



The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID) was called to order by Brad Clarno, at 9:03 AM on March 11, 2025, in the district office.

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

1. OPEN FORUM:

Zach Capell, Patron located at 21911 NE Butler Market Road, Bend. He provided background information regarding no flow of water to his property. His neighbor is unwilling to allow him to pipe across the property. He presented some ORS' and water rights cases to see if they pertain to his property and his water rights. He would like to continue to have water rights and has made many efforts to work with the neighbor, Josh Gordon, but has not been successful. Craig Horrell provided background information on this matter. COID has worked with the previous property owner and explained all the efforts made to try to restore the private delivery. Craig informed the Board of their options. The Board will discuss it in Executive Session.

Todd Peplin, DSWC, updated the Board on their education curriculum and scheduling.

2. MINUTES:

The minutes of the 2/12/25 Regular Meeting were provided to the Board. A motion was made by Tom Burke to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Following a second by Brian Lepore the motion was approved unanimously.

3. TRANSFERS / INCLUSIONS:

The water rights memorandum was provided to the Board prior to the meeting, Exhibit "B". Jessi Talbott updated the Board on current standings. Tom Burke made a motion to approve the transfers as presented. Following a second by CB Foss the motion was 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 discussed current reservoir levels and flows in the river. Season start up was discussed. April 7th is the target date for turn-on for both canals. Jeremy Giffin with OWRD joined the meeting and presented the water outlook for the year.

B. Operations and Maintenance Report –

A written report (Exhibit "D") was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Baxter Davies updated the Board on current maintenance projects and maintenance season wrap up. He also brought samples of the sleeve repair kit material. Additional information regarding the kit is in the new business section.

- 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. Power contract options were discussed.
- D. Internal Operations & Communications-
A written report (Exhibit “F”) was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. A joint town hall has been set for March 19th at Ridgeview High School, Redmond. All the DBBC districts were invited to participate in the meeting. ShanRae Hawkins joined via Zoom and gave an overview of the format for the joint town hall.
- E. Finance -
The written report (Exhibit “G”) was provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Craig Horrell reported that everything is looking good budget wise.
- F. Manager Report-
Craig Horrell reported that he, Baxter Davies and Kevin Crew toured pipe plants in Dallas TX and Charleston SC to research what would work for our upcoming projects.

5. **BILLINGS & PAYROLL:**

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

6. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Merkley PL 566**
Craig Horrell updated the board that we have a draft EIS submitted to NRCS. It is now in the 30-day review process, but due to staff and administration changes it may be 90 days. Once the NRCS process is complete then we begin the public meetings and should have things completed by fall of 2025.
- **SPP Property Update**
Jon Skidmore reported that our FERC submittal has been sent to a public hearing before the commission. We know nothing more than that. We will get a notification once it is scheduled for public hearing.
- **USDA Water Savings Grant Program**
Craig Horrell reported we have signed the contract for these funds. We will move forward with this once the new staff in DC settles.
- **New Grant Awards**
RCPP funds are still being held up but Craig Horrell will go to DC in late April to present to new administration.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Season Start Up**

April 7th will be the turn-on date for both canals.

- **Capital Request – Sleeve Repair Kit**

The sleeve repair kit proposal was included in the packet, Exhibit “H”. Baxter Davies joined the meeting to review the proposal and discuss it with the Board. The request is \$35,000 from the Capital Budget. Tom Burke made a motion to approve the capital ask for \$35,000 for the sleeve repair kit. Following a second by CB Foss the motion was approved.

- **Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative**

Craig Horrell explained the premise of the collaborative, but we have not received additional information to present to the Board at this time.

- **Patron Matters –**

- **Brandon & Deven Larsen Request**

Jon Skidmore presented the Larsen proposal, Exhibit “I”. Jon gave the summary of the proposed land swap with COID. Matt Singer also added that there has been ongoing confusion regarding the neighbor’s driveway access that crosses the COID land. Matt proposed involving the neighbors into the transaction to provide a driveway easement for them over their property and have them put money toward the transaction. The Board is in agreement with having Matt move forward with his proposal to work with the neighbors and the Larsen’s.

- **Brasada Ranch Request**

Jerry Jones came to the Board to request a crossing proposal, Exhibit “J”. Board discussion followed. The Board is in agreement with allowing the crossing. Jerry will prepare the hold harmless agreement and send it to Matt for review.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Brad Clarno recessed the regular session to go into Executive Session at 11:12 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 1:00 p.m.

8. **BOARD COMMENTS:**

Tom Burke brought up ditch cleaning and prioritizing that and analyzing our approach. Sub-contracting will be explored.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m. following a motion by Tom Burke and a second by Jeff Larkin.

Craig Horrell, Manager

Tom Burke

Brad Clarno

C.B. Foss

Jeff Larkin

Brian Lepore

APPROVED