
The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID) was called to order by Brad Clarno, at 9:00 AM on October 10, 2023, in the District office.

Directors present were Brad Clarno, Paul Kasberger, Tom Burke, Jeff Larkin, and Terry Blackwell. Craig Horrell, Secretary - Managing Director, Jenny Hartzell-Hill, HR Manager; Kelley O'Rourke, Business Operations Manager; Erin Bathke, Accounting and Administrative Associate; attended in person. Heidi Dennison, Finance Consultant; Cary Penhollow, Water Master; Kelley Hamby, Operations and Maintenance Manager; Leslie Clark, Water Rights Director, Gina Brooksbank, Water Rights Manager; Jessi Talbott, Water Relations Manager; Baxter Davies, Water Distribution Analyst; participated remotely by Zoom. Matt Singer, General Counsel attended in person. In-person guests are listed in Exhibit "A".

1. OPEN FORUM:

Jack Ettinger, Alfalfa Patron, asked why the ORS for executive session are stated on the agenda for the meetings. Craig Horrell explained executive session protocol. He also asked about the HCP water trade regarding Crane Prairie. He was also upset about the article that was published in the Bulletin on Saturday regarding the election process and COID. Craig Horrell explained that staff did respond and that the article was not accurate and that a correction article is expected in the next day or so. Jack also brought up the history of reservoirs and how the HCP has changed and affected the river and fluctuations of flows.

Tony Newbill, Powell Butte patron, came in today to talk about the water seeding bill. He also brought the new topics regarding groundwater regulations and suggested going together to the meeting next month in Salem to back and support the cloud seeding plans. He explained that the surrounding states have been cloud seeding and having success. Craig explained that on October 12 a tour is scheduled here in Central Oregon that Craig will be participating in with Finley and Owens and the RAC to learn more about this with a bi-partisan group. Tony suggested COID get involved with the science of cloud seeding to help promote the concept. Craig stated that the concept could potentially be tested as a pilot project in Oregon.

Sue Stoneman, Patron, came to the Board to ask how the elections work. Her concern is that it is not promoted on the COID website. Craig Horrell explained that the board elections are done according to Oregon State Statute.

2. MINUTES:

A motion was made by Tom Burke to approve the 9/18/23 Regular Meeting minutes. Following a second by Jeff Larkin the motion was approved unanimously.

3. TRANSFERS / INCLUSIONS:

A water management report was provided to the Board prior to the meeting, Exhibit "B". Gina Brooksbank informed the board that there was one new transfer. Following a motion by Tom Burke and a second by Terry Blackwell the transfers were approved unanimously.

4. **REPORTS:**

A. Watermaster Report –

A written report (Exhibit “C”) was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Cary Penhollow joined the Board and gave an update on current flows.

B. Operations and Maintenance Report –

A written report (Exhibit “D”) was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Kelley Hamby joined the meeting, and no questions were asked.

C. Hydro Report -

A written report (Exhibit “E”) was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Doug Watson joined the meeting; no questions were asked.

D. Internal Operations & Communications-

A written report (Exhibit “F”) was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Craig Horrell updated the Board on the communications plan and the partnership with NUID. Craig said that they are going to go meet with the Editorial Board to encourage them to do better reporting.

E. Finance -

The written report (Exhibit “G”) was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Craig Horrell reported that finance is working on getting the draft budgets pulled together for strategic planning. The 9th Street Property contract payment for 2023 has been received and will be put into the endowment fund.

F. Manager Report-

Craig Horrell updated the Board on his upcoming meeting with state legislators, Owens, and Finley where they will meet and tour on October 12th here in Central Oregon. He also discussed the groundwater issues and needs of the City of Bend.

5. **BILLINGS & PAYROLL:**

Tom Burke made a motion to approve the Billings and Payroll as presented. Following a second by Jeff Larkin the motion was approved unanimously.

6. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Merkley PL 566**

EIS Update: Craig Horrell updated the Board as there is a new schedule now and it puts us a year behind, and piping won't start until 2025. The reason we are behind is because of agency reviews and their timeframes to comment. Once we get our crosscutters completed, the funds are there. He also reiterated that DBBC has done more than any other basin and received more federal funds than any other.

- **SPP Property Update**

Craig Horrell updated the board on the sale. We are still waiting for a response from FERC. We are 45 days into the 90-day process and waiting for their decision.

- **End of Season Shut-off Discussion**

Cary Penhollow joined the meeting and discussion followed regarding shut-off date. It was verified that October 15 is the official date for shut-off.

- **Strategic Planning**

A preliminary agenda will be provided prior to the meeting for their review and input on anything additional to add to the agenda.

7. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **2023 Elections**

Clarifications and Board discussion followed. Craig explained the ORS requirements of the process. He also discussed the details that he shared with Michael Kohn with the Bulletin. Matt Singer explained that any changes to the process would be issues to bring to State Legislature as the process we follow at COID is dictated by State Statute. Paul Kasberger, asked for clarification on term time with the vacant positions.

At 9:53 a.m. the Board recessed the General Session and moved to the Executive Session.

- ORS 192.660(2)(e) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.
- ORS 192.660(2)(h) to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

The executive session recessed and returned to general session at 11:16 a.m.

8. **BOARD COMMENTS:**

Tom Burke brought up ground wells and two different aquifers. He is in the crooked river aquifer. He has had to get 3 wells dug deeper because of the development around him. He has concerns about what we do as COID. Craig explained that the goal is to get the rules specific to the aquifer regions instead of a blanket moratorium.

Paul Kasberger brought up instream leasing costs.

Terry Blackwell said that he learned a lot obtaining signatures for his nomination petition and it was a great experience. Many brought up on-farm improvement help (financially). Terry explained to those that brought that up that COID has on-farm projects liaison now that can meet with them. He shared concerns and comments that he received from patrons in his area.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m. following a motion by Tom Burke and a second by Jeff Larkin.

Craig Horrell, Manager

Terry Blackwell

Tom Burke

Brad Clarno

Paul Kasberger

Jeff Larkin