
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 November 20, 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; Erin Bathke, Accounting and Administrative Associate; attended in person. Kelley O'Rourke, Business Operations Manager; 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:

None.

2. MINUTES:

The minutes from the previous meetings were reviewed and it was pointed out that Paul Kasberger was not included in the list of attendees in the 10/27/23, 11/3/23 and 11/16/23 minutes. This was corrected and he was added to each. A motion was made by Terry Blackwell to approve the 10/10/23 Regular Meeting, the 10/27/23 Special Meeting, the 11/3/23 Special Meeting, and the 11/16/23 Special Meeting minutes as corrected and re-presented. Following a second by Tom Burke 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 are two transfers on the CO Canal. 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. The flows in the Deschutes are not high enough to do stock water runs currently. The website will be updated to inform patrons.

B. Operations and Maintenance Report –

A written report (Exhibit "D") was provided to the Board at the meeting. Kelley Hamby joined the meeting, and he informed the Board that a new hire has been added to the maintenance team, Nate Huff. The cone valve needs additional work to repair it or change the drive system. Discussion followed.

C. Hydro Report -

A written report (Exhibit "E") was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Kelley Hamby informed the Board that some of the pipe at SPP will need

maintenance in the upcoming years, Doug will have more information on that as we learn what that will entail.

- D. Internal Operations & Communications-
A written report (Exhibit “F”) was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Craig Horrell reported nothing to add.
- E. Finance -
The written report (Exhibit “G”) was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Heidi did not have anything additional to report.
- F. Manager Report-
Craig Horrell had nothing to report.

5. **BILLINGS & PAYROLL:**

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

6. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Merkley PL 566**
EIS Update: Craig Horrell updated the Board that we are working through some historic site checks, and it is part of the process. COID must notify the patrons prior to taking samples. Draft EIS is expected in May and there will be public meetings for this in the Spring.
- **SPP Property Update**
Craig Horrell updated the board on the property sale. FERC is still working on getting through the email submittals.
- **L Lateral Piping**
Craig Horrell explained the COID project and the project area and that there is a parallel ditch that delivers water to Paul Kasberger’s property. Paul Kasberger then proposed charging NUID for the conserved on-farm water that could be delivered to them if his delivery ditch was piped. Paul asked, “how do we incentivize patrons to make on-farm improvements to conserve water”? Detailed discussion followed. Matt Singer will review Oregon Water Law to see if what he is proposing is allowed. It was discussed to do this as a pilot project. Terry Blackwell made a motion to table this discussion to the December meeting. Craig Horrell proposed getting the involved partners together to discuss the proposal (Patron, NUID, COID & DRC). Following a second by Tom Burke the motion was approved unanimously.

7. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **2023 Elections – Canvass Votes**
The Division I Certificate of Votes from the November 14, 2023, Elections by the Election Judges was read by Brad Clarno, Exhibit H. Brad Clarno declared C.B. Foss as the winner of the Division I Election. The Certificate of Election was signed by Craig Horrell, Exhibit I.

The Division III Certificate of Votes from the November 14, 2023, Elections by the Election Judges was read by Brad Clarno, Exhibit J. Brad Clarno declared Brian Lepore as the winner of the Division III Election. The Certificate of Election was signed by Craig Horrell, Exhibit K.

The Division V Certificate of Votes from the November 14, 2023, Elections by the Election Judges was read by Brad Clarno, Exhibit L. Brad Clarno declared Tom Burke as the winner of the Division V Election. The Certificate of Election was signed by Craig Horrell, Exhibit M.

- **Draft 2024 Budget**

The draft budgets were provided to the board, Exhibit "N". Craig Horrell began the discussion saying that the budget cannot be finalized until a decision is made on the planned rate increase or doing a pause on the increase for 2024. He also reminded the Board that the negotiations with the labor union per contract will also be this spring. Discussion followed.

At 10:54 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 12:31 a.m.


8. **BOARD COMMENTS:**


Terry Blackwell commented that here at the end of the water season, he looked back on his season for his community garden. On his small property he had apples, peaches, plums, pears, and zucchini in abundance that were shared with the community, highlighting the impact of smaller properties and what they grow and provide if managed to do so.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.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