

Office of the Secretary Manager
Kittitas Reclamation District Board of Directors Meeting
March 11, 2025 Minutes

The Board of Directors of the Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) met in Regular Session on March 11, 2025 at 10:00 a.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 Lands Clerk & RRA Specialist Sara Vickers, Legal Counsel Jeff Slothower and KRD Landowner Dave McDaniel.

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)(i):(iii). The motion was made by Director Hansen. A second was made by Director Swanson, the motion passed unanimously.

The minutes for the February 11, 2025 Board Meeting were approved with a motion made by Director Haberman. The second was made by Director Bland. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Commissioner Wright addressed the Board regarding bridges in Kittitas County that cross irrigation canals and laterals. Multiple landowners have been notified that their privately owned bridges are being reviewed for maintenance. This process has taken some landowners by surprise and one bridge has already been removed by United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). Commissioner Wright said that he was not looking for a solution today but he was asking the Board to consider working with the County to provide a joint message for his social media. He reiterated that some of the landowners do not realize the severity of the issues involved and he is hopeful that the parties involved can come to an agreement. The biggest challenge is the landowner not having legal access to both sides of the canal but ultimately, he is hopeful that this message will encourage landowners to start looking into their title reports and gain access to both sides of the bridge.

Director Haberman mentioned that he has a bridge that is in question at this time as well and it is up to the landowners to maintain them. He is working with an engineer to make necessary maintenance improvements to it at this time.

Director Bland said the landowners need to work with Reclamation on the bridge issues. The KRD works with limited staff and doesn't have any authority on this issue. Commissioner Wright said he did not want to get into a debate about it, he would take it back to his Board and it could jeopardize future support for KRD projects from Kittitas County.

Water Master Report: As of March 10, 2025 the five reservoirs are at 24% capacity which is 40.2% of average. Precipitation at the five reservoirs from March 1 to date 2.40 inches, or 40% of average and 12% of the months average. Precipitation for the water year is 125.58 inches, or 75% of average. The Snotel sites for the Upper Yakima Basin are reporting at 82% of average and the Naches Basin sites are at 91% of average. At the March River Operations Meeting the projected a pro-ration level for Junior Irrigation Districts was 48%.

Maintenance Report: Field Supervisor Main reported that the Rope Team finished the repairs on the Easton drum gate, the pumping plant house repairs should be complete this week and Ken Howard will be able to move in. The welding on the Pumping Plant Pipeline started yesterday and should take about 2 weeks to complete. There are two Burn Crews working in the Badger Pocket area and a third crew on Ride 4. A video of drone footage of the construction work being done on the North Branch was shown. The fence contractor will begin installation on the North Branch on Monday.

Secretary Manager's Activity: The final facilitated System Operations Advisory Committee Discussion was yesterday. The group seemed very satisfied with the progress that has been made. The group will continue to work together and will continue to work with Reclamation and Department of Ecology to facilitate funding opportunities to purchase water to supplement fish so that the water doesn't have a negative impact for pro-rateables.

Director Hansen asked if the KRD should be drafting a drought resolution. Legal Counsel Slothower said that the current emergency resolution is in effect until the end of April 2025. Further information will be forthcoming at the next Board Meeting.

Mr. Eberhart went on the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Trip to Washington DC from March 2-7, 2025. He had various meetings throughout the trip and felt that there were very productive meetings throughout. There were various compliments made about the work being done through the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan.

On March 8, 2025 the Yakima Valley Museum hosted “Water Management in the West” where Mr. Eberhart participated on a panel presentation.

The KRD Tributary Supplementation Meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2025.

The Jacobs Engineering KRD_Wippel_Tech Memo_02_27_2025 was provided to the Board. The recommendation from the inspection was to weld the joints along the pipeline and the coating on the interior will need to be replaced.

Director Hansen made a motion to approve Exhibit C KRD2022-PS-06-07 (Task 07 Amend) which changes the Amended Value to \$165,704.00 for the Targeted Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) Hydrology Study. A second was made by Director Haberman, the motion passed unanimously.

Some of the federal funds that the KRD has been granted were funded through the Inflation Reduction Act and Infrastructure funding. Recently the funds were locked at the federal administration level. With the uncertainty of a federal shutdown and the encouragement from the granting agency, legal counsel and the Board, the federal funds have been drawn so that the funds are available to pay the invoices.

Project Updates: The North Branch Canal Lining 30.3 to 27.5 has approximately 6,000 lineal feet of the sides of the canal left to place.

The fence crew will start installation on the South Branch Piping Milepost 12.4-12.8 Project on Monday. Corridor Construction is starting mobilization to finish the final grading and clean-up.

Treasurer’s Report: The Director’s monthly payroll vouchers were presented for signatures. Summary Vouchers for the February 2025 expenses and payroll which included check numbers 49137 - 49205 direct deposit numbers 9903179 through 9903195 in the sum of \$1,988,278.77 were approved with a motion made by Director Bland. The second was made by Director Swanson, the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: There was no old business discussed.

New Business: Director Swanson made a motion to approve the payment for the Washington State Water Resources Association Due in the amount of \$27,653.64. A second was made by Director Bland, the motion passed unanimously.

Other Business: The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 10:50 a.m. for 30 minutes per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i):(iii) there was a motion made by Director Hansen and a second made by Director Haberman. Executive Session was extended an additional 20 minutes. The Board returned to Regular Session at 11:40 am with a motion made by Director Haberman and the second was made by Director Hansen. The motion passed unanimously.

All business having been concluded, the meeting was adjourned.

Mr. Schnebly KRD Board of Directors Chairman

Mr. Eberhart KRD Secretary Manager