



The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID) was called to order by Brad Clarno, at 9:06 AM on October 15, 2024, in the district office.

Directors present were Tom Burke, Brad Clarno, C.B. Foss, and Jeff Larkin. Brian LePore participated via Zoom. Craig Horrell, Secretary - Managing Director, Jon Skidmore, Deputing Managing Director; Jenny Hartzell-Hill, HR Manager; Erin Bathke, Accounting & Administrative Associate; and Matt Singer, General Counsel attended in person. Heidi Dennison, Finance Consultant; Kelley O'Rourke, Internal Operations Manager; Jessi Talbott, Water Rights Director; Cary Penhollow, Water Master; Baxter Davies, Operations and Maintenance Manager; Doug Watson, Hydro Manager; participated via zoom. In-person guests are listed in Exhibit "A". Bob McMahon was on Zoom.

1. OPEN FORUM:

Marla Gibson, patron from Terrebonne. She sent the Board a letter prior to the meeting, Exhibit "B". She provided a brief history of the issues she has had over the years with her water delivery and use. The Board asked questions regarding past use. She has had water confiscated in the past, so she currently is assessed for .64 acres of water rights. She is willing and able to water the 1.25 acres of water rights. She is also asking for a reversal on the less than one acre fee. It was noted that she is currently over watering. Board discussion followed. This will be discussed in the executive session and staff will contact her with the decision.

2. MINUTES:

The minutes from the 9/10/24 Regular Meeting and 9/17/24 Special Meeting are provided prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Tom Burke to approve both the meeting minutes as presented. Following a second by Jeff Larkin the motion was approved unanimously.

3. TRANSFERS / INCLUSIONS:

The water rights memorandum was provided to the Board prior to the meeting, Exhibit "C". Jessi Talbott updated the Board on the transfers. She also reviewed the forfeiture process that will happen in the next month and any board hearing requests will be heard prior to the November Board meeting. Tom Burke made a motion to approve the transfers as presented. Following a second by Jeff Larkin the motion was approved unanimously.

4. REPORTS:

A. Watermaster Report –

A written report (Exhibit "D") was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Cary Penhollow joined the Board and discussed current flows and season shut-off. Details of season flows and COID certificate requirements and how storage can be used were discussed.

B. Operations and Maintenance Report –

A written report (Exhibit "E") was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Baxter Davies joined the meeting in person and updated the Board on Operations and Maintenance. Typical maintenance activities and highlights of what piping projects are scheduled for this fall and winter. The G Lateral on the Pilot Butte Canal is the focus along with some smaller lateral piping.

- C. Hydro Report -
A written report (Exhibit “F”) was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Doug Watson joined the meeting in person and updated the Board on current production. Doug updated the Board on future Power Purchase contracts that he has been working on. New hydro projects will be discussed at the strategic planning meeting. The homeless issues were discussed, and Jon Skidmore is working with the City and County on the proposed safe zone and how it would impact the COID Juniper Ridge Hydro facility.
- D. Internal Operations & Communications-
A written report (Exhibit “G”) was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Craig Horrell discussed that a survey was distributed to COID patrons by a COCC professor. It was irresponsible for them to go outside of our collaborative and send a survey to our patrons. COID was working on creating a survey that collects information that is helpful to the district to get information that is helpful for COID to move forward with projects based on information, but this has somewhat derailed our plan to do this until next year. Craig is proposing that we post a statement on our website and send it out to our patrons regarding that survey. Board was in agreement with this plan.
- E. Finance -
The written report (Exhibit “H”) was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Heidi Dennison had nothing further to add. She has been working with management staff on the 2025 Budgeting. Craig Horrell also updated the Board that we are going to do a check-in with Angie Sanchez with FCS to review the 5-year model and where we are with the current plan and what the future modeling looks like. The findings will be presented at the Strategic Planning meeting. Tom Burke said that assessments are a tax, and no one likes more taxes. He said if rates continue to rise farmers and ranchers will not be able to continue to do this. Board discussion followed.
- F. Manager Report-
Craig Horrell reported on the congressional field hearing that took place last week. The publicity headlines as a result did not go in the direction it was intended.

5. **BILLINGS & PAYROLL:**

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

6. **OLD BUSINESS:**

• **Merkley PL 566**

EIS Update: Craig Horrell updated the Board. SHPO is still standing in the way and trying to prevent the Redmond Section from being piped. We are working on mitigation options and proposals to allow us to pipe.

• **SPP Property Update**

Craig Horrell updated the board on the property sale. We are still waiting on FERC to approve our easement and remap submittal. Jon Skidmore has emailed FERC with a request for a status update.

- **Central Oregon Canal– Geotechnical Quote**
The Central Oregon Canal geotechnical quote is in the works, we are waiting for the final quote to come in for board consideration. We are moving forward with the study of the problem section. Once the final quote is done it will be presented to the Board.
- **USDA Water Savings Grant Program**
Craig Horrell informed the Board that he and Jon Skidmore are still working on bringing in this money. We are developing a contract for board consideration for \$15,000,000. A caveat of this money is that a portion is used for on-farm improvements. The technical requirements of this are still being discussed. The projected start date for groundbreaking would begin the fall of 2025.
- **NUID Delivery Rate**
Nothing new to discuss.
- **Strategic Planning – October 28, 2024**
Strategic Planning will be at COID, and staff understand the direction that the Board would like to focus on.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Survey Conducted by COCC/Owen Murphy**
Craig Horrell discussed the survey in the communications report. See the notes above.
- **Division 4 Elections**
The Declaration of Election for Division IV was read, Exhibit I. Tom Burke made a motion to approve as presented. Following a second by Jeff Larkin the motion was approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Brad Clarno recessed the regular session to go into Executive Session at 11:05 a.m. under the following ORS:

- 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 the general session at 11:59 a.m.

8. **BOARD COMMENTS:**

CB voiced his concern about ditch maintenance and discussion followed on how to get the most out the off-season patrolman help. Staggering time off and hiring independent contractors was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m. following a motion by Tom Burke and a second by CB Foss.

Craig Horrell, Manager

Tom Burke

Brad Clarno

C.B. Foss

Jeff Larkin

Brian Lepore

APPROVED