

COLUMBIA IRRIGATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING
November 1, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

President Shawver called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Present at the meeting were:

Vincent Shawver, President
Neil Martin, Vice President
Dallas Ayde, Director
Sherri Thackham, Director
Marilyn Dickenson, Director

Curt Strifert, Secretary/Manager
Lila Freshment, Recorder
Jeff Sperline, Attorney

Guests:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Martin moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Director Thackham seconded. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of October 25, 2024

Director Dickenson moved to approve the minutes of October 25, 2024. Director Martin seconded. The motion carried.

October Vouchers

Voucher 01	Reimburse Revolving Fund	<u>\$243,859.51</u>
	Total All Vouchers	\$243,859.51

The Board reviewed and discussed the October Vouchers. Director Thackham moved to approve the vouchers as submitted. Director Martin seconded. The motion carried.

September Financial Statement

The Board reviewed and discussed the September Financial Statement.

OLD BUSINESS

Work Orders by Division

The Board reviewed and discussed the work orders in their respective divisions.

38th to Van Giesen Membrane Liner Bids

Mr. Strifert reviewed the four bids received for the project. The lowest bidder was Western Ag Enterprises, Inc. Director Thackham moved to award Western Ag Enterprises, Inc. the contract for the 38th to Van Giesen Liner Project. Director Martin seconded. The motion carried.

Riverside Shotcrete Liner Bids

Mr. Strifert reviewed the two bids received for the project. The lowest bidder was Columbia Pumping & Construction, Inc. Director Thackham moved to award Columbia Pumping & Construction, Inc. the contract for the Riverside Shotcrete Liner Project. Director Martin seconded. The motion carried.

CID/KID Drought Agreement

Mr. Strifert advised the proposed location for the pump station was discussed with KID, including the required conditions if the site is approved. Following board approval, fee structures and administrative protocols will be established. Initial suggestions include a tiered fee system based on usage (e.g., flow meter readings by gallons or acre feet) rather than an upfront charge. If Columbia Irrigation District (CID) grants permission, the pump's operation will also depend on water availability, with restrictions in place. Further details will be provided at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Operations Report

Mr. Strifert reported on the recent Water Stargrass Coalition Zoom meeting, where key stakeholders, including representatives from Fish and Wildlife, local tribes, Benton Conservation, Badger Mountain Irrigation District, the City of Richland, the Department of Ecology, and the Bureau of Reclamation—discussed the coalition's objectives and initial plans. The first official coalition meeting will be held next spring.

Mr. Strifert reported that winterization of all lines is now complete. The team is currently focused on finalizing construction for LID 15 Highland Vineyard and preparing and shaping the canal at Van Giesen to Ranch Road for shotcrete. Coordination with the county is ongoing to arrange a temporary road closure due to limited space for vehicle passage alongside the concrete trucks.

Mr. Strifert stated that the District will bring on two temporary seasonal employees to support winter construction and maintenance. They will manage manual tasks like shotcrete work and clearing weirs/screens. This temporary role presents an opportunity to transition into a full-time position.

A resident from the Lakes in West Richland reported that the Rubicon screens installed this year provided the best water quality he has experienced in 17 years. Plans are underway to expand the installation of Rubicon screens into additional LIDs, with Belmont scheduled for this year and other locations targeted for next year. Mr. Strifert will continue providing updates as feedback is received.

Safety Meeting

The Board finalized plans for the upcoming safety meeting, focusing on ways to recognize and show appreciation for the team's hard work. Each employee will receive a \$100 Walmart gift card as a token of gratitude, which Mr. Strifert will purchase and distribute prior to Thanksgiving. The Board also agreed to let operations staff select the lunch menu for the meeting. Additionally, employees celebrating service milestones this year will receive separate recognition gift cards, which the Board will present during the safety meeting on December 20, 2024.

LID Electrical Projects

Mr. Strifert gave an update regarding addressing issues related to pump and motor setups in LIDs. Six systems require adjustments due to mismatched pump and VFD configurations, with some larger pumps lacking VFDs or smaller pumps using VFDs incorrectly. Two of these systems will be fixed this winter. New VFDs will be installed as needed, but no motor replacements are required.

West Richland Property/Office Building

Mr. Strifert presented a potential site in West Richland as a strong option for a new office and storage facility. The 1.77-acre parcel, which is approximately \$470,000, includes utilities and completed frontage improvements. Proposed plans for a 3,500–3,700 sq. ft. facility would meet current needs and allow for future growth. The site offers secure access for the majority of patrons and supports long-term goals without impacting rates. The need for relocation was underscored by current facility limitations and safety concerns.

Director Dickenson moved that Mr. Strifert make an offer of \$6 per sq ft for this property subject to final board approval. Director Thackham seconded. Director Martin opposed. The motion carried.

DIRECTOR DISCUSSION


Mr. Strifert informed the board that Jeff Sperline will attend the WSWRA conference in Spokane and requested confirmation of travel arrangements by the next board meeting. Director Ayde suggested discussing dam cleanup efforts to achieve long-term cost savings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Shawver moved the meeting into Executive session at 11:50 a.m., for 15 minutes, to discuss current litigation and legal risks of current or proposed action. It was extended by 5 minutes at 12:05 a.m. The meeting was moved to Open session at 12:10 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

President Shawver adjourned the meeting at 12:11 a.m.



Vincent Shawver, President



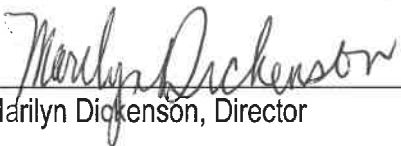
Neil Martin, Vice President



Sherri Thackham, Director



Dallas Ayde, Director



Marilyn Dickenson, Director

ATTEST:



Curt Strifert, Secretary/Manager