MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – JUNE 5TH, 2026
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
YAKIMA-TIETON IRRIGATION DISTRICT

The Board meeting was called to order by President Smith at approximately 12:00 p.m. Present were Directors Chuck Turner, Jason Bolin, Andy Judd, Manager Okelberry, Assistant Manager Brian Boyd, Project Coordinator Josh Akehurst, Administrative Assistant in training Caroline Risley, Todd Hunziker and of Jacobs. Norman Semanko of Parsons Behle & Latimer joined via zoom for the Executive session only.

A motion was made by Director Turner, seconded by Director Bolin and passed, to approve the June 5th, 2026 Special Board Meeting agenda.

The Manager gave a report on the Main Canal:

1. USBR 2-day site visit was this week with Brian, Josh, Junior, and a couple of Jacob's engineers. The visit went well. They were able to see what they missed from their 1st visit. They were able to inspect the liner damage and used GPS to mark locations. Rock walls were of great concern with more wear and damage than a few months earlier. They discussed using drones with thermal cameras in the near future. The tunnels were another concern at the entrance and exit where water is being seen at piping from the top and causing cracks.
2. Manager Okelberry met with EMD/ FEMA this week. The damaged inventory form is in progress. Awaiting details from USBR trip report before it can be submitted.
3. Secretary- Manager Travis Okelberry requested direction from board on which repairs or projects should be prioritized
4. Currently, the canal is operating at 90% restriction. Various options were discussed regarding operations during high demand periods to protect the system under the current capacity restriction. Cowiche Creek Water Users Association (CCWUA) was brought up as a place to start if additional restrictions are necessary to protect the system. The Department of Ecology is responsible for monitoring and regulating the Cowiche basin. There was discussion about CCWUA use during low creek flows. Norman Semanko of Parsons Behle and Latimer has reviewed the contract for CCWUA and confirmed YTID has the right to cease delivery if we lack infrastructure capacity. The board wants to avoid this if possible. Manager Okelberry will follow up with Department of Ecology to make sure there are no issues if needed.
5. Funding:
    - Funding has been requested through Congressionally Directed Spending for canal access and operational improvements. YTID has been approved for $80 million through Reclamation (XM) and $8.5 million from WA State for canal rehabilitation/replacement. The EXM funding determinations are ongoing and dependent on trip report details.
    - Public outreach: YTID is making progress on alternatives and project cost clarity, and hope to outreach with the water users soon. YTID will need to have approval from the water users (through holding an election) to incur the needed debt service.
        a. It was suggested that meeting with the larger growers/shareholders to discuss some the options might be helpful preparing for an election.

After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that they will further discuss next steps at the next board meeting on June 11th, 2026. The Manager recommended tabling approving the start of the pilot project until the district has more clarity on USBR commitments and CDS projects.

At approximately 3:05 p.m. President Smith declared that the Board would go into Executive session in accordance with RCW 42.30.110 (i) and RCW 42.30.110 (iii), to discuss with legal counsel matters relating to agency enforcement actions, litigation, or potential litigation, and legal risks of proposed actions or current practices, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency. The duration of this executive session would be approximately 20 minutes and would be concluded or extended, via public announcement. At approximately 2:25 p.m., the executive session was extended an additional 5 minutes. At approximately 2:30 p.m., the executive session ended.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 by President Smith.

RON SMITH, PRESIDENT

TRAVIS OKELBERRY, SECRETARY-MANAGER