

Office of the Secretary Manager
Kittitas Reclamation District Board of Directors Meeting
April 5, 2022 Minutes

The Board of Directors of the Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) met in Regular Session on April 5, 2022 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 Larry 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, United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Yakima Field Office Supervisor Chad Stuart and prospective landowner Jeremy Downs.

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):(i). The motion was made by Director Hansen and the second was made by Director Haberman. The motion passed unanimously.

USBR Yakima Field Office Supervisor Chad Stuart attended the board meeting to give an overview of the Yakima Field Office and how they are returning to normal operations as the Covid Protocol's wind down. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the flow of information on the Operations and Maintenance costs. USBR is working with the KRD to improve a process that has a more transparent approach to the upcoming costs that will be billed to the irrigation districts. The forecast for the current water year was also discussed.

Mr. Stuart reported that the Kachess Safety of Dams Project is still progressing, with a construction window beginning in 2023-2025. The intent is that there will not be any disruptions to water supply while the construction is being done. The expected budget for this project is approximately \$35-\$55 million dollars which will be allocated out proportionately to the user agencies.

The minutes for the March 8, 2022 Board Meeting and the March 22, 2022 Special Board Meeting were approved with a motion made by Director Haberman. The second was made by Director Bland. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Prospective Landowner Jeremy Downs is considering purchasing some of the Roseburg Farm in Cle Elum. The property has a lateral that comes off the NW corner of Mohar Rd onto the property. Mr. Downs requested the board allow access to

the property through the KRD right-of-way for developmental purposes. The Board asked for Mr. Downs to provide a map with the specific request drawn onto it.

Water Master Report: As of April 5, 2022 the five reservoirs are at 89% capacity and the storage is at 132.4% of average. Precipitation at the five reservoirs for April 1 to date is 6.39 inches, or 350% of average and 47% of the months average. Precipitation for the water year to date is 204.25 inches, or 111% of average. The upper snow tel sites are reporting 68% of average and the Naches Basin sites are at 78% of average. The process to refill the Easton Diversion Pool started on March 26, 2022 and the canal started filling on April 1, 2022. The priming of the turbine lateral is complete. The water turn-on date is set for April 1, 2022 with the ditchriders taking water orders the following Monday. Director Hansen made a motion to set the allotment at 2 ½ cfs per acre. A second was made by Director Bland, the motion passed unanimously.

Maintenance Report: Field Supervisor Bob Main reported that the maintenance crews have finished spraying and cleaning the laterals. As the priming process continues the crews will continue to monitor any problems that could arise which to date have been very minimal. If anyone notices any issues, Mr. Main requested that they call and let him or the office personnel know. Director Haberman mentioned that a pipe was burned at No. 9 Hay, which Mr. Main advised he would check on.

Secretary Manager's Activity Report: Mr. Eberhart highlighted an article that was posted on the Washington DC USBR social media that was about the conservation projects that the KRD is doing.

The KRD office door is now unlocked to the public. As the governor lifts further restrictions, the KRD will revisit their procedures. The KRD is continuing to operate under the latest Governor Proclamation.

The lead and asbestos have been removed from the roof of the Ellensburg Shop. Support work has begun on the inside of the building to allow for the replacement of the roof to occur. Talks are continuing with Mr. Devore on the Kittitas Shop.

KRD Equipment Operator Randy Wyman passed away. His memorial service will be held at Calvary Ellensburg on April 9, 2021 with a reception following at Trinity Farms. He was a dedicated KRD employee and friend who will be greatly missed.

The Nature Conservancy filmed on March 11, 2022 for the flood plain restoration work that KRD and others have been involved in.

On March 15, 2022 there was a briefing for the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan.

The Columbia Basin Collaborative Group met on March 29, 2022.

The KRD participated in a tour on March 30, 2022 for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes who came to see the practices that are currently being utilized in the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan.

On April 5, 2022 the United States Forest Service (USFS) was briefed on the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan.

The Yakima Basin Joint Board Representative had a meeting on April 6, 2022 to discuss the cost allocation with the USBR.

The KRD Tributary Supplementation Program Meeting will be held virtually on April 6, 2022.

On April 25, 2022 there will be a briefing given to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) on the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan.

The Bureau of Land Management will receive a Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Briefing on April 29, 2022.

KRD Consultant Joel Hubble is working with the Water Supply Technical Work Group to plan for future water storage. These calculations will be valuable for the KRD to implement future water storage projects.

A request was submitted for \$2.5 million dollars for the Upper Yakima System Storage (UYSS) Phase II feasibility and scoping.

There have been several meetings for the Yakima Basin Focused Managed Aquifer Recharge Taneum Creek Pilot Test. Currently the group is working through the permitting process in preparation for the 2023 test.

The KRD was notified last week of a partial collapse of the Lund Lane Bridge. The landowners in the area have been notified that the bridge is no longer viable and have been provided a gate key to temporarily access the KRD ditchbank road as an alternate route. Ecology blocks have been placed in front of the bridge as a safety measure.

Emergency Crews have been notified and given a gate key for emergency access. This bridge is a landowner bridge without a crossing license. The KRD has been in contact with County Public Works who is working on a possible temporary bridge until a new bridge is able to be built.

The USBR has sent an additional letter to the Sunlight Waters Development that stated neither the KRD or the USBR own the bridge and if the development wants the bridge they can make the necessary modifications to it or it will be removed.

Mr. Eberhart reported that the KRD received \$600 thousand dollars in the FY22 Appropriations for the North Branch design work. There is potential additional funding that requests have been submitted for and the KRD is waiting on. A new list of priorities is being drafted for projects in the North and South Branches which will be utilized for future funding requests. In addition to that there is approximately \$7.7 million dollars remaining in the two awarded contracts to the KRD.

The KRD was awarded \$700 thousand dollars for the Easton Bull Trout Research Facility. The KRD is requesting additional funding from Senator Patty Murray's Office for FY23 funding.

The KRD will be submitting funding requests to Congresswoman Shrier's Office for Manastash Creek and Senator Cantwell's Office for Whiskey Creek and Naneum Creek areas.

Director Swanson advised that there was an additional application submitted for the NRCS Funding that will be competing with the request that the KRD submitted for the South Branch 9.9 Lateral which allows for conservation to take place on KRD owned land.

KRD staff met with emergency services and the prosecuting attorney's office staff to discuss canal safety and trespassing. The collaboration discussed ways to coordinate public awareness and deal with trespass issues. A concern that was addressed is that historically there has been some residents that have had access to the canal roads in the past. This practice was highly discouraged in the future. All of the attending emergency services advised that they would be willing to repost safety campaigns to their social media sites to allow for a broader net of viewers and ultimately educate people of the dangers of canal systems.

Project Updates: The South Branch Phase I Canal Lining Reach 4 and 5 has all the pipe installed and crews are currently working on finishing the structures and the road work at

the tail end. The project is slated to be complete in mid-April with water starting by late-April.

Change Order #3 for the South Branch Phase II Robinson MP 10.4 Piping Project to MP 10.8 was presented to the board which will finish the road work in preparation for the next construction season.

Treasurer's Report: The Director's monthly payroll vouchers were presented for signatures. Summary Vouchers for the March 2022 expenses and payroll which included check numbers 46084-46181, direct deposit numbers 9902382 through 9902401 in the sum of \$2,706,865.03 were approved with a motion made by Director Swanson. The second was made by Director Bland, the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: Director Haberman and Director Swanson participated in the Professional Services RFQ Sub Committee. The ranking committee report was distributed to the board. Director Swanson gave a brief overview of the submissions that were received and ranked by the subcommittee. Director Hansen made a motion for the district to accept the results and establish on call contracts with the winning bidders. A second was made by Director Bland, the motion passed unanimously.

A contract for the Kittitas County Water Purveyors (KCWP) 2022 Contributions was presented and signed by the board.

Policies were presented for the Vacating Unused Right-of-Way and Modification of KRD Facilities (Ditches/Turn Outs). Continued conversation occurred on the previously entered policies. The KRD will coordinate the Vacating a Right-of-Way policy with the USBR to tie them together.

New Business: Treasurer Berg notified the board of the account change at Wells Fargo Bank which now issues a service fee on a monthly basis. The bank has provided an alternative type of government account that will accrue interest and will not be charged a service fee. The board agreed to allow the account to be changed to the alternative government account through Wells Fargo and start the process to evaluate alternative future options.

Other Business: The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 2:58 p.m. for 15 minutes per RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) and RCW 42.30.110(1)(i):(i) there was motion made by Director Hanson and a second made by Director Swanson. The motion passed unanimously. The Board returned to Regular Session at 2:13 p.m. with a motion made by

Director Hansen, and the second was made by Director Swanson. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Eberhart asked the board for permission to attend a conference in Australia. There was a brief conversation that took place and the majority of the Directors agreed to the travel.

All business having been concluded the meeting was adjourned.

Mr. Schnebly KRD Board of Directors Chairman

Mr. Eberhart KRD Secretary Manager