MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – MARCH 13, 2025
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
YAKIMA-TIETON IRRIGATION DISTRICT

The Board meeting was called to order by President Ron Smith at 12:00. Present were Directors Jason Bolin, Andy Judd, Jim Milton (via zoom), Secretary-Manager Travis Okelberry, Assistant Manager Brian Boyd, H.R. Safety Manager Mandy Burkett, Project Coordinator Josh Akehurst and Administrative Assistant Laurie Beth Hood. Heather from the Druse Water user Association (via zoom), Todd Hunziker of Jacobs and Norman Semanko of Parsons Behle & Latimer, were also in attendance.

There were no public comments.

A motion was made by Director Judd, seconded by Director Bolin, and passed, to approve the following Consent Items:

a. Approve March 13, 2025 Board Meeting agenda
b. Review/Approve February 13, 2025 regular Board Meeting minutes
c. Payroll for February 2025 - $116,852.39

A motion was made by Director Judd, seconded by Director Bolin and passed, to approve the regular bills for February 2025 in the amount of $143,356.57.

A motion was made by Director Bolin, seconded by Director Judd and passed, to approve the special bills:

(F) - Fire

a. NWRA Membership Dues - $24,650.50
b. (F) CHWM Hill/Jacobs - $27,651.70
c. (F) Worthington Products (log boom screen) - $10,099.74
TOTAL: $62,401.94

A motion was made by Director Bolin, seconded by Director Judd and passed, to approve the following Water Transfers:

SHARES TRANSFER	*EXISTING SHARES*	*TRANSFERRED SHARES*	*RESULTING SHARES*
FROM: 181317-24414	*6.12*	*-1.07*	*5.05*
181317-24415	*4.23*	*-0.71*	*3.52*
JANE PLATH			
TO: 181317-24416	*29.19*	*+0.66*	*29.85*
181317-24411	*1.50*	*0.23*	*1.73*
181317-13444	*1.06*	*0.89*	*1.95*
SCENIC RANCH LLC			

The Manager reported on the February 2025 budget. YTID is waiting on the outcome of several grants/loans that were applied for, due to the federal government spending pause/freeze.

A motion was made by Director Judd, seconded by Director Milton and passed, to approve board member and Management attendance for the NWRA DC Policy Conference on April 28th -30th.

The Manager gave an update on the YTID Hazard Mitigation Plan and has been working with Yakima County to get this plan FEMA approved. As part of this endeavor, it is required that the plan be mentioned at our public board meetings to show that YTID welcomes public engagement. Phase 1 of the Plan is in process and a

hazard analysis is currently being worked on by district staff. Now that YTID has hazard mitigation guidelines in process, it will allow FEMA to work with the district should we suffer another natural disaster. This plan also requires YTID "grower" participation.

Mandy Burkett gave the H/R and Safety report:

a. Policies & procedures – The H.R. Manager is waiting for the final review of the employee manual.
b. Safety committee report/updates.
c. Employee relations: YTID is re-opening applications for the spray tech position. The maintenance position has been filled.

O & M Projects with Brian Boyd:

1. Maintenance activities – Crew is busy repairing leaks
2. The L.N.I. variance approval for the Case Loader (for use in the canal) is still in the queue for processing.
3. Brian is working on the materials listing that will be sent to the state for the Sales Tax reimbursement.
4. Project Coordinator Akehurst has been working on the following:
    a. Chetu program for timecards and work orders via laptop/computer - The crew should begin training the third week in April.
    b. The new YTID Website is up and running.
    c. The new online payment system should be up and running by the end of April 2025.
    d. The Emergency Notification System: Staff training will be necessary prior to activating and YTID customers will be required to opt-in/sign up to receive emergency notifications.
    e. The log boom screen installation is complete.
    f. Tri-ply construction is moving from the lower to the upper canal currently to continue installing covers.

Manager Report with Travis Okelberry:

1. TWSA water forecast and SOAC report- low storage reported. TWSA is comparing this year's water forecast to prior drought years. (1993, 1994 and 2015.)
2. The Manager gave a YRBWEP quarterly report: The topics discussed were on water conservation, Wapato and cloud seeding.
3. CBA – the Wesley **Group**- The Manager spoke to the Board regarding obtaining a bid from the Wesley Group to assist YTID with the Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2025.
4. French Canyon Dam Raise update- Jacobs will proceed with the R.F.P.
5. Retreat Fire update:

    a. The emergency pipe bridge has been ordered in the amount of $506k. ETA is May 1st, 2025.

    b. The additional Cover for Lower Half of the canal (3,000LF) has been completed. Contractor will move back to upper half to finish installation in areas shut down by winter weather.

    c. The Manager is working with the Bureau of Reclamation on an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for a potential canal failure.

    d. Reclamation funding: The $300k ESR grant, along with the $4M EXM loan is still on pause/frozen. The Water Smart Grant for the French Canyon dam raise should be released to YTID soon.

    e. FEMA update: The Manager met with FEMA the first week in March. FMAG financial assistance does not look promising.

    f. Pedestrian Footbridge at Diversion- It was the consensus of the Board that the Manager will contact the Forest Service and request that they take the lead on possibly replacing this bridge.

    g. Cellular cameras have been placed at key locations at high-risk drainage areas

    h. Debris fences (3) Yakima County applied for a grant for debris fencing, with a 75/25 cost share and is in progress. Due to the amount of snow in the area, the fence could not be installed now even if the grant was approved.

    i. Rubicon automation quotes are being obtained for the headworks and spillway gates.

6. Main Canal Replacement Project:
    a. Update: The Manager is collaborating with stakeholders via YTID Stakeholder Task Force. Congressman Newhouse and Commissioner McKinney will visit YTID on March 20th. The letter of support requesting EXM funding should be signed by all congressional delegates soon. Will be delivered to Secretary Burgum with the Interior.

    b. Project funding: The Manager has reached out to FCA Solutions and is developing estimates & schedule with Jacobs to define what financial commitment will be needed from YTID growers and water users.

7. Community Engagements:
    a. The Manager met with the Sunrise Rotary club in February and will be meeting with the POM club March 19th.
    b. The Manager will meet with YTID growers soon to discuss the vision for the main canal replacement project and the financial costs that could be involved. The Board provided a list of recommended contacts.
8. Jacobs Engineering Update
    a. Todd Hunziker reviewed the Retreat FIRE Cashflow Spreadsheet with the Board.
    b. Debris fencing was discussed.
    c. Canal Replacement – Jacobs is currently developing an estimate & schedule

At approximately 2:00 p.m., President Smith declared that the Board would go into Executive session per RCW 42.30.110 (l) (i) and RCW 42.30.110 (1) (b) to discuss legal and real estate matters with legal counsel representing the agency, matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency. (iii) Litigation or legal risks of a personal action or current practice that the agency has identified when public discussion of the litigation or legal risks is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency. The duration of this executive session would be 30 minutes. The Executive session would be concluded or extended by public announcement at the conclusion of this period, which began at 2:00 p.m. At 2:30 p.m., the Executive session was extended by President Smith, via public announcement until 3:00 p.m. The Executive session ended at approximately 3:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Director Judd, seconded by Director Bolin and passed, to approve Aspect Consulting Phase 2 and to also approve signing the joint defense agreement (JDA) with the other Senior Irrigation Districts.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m. by President Smith.

RON SMITH, PRESIDENT

TRAVIS OKELBERRY, SECRETARY-MANAGER