

**Office of the Secretary Manager  
Kittitas Reclamation District/Roza Irrigation District  
Special Joint Board of Directors Meeting  
March 18, 2024 Minutes**

The Board of Directors of the Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) and the Roza Irrigation District (Roza) met in a Special Session on March 18, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. Attending the meeting, were KRD Division Three Director and Chairman Fred Schnebly, KRD Division One Director and Vice Chairman Mark Hansen, KRD Division Two Director Sherry Swanson, KRD Division Four Director Bart Bland, KRD Division Five Director Brad Haberman, Roza Division One Director Ric Valicoff, Roza Division Two Director Tanner Winckler, Roza Division Three Director Jason Sheehan, Roza Division Five Director Jim Willard, Roza Division 4 Director Jason Don, KRD Secretary Manager Urban Eberhart, Roza Secretary Manager Scott Revell, KRD Treasurer Stacy Berg, Roza Assistant Secretary Kristel Espinoza, KRD Legal Counsel Jeff Slothower and Roza Legal Counsel Brian Iller, KRD GIS Specialist/Grant Manager Roger Satnik, Roza Engineering Manager Wayne Sonnichsen, Department of Ecology Drought Coordinator Caroline Mellor, KRD Consultant Walter Larrick and Roza Irrigation Policy Director Sage Park.

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 Bland, the motion passed unanimously. Introductions of all who were present followed.

Public Comment: Department of Ecology (DOE) Drought Coordinator Caroline Mellor provided a brief introduction and overview of the Drought Management Program. She confirmed that the Drought Declaration that was put into effect in July 2023 remains in effect until June 30, 2024. DOE continues to have regular meetings which allow experts in the field to forecast the upcoming water supply. She explained that to determine a drought there must be less than 75% of water supply and a hardship must be in place. At the next meeting they will determine if a hydrologic threshold has been met. When ecology declares a drought, it allows expedited water transfers as well as additional funding opportunities.

Mr. Eberhart asked if Ms. Mellor was able to estimate the amount of funding that would be available. The response was just under \$3 Million. Drought Preparedness

has approximately \$1.8 Million available, however that funding opportunity closed last week and will not be extended.

Mr. Revell encouraged Ms. Mellor to make every effort to work with state legislators in the future for additional funding. The current amount available has decreased dramatically since 2015 and is inadequate to handle drought emergencies currently.

There was some additional conversation regarding whether the current drought declaration would be extended or a new declaration would be issued. Knowing what Ecology plans to do with the current declaration allows the irrigation districts to plan and prepare their drought declarations in accordance with the state's declaration.

2024 USBR Water Supply Projections: Both Roza and KRD have prepared water delivery projections with various levels of proration. Each district is continuing to have strategy meetings to ensure the system will run as efficiently as possible. Roza is considering purchasing water from the Selah-Moxee Irrigation District. Mr. Eberhart noted that regardless of the current projections, it will be challenging for the KRD to deliver water past August. The precipitation throughout March will be critical to the water supply during the upcoming season. Some KRD landowners will likely need to access drought wells to supplement their water supply. There was a short conversation about receiving instantaneous readings from the drought wells but it was determined that it would likely be very costly and it would be difficult to implement on short notice.

Mr. Revell reported that Roza has implemented a regular email newsletter that is provided at landowners request to allow for better communication. Roza also has provided ditchriders with flyers when there are upcoming changes that they can hand out to landowners when they are asked.

Legal Counsel Slothower recommended that both Roza and KRD schedule regular meetings with state and federal legislators throughout the drought to keep them informed.

Cloud Seeding: Roza Policy Director Sage Park provided an update on the research being done on Cloud Seeding. A brief explanation of the current applications being used was discussed. The Roza Board has allocated funds to begin a feasibility study. There is also a request to Washington State Department of Agriculture to ascertain if any additional funding may be available.

KRD Tributary Supplementation: Mr. Eberhart provided a summary of the 2023 Tributary Supplementation Program. Future projects in the program could include supplementing Swauk Creek, Whiskey Creek or Naneum Creek. It is essential that tributary supplementation is only used in tributaries that can be tightly monitored to ensure that the water being used for pass through flows is not diverted. There was also a brief discussion about the Bull Trout Facility that the KRD has been awarded funds to construct in Easton.

There was a brief discussion regarding the new requirements for irrigation companies to post herbicide applications on social media prior to the distribution.

Mr. Eberhart reported on the collaboration between KRD and Westside Irrigating Company which developed the Kittitas County Joint Control Board No. 1 (KCJCB1) as an independent entity. The KCJCB1 is considered a government entity and is eligible to apply for federal funds. The KCJCB1 has a Board of Directors which is represented by Directors from KRD and Westside Irrigation Company. KRD has taken over maintenance and operation of the canal system and the board meets bimonthly to discuss the operations of the canal and possible conservation projects.

Other Business: The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 11:00 a.m. for 60 minutes per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i):(iii) there was a motion made by Director Hansen and a second made by Director Swanson. The motion passed unanimously. Executive Session was extended an additional 15 minutes. The Board returned to Regular Session at 12:15 pm with a motion made by Director Swanson and the second was made by Director Hansen. 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

