the decision sets a precedent for other irrigation districts and water resource association. Secretary/Manager O'Callaghan recommended approval.

Director Danz moved to approve a \$1000 donation to the Oregon Water Resources Congress in support of the Amicus Brief on *Yurok Tribe, et al. v. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation*, appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Director M. Balcom seconded the motion and it carried.

TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

Secretary/Manager O'Callaghan requested authorization for the following travel:

WSWRA Annual Conference - November 29 to December 1, Spokane, Washington
Washington State Weed Conference - November 1 to 3 in Wenatchee, Washington

Director M. Balcom moved to authorize the travel requests as presented. Director Danz seconded the motion and it carried.

RECESS

Director J. Balcom called for a 10-minute recess at 10:35 A.M. The meeting reconvened at 10:45 A.M.

2024 PRELIMINARY BUDGET REVIEW

Secretary/Manager O'Callaghan discussed the 2024 preliminary budget with the board. There was discussion among the board. The final budget will be presented at the October board meeting.

LIMITED WATER SERVICE CONTRACT UPDATE

This matter will be discussed in executive session.

WASHINGTON, DC TRIP

Secretary/Manager O'Callaghan and Director J. Balcom will travel to Washington, DC on September 18th through 19th to discuss ongoing District issues with various agencies and members of congress.



DIVERSION RATE UPDATE

Secretary/Manager O'Callaghan updated the board on the upcoming diversion rate meetings. The next meeting will take place on September 21st, 2023 at the Grand Coulee Power Office.

COLUMBIA BASIN HYDROPOWER

This matter will be discussed in executive session.

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

Due to a recent washout, landowner Jacob Heinen asked for permission to plant grass in the area to avoid a reoccurrence. Assistant Manager Dixon stated that rock will be laid down where sloughing and erosion of the prism is taking place.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Director J. Balcom called for a 40-minute executive session at 12:15 PM. The regular meeting reconvened at 12:55 PM.

OTHER BUSINESS


Emrgy Inc. has been tentatively approved for a United States Department of Energy Research and Development grant to further develop power generation technology for canal placement. The District has agreed to work with Emrgy to permit the installation of test turbines in District waterways.

NEXT MEETING


The next regular meeting will be on October 12th, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Director J. Balcom adjourned the meeting at 1:00 P.M.



John O'Callaghan, Secretary/Manager



Director Maurice Balcom, President

