

Office of the Secretary Manager
Kittitas Reclamation District Board of Directors Meeting
September 10, 2024 Minutes

The Board of Directors of the Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) met in Regular Session on September 10, 2024 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 Bart Bland, Division Five Director Brad Haberman, Secretary Manager Urban Eberhart, Field Supervisor Bob Main, Treasurer Stacy Berg, Lands Clerk & RRA Specialist Sara Vickers, Legal Counsel Jeff Slothower and KRD Landowner Mark Charlton.

KRD Chairman Schnebly called the meeting to order. The agenda was approved with the addition of an executive session for reasons consistent with RCW 42.30.110.(1)(b) and RCW 42.30.110(1)(i):(iii). The motion was made by Director Haberman. A second was made by Director Bland, the motion passed unanimously.

The minutes for the August 6, 2024 Board Meeting were approved with a motion made by Director Swanson. The second was made by Director Hansen. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Water Master Report: As of September 10, 2024 the five reservoirs are at 20% capacity which is 50.2% of average. The proration rate was increased to 52%. There was no measurable precipitation at the five reservoirs for September 1 to date. Precipitation for the Water Year is 187.80 inches, or 84% of average. The system is operating at 700 cfs with 308 cfs being delivered for flip-flop.

During routine maintenance, crews discovered a crack in the 1146 Spillway where the structural wall had failed. The spillway is inoperable until it is repaired. The winter spill operations will be diverted to other areas of the system. KRD is working with the USBR to work through the funding to take care of the repairs.

Maintenance Report: Field Supervisor Bob Main reported that maintenance crews are continuing the spraying and weeding. Crews are clearing brush at the siphons and infrastructure. A storage structure was built at the Pumping Plant.

Secretary Manager's Activity: Mr. Eberhart mentioned that on a similar water year in 2015 the water was turned off on August 6. Since then, the KRD has changed the direction of operations which allowed the irrigation water to remain on until September 14, this year. These operational changes have significantly improved water availability in drought years within the system. One of the key factors in stretching out the cutoff date during a drought

year is the considerable work that has been done with water conservation and telemetry within the system. The KRD will continue to work on improving the system to make it as efficient as possible through additional conservation, ground water storage, surface water storage and telemetry.

There was a Washington State Department of Ecology Tour August 13, 2024.

Mr. Eberhart participated in the American Rivers Yakima River Float on August 18, 2024.

On September 4, 2024, Mr. Eberhart and KRD Lands Clerk/RRA Specialist Sara Vickers participated with the Upper Yakima System Storage Communication Workshop. The team of various agencies met to discuss the Upper Yakima System Storage Communication Process.

Director Hansen and Mr. Eberhart will be attending the Farmer Lobbyist Trip in Washington D.C. during the week of September 23, 2024.

Mr. Eberhart will be presenting at the Washington Cascades Land & Water Conservation Fund Celebration on October 18, 2024.

On October 15, 2024, Mr. Eberhart is scheduled to attend the Ruckelshaus Fall Advisory Board Meeting in Seattle, WA.

Director Hansen made a motion to approve the travel for Mr. Eberhart to travel to Albuquerque, NM as a keynote speaker. A second was made by Director Bland, the motion passed unanimously.

The Finding Common Ground screening will be held at the Yakama Nation Museum & Cultural Center, Heritage Theater on November 4, 2024.

Director Haberman made a motion for Mr. Eberhart to attend and participate on a panel for the County Leaders Conference in Vancouver, WA November 21, 2024. A second was made by Director Bland, the motion passed unanimously.

Director Hansen, Director Haberman and Mr. Eberhart will be attending the Washington State Water Resource Association Annual Conference in Spokane, WA on December 4-6, 2024. Director Bland made a motion to approve the travel of the KRD attendees. A second was made by Director Swanson, the motion passed unanimously.

The KRD was awarded an additional \$2,692,043.91 for the Easton Research and Recovery Facility.

Additional funding for the Upper Yakima System Storage Feasibility Study was awarded to the KRD.

Wendy Christensen, Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project Manager requested the KRD work in collaboration with the USBR to assist with the archeological portion of the Cle Elum Pool Raise Project. Jacobs Engineering was able to provide archeologists for the project and Field Manager Chad Stuart agreed to reimburse the KRD for the costs.

The KRD submitted a request for \$775,000.00 to Reclamation for a groundwater storage project at the Taneum property.

Project Updates: The Notice of Completion was filed for the North Branch Canal Lining 31.5 to 30.3.

The Draft Change Order #6 for the North Branch Canal Lining 30.3-27.5 was discussed briefly, further information will be forthcoming.

The draft timeline was presented to the Board for the South Branch Canal Piping 12.4 to 12.9 will go out to bid in September or early October.

Treasurer's Report: The Director's monthly payroll vouchers were presented for signatures. Summary Vouchers for the August 2024 expenses and payroll which included check numbers 48635 – 48714 direct deposit numbers 9903050 through 9903067 in the sum of \$834,345.64 were approved with a motion made by Director Swanson. The second was made by Director Haberman, the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: Treasurer Berg reported that the Financial and Federal Audit began on August 27, 2024. The process is ongoing with no concerns at the present time.

Other Business: The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 2:02 p.m. for 20 minutes per RCW 42.30.110.(1)(b) and RCW 42.30.110(1)(i):(iii) there was a motion made by Director Bland and a second made by Director Hanson. The Board returned to Regular Session at 2:22 pm with a motion made by Director Bland and the second was made by Director Swanson. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schnebly KRD Board of Directors Chairman

Mr. Eberhart KRD Secretary Manager