



The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID) was called to order by Brad Clarno, at 9:02 AM on December 10, 2024, in the district office.

Directors present were Tom Burke, Brad Clarno, C.B. Foss, Jeff Larkin, and Brian Lepore. Craig Horrell, Secretary - Managing Director, Jon Skidmore, Deputing Managing Director; Erin Bathke, Accounting and Administrative Assistant; Kelley O'Rourke, Internal Operations Manager; Matt Singer, General Counsel; Jessi Talbott, Water Rights Director., all attended in person. Heidi Dennison, Finance Consultant; Cary Penhollow, Water Master; Doug Watson, Hydro Manager; participated via zoom. In-person guests are listed in Exhibit "A".

1. OPEN FORUM:

Todd Peplin, Oregon Soil and Water Conservation, announced that they are gearing up next year for an irrigation management course with OSU. It will begin in April and go through June every Thursday night in addition to three field sessions on a Saturday. He is interested in having COID staff be a part of this. The program is directed from a range of professionals to ranchers and farmers. Open registration begins in January.

3. MINUTES:

The minutes of the 11/12/24 Regular Meeting and 11/18/24 Special Meeting and 11/25/24 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.

4. TRANSFERS / INCLUSIONS:

The water rights memorandum was provided to the Board prior to the meeting, Exhibit "B". Jessi Talbott updated the Board on the transfers. Tom Burke made a motion to approve the transfers as presented. Following a second by Jeff Larkin the motion was approved unanimously.

5. REPORTS:

A. Watermaster Report –

A written report (Exhibit "C") was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Cary Penhollow joined the Board and discussed how the recent stock run was successful. There were several challenging places due to slush and the water freezing. Both reservoirs are on track, but flow has slowed down because of the weather. Snowpack is average; there is a good base. He will be keeping an eye on the weather to see if we can do another stock run.

B. Operations and Maintenance Report –

A written report (Exhibit "D") was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Craig Horrell updated the Board on maintenance projects. The recent stock run opened the sinkhole a bit. Geo tech will look at how it can be repaired. The field personnel are out cleaning ditches before snow comes.

C. Hydro Report -

A written report (Exhibit “E”) was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Doug Watson joined the meeting in person and updated the Board on the off-season maintenance status and processes. Jon Skidmore has been helping with Juniper Ridge’s recent issues with vehicles being driven in the canal near the plant. We will need to have a crane come in and retrieve the vehicle. He attends weekly meetings with the city to resolve the issue by placing concrete barriers every 5 feet (approx. 500 blocks). This will be about 2 miles in length. Board discussion followed.

D. Internal Operations & Communications-

A written report (Exhibit “F”) was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Nothing additional.

E. Finance -

The written report (Exhibit “G”) was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Heidi Dennison. No additional information.

F. Manager Report-

Craig Horrell announced that he has secured a \$79 million dollar grant specific to the Pilot Butte Canal. \$66 million dollars is secured and the remaining \$13 million he will know by tomorrow if we are receiving it. These funds are zero match, and the funds will go towards piping and the on-farm component. We expect to receive these funds by Fall 2025.

6. **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.

7. **OLD BUSINESS:**

• **Merkley PL 566**

We received a resolution with SHPO on how we mitigate and move forward with piping the historic Pilot Butte Canal section by the hospital. The next step will be to finalize the design and procuring the type of pipe by looking at the cost. We expect to start that phase of the piping project in Fall of 2025.

• **SPP Property Update**

Craig Horrell updated the board on the property sale. There is no additional information. We are still waiting on FERC to approve our easement and remap submittal. Jon Skidmore updated the board on his work with arborist for tree trimming in the area. This will provide a fire break. The county forester may possibly have grant funding available. We will work with patrons to gain access for tree removal in some of the areas.

• **USDA Water Savings Grant Program**

Craig Horrell informed the Board that he and Jon Skidmore are still working on the work plan to present to them. Previously the board agreed to split the grant funding and allocate \$1 million dollars to rotations within the piping. With additional grant funding, Craig proposed allocating an additional \$1,000,000 to beyond the POD. The board

agreed to designate \$1,000,000 to the Central Oregon Canal and \$1,000,000 to the PB canal.

- **2025 Budget**

Craig reviewed the items they removed from the original budget to lower it. The board requested more information from the rate study before deciding on approving the 2025 budget. A special meeting will be held next week to review the information.

- **2025 Annual Assessment Rates**

The board reviewed the graph that Heidi provided in the meeting packet. The board requested more information on several scenarios and will meet next week in a special meeting to discuss.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

- **New Grant Awarded**

Craig Horrell discussed this in the Manager's Report section. He will update the board with the final amount at next week's meeting. Jon Skidmore applied for the Pacific Power EB grant for two F150 lightnings and chargers in the amount of \$160,000. We have been awarded \$113,000 so we will be able to get a dual port charger and one truck.

- **Real Property Transactions**

Lot 8 Juniper Ridge - Tom Burke made a motion to enter into a letter of intent for the purchase. Following a second by Jeff Larkin the motion was approved unanimously.

- **Foreclosure Memorandum**

Brad Clarno read the memo to the board, Exhibit "H". Tom Burke made a motion to approve the Motion of Action: Following a second by Brian Lepore the motion was approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Brad Clarno recessed the regular session to go into Executive Session at 10:57 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 12:03 p.m.

9. **BOARD COMMENTS:**

Brian Lepore announced that Soil and Water Conservation is looking to grow relationships and are working on building more partnerships.

CB Foss asked if ditch riders or maintenance take trucks home; during off season because he noticed them out on a Sunday during the stock run. The answer is yes.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 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