

**Office of the Secretary Manager**  
**Kittitas Reclamation District Board of Directors Meeting**  
**September 12, 2023 Minutes**

The Board of Directors of the Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) met in Regular Session on September 12, 2023 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, Assistant Manager Kevin Eslinger, Field Supervisor Bob Main, Treasurer Stacy Berg, KRD Land Clerk/RRA Specialist Sara Vickers, Legal Counsel Jeff Slothower and KRD Landowners Trent Ward, Dave McDaniel and Paul Hutchinson. Also in attendance was United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Area Manager Chris Duke and Yakima Field Office Area Manager Chad Stuart.

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 Swanson, the motion passed unanimously.

USBR Area Manager Chris Duke introduced himself to the Board and complimented all the work that the KRD is doing.

Chad Stuart, USBR Yakima Field Office Area Manager addressed the Board. He provided a brief water report and financial review. There was a particular emphasis that the USBR was cognizant of making every effort possible to keep irrigation districts from having stacking bills and they try to spread out financial impacts on the users as much as possible.

Director Haberman asked the USBR for diligence on the billing accuracy, which Mr. Stuart replied that the USBR had made modifications for water usage trends and quarterly updates that are improving the accuracy of the billings.

The minutes for the August 7, 2023, Board Meeting were approved with a motion made by Director Bland. The second was made by Director Swanson. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Landowner Paul Hutchinson had previously sent a letter to the Board which was included in the board packet. Mr. Hutchinson felt that the records

for his water usage were recorded inaccurately which made him short of water at the end of the season. After listening to the landowner concerns, Mr. Eberhart replied that the Board would have a subcommittee investigate the matter further and respond back to him.

Mr. Hutchinson also inquired when the water shut off would be for this year. Mr. Eberhart responded with an estimate of September 30 at the restriction of ½ California Minors Inch per acre. In prior years with the same scenario, the canal would already be off but the collaborative effort with users and the intensive water conservation effort has allowed a more positive impact on agriculture and the District.

Water Master Report: As of September 11, 2023 the five reservoirs are at 22% capacity and the storage at 54.9% of average. Precipitation at the five reservoirs for August 1 to date is .90 inches, or 125% of average and 11% of the months average. Precipitation for the Water Year to date is 162.8 inches or 73% of average. Easton we are diverting 900 cfs, 455 is for our consumptive use, 50 at Taneum Creek and 250 cfs at 1146.

The water forecast has improved from the original estimates. The KRD will be running at approximately 400 cfs through the month with an estimated turn-off date of September 30. The USBR will be providing another forecast later this week. The prognosis is also very dependent on the weather.

Maintenance Report: Field Supervisor Bob Main reported that maintenance crews are continuing the spraying and mowing programs. The Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) test will start on Monday. The fence at the Kittitas Shop is on hold until the permit is granted. The Chemical Storage Facilities are complete. The chemicals have been transferred and the rental container has been removed. The leased property for the Rope Facility has been given notice. The plan is to set up the rope facility in the open eave of the Kittitas Shop. No equipment will be allowed to be left out until the area is enclosed.

Secretary Manager's Activity: Mr. Eberhart attended the weekly Water Transfer Working Group Meeting yesterday. In attendance were representatives from Department of Ecology (DOE), various irrigation companies and the Yakama Nation. The focus of the meeting was on supplemental wells. There are farms who have purchased water from Selah/Moxee for a state program which allows the farms to supplement some of the shortfall of water they receive from KRD water during this drought year. The water that is used from these wells will be

reimbursed to the system over the next 5 years. Zirkle Fruit will be drilling an additional well which was recently approved.

The Family Farm Alliance Tour KRD and the Kittitas Valley will be held on September 13, 2023. Local leadership will be organizing the event. Kittitas County Conservation District (KCCD) will be providing a presentation, the tour will include KRD, No. 9 Hay, Washington Fruit and the Martinez Ranch. Mr. Eberhart will be MC'ing the dinner. The tour the following day will be in the Roza and Sunnyside Irrigation Districts.

Mr. Eberhart will be attending Family Farm Alliance Meetings during the week of September 24, 2023 in Washington D.C. The week will be packed with meetings and engagements with various leaders who will be engaging on irrigation issues.

The Tri-State Meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2023 in Boise, ID.

KRD Consultant Walter Larrick will be speaking on the KRD's behalf at the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) WA Annual Conference in Seattle, WA on September 28, 2023.

The Board was provided documentation of the Notice of Award/ Grant #R23AP00150-00 / South Branch Canal Lining in the amount currently issued of \$1,250,000.00 with an overall amount of \$84 million dollars over a 5-year term. In addition, Ecology #WRYBIP-2325\_KittRD-00041-South Branch Canal Lining was granted \$2,000,000.00. The amendment 001 for Grant #R23AP00152-00 / North Branch Lining was also received in the amount of \$950,802.76 with \$500,000.00 from the FY23 and \$400,000.00 from IRA Drought Money and an additional \$50,800.00 of drought funding. The funding for the fall projects is predominantly in hand with a total of approximately \$14 million for the current construction season. There is approximately \$900,000 still expected to be granted this year.

Director Swanson presented the KCCD/KRD Task Order 05-WSP Surface and Groundwater Monitoring agreement, which is a voluntary stewardship program for funding of monitoring equipment. Kittitas County Water Purveyors is doing the work, this funding allows support for the existing program. Task Order 06-Drought Funding is issued through the Conservation Commission and passed through KCCD who has requested funding for KRD. If the funding is granted, it will be used to finish the 670 feet of pipeline 1.1, add an additional 10 telemetry sites for a total of \$257,000.00. Director Haberman made a motion to approve Task Orders

05 and 06 pending the funding is granted. A second was made by Director Bland, the motion passed unanimously.

Director Swanson made a motion to approve the endorsement for legislation for the WIFA funding. A second was made by Director Haberman, the motion passed unanimously.

Project Updates: The South Branch Canal Improvements from 10.85 to 11.7 will be funded by different sources. The base bid will be for 4,762 feet with an optional bid for 2,480 feet which will be from South Branch 11.74 to 12.20. The invitation to bid will be September 21, 2023.

The start-up for North Branch NBC 30.3-31.5 is tentatively set for October 30, 2023 which will finish the project that was started during the last construction season.

The North Branch Canal Lining Project Stevens Rd to Vantage Hwy NB 27.7 to 30.3, is a smaller project and is expected to be done later in the winter.

Treasurer's Report: The Director's monthly payroll vouchers were presented for signatures. Summary Vouchers for the August 2023 expenses and payroll which included check numbers 47574 - 47661 direct deposit numbers 9902784 through 9902804 in the sum of \$957,083.27 were approved with a motion made by Director Bland. The second was made by Director Swanson, the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: The Heritage Bank Investment Account was transferred from the Ellensburg branch location to Yakima due to the Ellensburg Branch being sold to another financial institution.

Directors Haberman and Swanson agreed to be on the selection committee for the Qualified Environmental Consulting Services Request for Qualifications (RFQ). There were 5 firms that responded to the RFQ and the selection committee will need to rank and score the applicants.

New Business: USBR Yakima Field Office Manager Chad Stuart spoke on the Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Estimate CY24. The USBR is working on providing more accurate estimates which will allow districts like the KRD to budget more efficiently for upcoming USBR expenses.

Other Business: The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 2:02 p.m. for 15 minutes per RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) and RCW 42.30.110(1)(i):(iii) there was a motion made by Director Haberman and a second made by Director Bland. The motion passed unanimously. Extended 10 minutes. The Board returned to Regular Session at 2:27 pm. Director Haberman and the second was made by Director Swanson. The motion passed unanimously.

All business having been concluded the meeting was adjourned.

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Mr. Schnebly KRD Board of Directors Chairman

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Mr. Eberhart KRD Secretary Manager