

Office of the Secretary Manager
Kittitas Reclamation District Board of Directors Meeting
April 4, 2023 Minutes

The Board of Directors of the Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD) met in Regular Session on April 4, 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 and Legal Counsel Jeff Slothower. Also present were KRD Landowners Dave McDaniel, Trent Ward, Curt Stanley with Ranch Properties, Mark Charlton and David Sadowski.

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

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

Public Comment: Landowners Mark Charlton and Trent Ward asked the board when the water turn-on date would be. Mr. Eberhart said that was on the agenda and would be discussed further in the meeting. Dave McDaniel thanked the board and KRD employees for all of their work.

Mr. Stanley asked the Board if permission had been granted for the permit on Lund Ln. Mr. Eberhart said that the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) is taking the lead on that topic. Mr. Stanley asked if Lund Lane was being changed to a county road and Mr. Eberhart referred him to Kittitas County for further information.

Water Master Report: As of April 4, 2023 the five reservoirs are at 50% capacity and the storage at 76.0% of average. Precipitation at the five reservoirs for April 1 to date is 2.36 inches, or 172% of average and 17% of the months average. We are running 73% of average for water year overall. The Snotel sites for the Upper Yakima Basin are reporting 101% of average and the Naches Basin sites are at

94% of average. Lake Easton is being filled at this time. The next River Ops Meeting is April 6, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. The last report from the USBR was that the snowpack is sitting on very dry soil and how it melts will make a significant impact on water storage. The water turn-on date is set for April 14, 2023 with will allow the ditchriders to start taking water orders the following Monday. Director Hansen made a motion to set the allotment at 2 cfs per acre. A second was made by Director Haberman the motion passed unanimously.

Maintenance Report: Field Supervisor Bob Main reported that there are two burn crews burning laterals in the Badger Pocket area. There is one excavator and 1 backhoe working on Ride 4. There is a crew picking rocks and a second crew patching laterals. There were 4 gauge stations installed in the Badger Pocket area. There is a crew working on 800 feet of piping on Turbine 1.1. A 1993 Mack Semi Truck and a 1990 General 3 axle Lowboy Trailer were purchased.

Secretary Manager's Activity Report: Mr. Eberhart began his report by presenting our deepest condolences to the family of Former Director Larry Bland who recently passed away. Mr. Bland had a strong community presence as well as the dedicated involvement at the KRD. He will be greatly missed in the irrigation community as well as throughout the Kittitas County.

KRD Dam Tender Chris Sandvig is retiring from his position after 28 years as a KRD employee. Jacob Heyen is the new Dam Tender & Ride 6 Ditchrider.

Mr. Eslinger has filed the Notice of Completion for the Ellensburg Shop Fire.

The Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Briefings were completed for the remaining federal agencies at the regional level.

Washington State is continuing the finalization process of the State Budget. As of March 20, 2023 the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (YBIP) is currently slated to receive \$49 Million. The KRD is included in the YBIP funding. Additional funding is accounted for in the budget for Springwood.

Mr. Eberhart participated in multiple meetings in Washington D.C. regarding the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan.

The Annual Tributary Supplementation Meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2023.

Mr. Eberhart will attend the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Meeting in Boise, ID on April 26-27, 2023.

Director Swanson made a motion to allow Mr. Eberhart to attend the Columbia Basin Collaborative Integration / Recommendations Group Meetings in Portland, OR on April 19-20, 2023. A second was made by Director Bland, the motion passed unanimously.

The Yakima Basin Focused Managed Aquifer Recharge, Taneum Creek Pilot Test is continually moving forward. It is currently in the QA portion of the program, and answering any questions that may arise. Separately, the permit has been submitted to access the property to administer the pilot test.

While Mr. Eberhart was on his most recent trip to Washington D.C., he was able to meet with Senator Murray in the Senate Appropriations Meeting Room. Along with expressing his appreciation for the support given to the Easton Bull Trout Research Facility, he discussed the additional funding needed to continue the project. The Cultural Services Consultant Agreement is complete, and the historical work needs to be done. The KRD is working with the Yakama Nation to do the cultural work and Central Washington University will be conducting the ground penetrating radar work.

The United States Army Corp of Engineers has a comment period open until April 10, 2023 to comment on the Bateman Island Causeway. The KRD is submitting a letter in support of the removal of the Causeway.

Jennifer Quan is the new Regional Administrator for NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region. She has a very collaborative approach that will work well for the Region.

Project Updates: Field Supervisor Main previously reported that a crew is installing pipe for the Turbine 1.1 Piping Project.

The concrete portion of the North Branch No. 33-NBC-1005 is complete. There was minimal weather damage that is being repaired currently. The fencing will be complete by the turn-on date.

Treasurer's Report: The Director's monthly payroll vouchers were presented for signatures. Summary Vouchers for the March 2023 expenses and payroll which included check numbers 47111 - 47204 direct deposit numbers 9902663 through 9902682 in the sum of \$1,873,153.18 were approved with a motion made by

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

Old Business: Mr. Eslinger reported that he provided 4 possible site locations for EMRGY Hydropower. The KRD will continue to collaborate with EMRGY Hydropower to explore hydropower opportunities. Mr. Eberhart also noted that he has been communicating with the Yakama Nation regarding their project using solar power over piped areas.

Legal Counsel Slothower reported that Kittitas County inspected the KRD North Branch 8.3 Landowner Bridge. The inspector did concur that the bridge is unsafe and should not be used for motor vehicle crossings. Kittitas County Public Works Director Cook and Commissioner Wright are working with the landowner to find alternative access to the area. If there was a failure in this area, it would take approximately 18 hours to dewater the canal. The KRD recommendation that was provided to Mr. Sadowski stated that additional time to provide an alternative access would be allowed and we strongly advise that no vehicles be driven over the canal. The subject was discussed at length primarily between Mr. Sadowski and legal counsel. Ultimately it was determined that the KRD is unable to assist the landowner further at this time. The landowner was referred to the USBR or Kittitas County for further assistance.

Field Supervisor Main reported that the gates have been locked in the area of the Cooke Canyon Hunt Club. There was no further activity noted and the situation appears to be resolved.

An engineering firm has tested the Sun Light Waters Bridge and rated the bridge to allow for fire apparatus to use it safely. The bridge is posted for the current weight requirements at this time. The Sun Light Waters Development is expecting to start work on the bridge next spring and asked permission for an alternative access through Horlick Rd which also has a bridge on it without a load rating. Director Swanson asked if a temporary bridge or foot bridge could be used. Field Supervisor Main, said the problem in the area is the road naturally has a bottle neck and there really isn't a good option. Due to safety reasons the board agreed that either option would not be allowed for the expected traffic that would be in the area at that time. If the construction was expected in the fall when the safety risks would be less, the board could revisit the request.

Legal Counsel Slothower reviewed the partial collapse of the Lund Lane Bridge that occurred last year. Since the incident, the bridge has been repaired and an

engineer has inspected it. Once the signage is posted on the bridge the board agreed to remove the ecology blocks that are currently blocking the entrance.

New Business: The current 2023 Foreclosure List was provided to the board and the collection process will continue to collect the remaining 2020 assessments and interest.

Legal Counsel Slothower addressed the Board on the KRD / USBR Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Use, Crossing & Bridge Licenses. There continues to be increasing incidents of people using the canal, crossing the canal and a multitude of issues that has been causing a drain on the staffing time. The USBR would like to negotiate a MOU or MOA that would allocate how to handle these types of decisions. There will continue to be further collaboration on this process as the situation progresses. Director Hansen recommended that Kittitas County be included, particularly in the bridge crossing portion of this agreement.

Other Business: The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 2:14 p.m. for 20 minutes per RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) and RCW 42.30.110(1)(i):(iii) there was a motion made by Director Hanson and a second made by Director Bland. The motion passed unanimously. Executive Session was extended an additional 10 minutes. The Board returned to Regular Session at 2:44 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