

Office of the Secretary Manager
Kittitas Reclamation District Board of Directors Meeting
April 8, 2025 Minutes

The Board of Directors of the Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) met in Regular Session on April 8, 2025 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 Lands Clerk & RRA Specialist Sara Vickers and Legal Counsel Jeff Slothower. Also in attendance was United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) Yakima Field Office Manager Chad Stuart and KRD Landowners Dave McDaniel, Mark Charlton, Trent Ward, Dan Olson, Jade Vogt and Well Bartsma.

KRD Chairman Schnebly called the meeting to order.

Reclamation Yakima Field Office Manager Chad Stuart addressed the Board. He provided a brief summary of current projects, weather outlook and staffing changes in the Yakima Field Office as well as upper administration. He relayed how they will be reprioritizing their maintenance criteria due to the staffing shortages. The main priority of the Yakima Field Office is to deliver water so that will take precedence over general maintenance. Director Hansen made a point to let Mr. Stuart know that there are a number of things the District's personnel can do to assist Reclamation if they are allowed to. KRD is willing to help Reclamation in any way they can.

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 Haberman. A second was made by Director Bland, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Public Comment: KRD Landowner Wellbe Bartsma addressed the Board with a request to raise a Weir Blade so that he can install a self-cleaning stainless-steel screen behind it. He also asked the Board to consider a location he can install the

electrical for a solar panel to run his system. Director Hansen and Mr. Eberhart agreed to do a site visit and would get back to him.

KRD Landowner Dan Olson addressed the Board regarding permission to add a siphon to the canal in the area of Easton Rquettes. He referred to a long-standing neighbor dispute which has made it difficult to obtain water through a poorly maintained private system. Mr. Olson would like to install a separate system to allow access to the water and work independently of the other neighbor. The Board agreed to look further into the request and would respond back to him as soon as possible.

Water Master Report: As of April 8, 2025 the five reservoirs are at 42% capacity which is 61.7% of average. Precipitation at the five reservoirs from April 1 to date is approximately 2.15 inches. Precipitation for the water year is 153.57 inches, or 83% of average. The Snotel sites for the Upper Yakima Basin are reporting at 75% of average and the Naches Basin sites are at 97% of average.

Field Supervisor Main reported that the canal system will begin charging on April 15, 2025 and Ditchriders will begin taking calls on April 18, 2025. Director Swanson made a motion to set the 2025 allotment at 1.25 cfs per acre. A second was made by Director Bland, the motion passed unanimously.

Maintenance Report: Field Supervisor Main reported that one excavator is working in Badger Pocket, one backhoe is finishing removing rocks and trees in Easton, one backhoe is in the Taneum and the last backhoe is in the shop getting repaired. A crew is patching canal in the Upper County and Ken and David are working on the pumping plant.

Secretary Manager's Activity: The facilitated System Operations Advisory Committee Discussions have been completed and went very well. There was a natural pulse 10 days ago, with the possibility of one more. Overall, communication and interactions have gone much better than previous years.

The State Capitol Budget is being refined at this time. The initial request for Yakima Basin Integrated Plan was \$59 million. Currently, the House Capitol Budget has this line item budgeted for \$49 million and the Senate Budget has it at \$53 million. Mr. Eberhart attended a house capitol meeting yesterday and they agreed to a 10-year extension from July 2025 to 2035 to get new storage permitted and funded. The House is expected to vote on it and then the focus on the budget will continue to be the next steps of our process.

The Water Transfer Working Group is ongoing. The intent of the group is work with the Department of Ecology and Reclamation to review some of the water used for pulse flows and other purposes.

There has been cultural work being done on the Springwood Project. The report will be submitted to Reclamation then go to the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), who has a comment period and then it will hopefully be cleared for the drilling and geotechnical work.

On March 14, 2025 the Tributary Supplementation Meeting was held in Ellensburg.

Director Hansen made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-02 Declaring a Drought Emergency. A second was made by Director Haberman, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Eberhart proposed to the Board to consider partnering with Roza Irrigation to fund a consultant position for Chris Lynch who will be assisting with measuring water and drought planning. Director Swanson made a motion to approve the consultant position up to \$15,000.00 annually. A second was made by Director Bland, the motion passed unanimously.

Director Bland made a motion to approve the Task Authorization for Professional Services for Water Wheeling Wasteway 1146+30 Interim 2025 Repairs. A second was made by Director Haberman, the motion passed unanimously.

Project Updates: The North Branch Canal Lining 30.3 to 27.5 has the final grading and fencing to be completed. The canal is currently operational.

The South Branch Piping Milepost 12.4-12.8 Project is operational, and the road is passable, once it dries out Corridor Construction will return to finish grading.

Treasurer's Report: The Director's monthly payroll vouchers were presented for signatures. Summary Vouchers for the March 2025 expenses and payroll which included check numbers 49206 - 49297 direct deposit numbers 9903198 through 9903218 in the sum of \$3,318,859.39 were approved with a motion made by Director Hansen. The second was made by Director Bland, the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: There was no old business discussed.

New Business: KRD Staff has been working in conjunction with Retro Safety to update the KRD Accident Prevention Plan. Further information will be forthcoming upon completion.

The Kittitas County Water Purveyors 2025 Agreements were provided to the Board for approval and signatures.

Treasurer Berg presented the current 2025 Foreclosure List. There was a discussion regarding the property at 1941 Hundley Rd, which was sold in 2021. The property owners failed to notify the KRD and KRD staff missed the affidavit so there was a significant delay in getting the current owner notified of the assessment. The Board agreed that in this circumstance it was prudent to forgive the prior year's assessments, and the current owner would be responsible for the 2025 assessment. Legal Counsel suggested that a resolution be drafted for this specific incident and the Directors can sign it at the next meeting.

Director Haberman made a motion to approve the Disposal of Equipment that was presented. A second was made by Director Bland, the motion passed unanimously.

Legal Counsel Slothower presented Resolution 2025-03 Adoption of Policies to the Board. All the policies were reviewed, and necessary modifications were made as well as the addition of a few new policies which included video recording in vehicles, bridge policy and a fee schedule. Director Hansen made a motion to approve the Resolution 2025-03 Adoption of Policies. A second was made by Director Haberman, the motion passed unanimously.

The Delegation of Authority Resolution was presented to the Board which allows Mr. Eberhart, Mr. Eslinger or RRA Specialist and Lands Clerk Sara Vickers to have authority to sign the plat maps for Kittitas County. Director Swanson made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-04 Delegation of Authority. A second was made by Director Bland, the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2025-05 which revokes a crossing license on Morrison Canyon Lane was presented to the Board. After a brief discussion, Director Haberman made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-05. A second was made by Director Swanson, the motion passed unanimously.

Other Business: The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 2:21 p.m. for 30 minutes per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i):(iii) there was a motion made by Director Haberman and a second made by Director Bland. Executive Session was extended an additional 15 minutes. The Board returned to Regular Session at 3:06 p.m. 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