

MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – JANUARY 22, 2026
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
YAKIMA-TIETON IRRIGATION DISTRICT

The Board meeting was called to order by President Smith at approximately at 1:30 p.m. Present were Directors Dan Keller, Jason Bolin, Andy Judd, Chuck Turner, Secretary-Manager Travis Okelberry, Assistant Manager Brian Boyd, Project Coordinator Josh Akehurst, Administrative Assistant Laurie Beth Hood, Todd Hunziker of Jacobs, Norman Semanko of Parsons Behle & Latimer and Brittany Hughes of Jacobs via zoom.

There were no visitors attending. President Smith noted that Mr. Clemans contacted him and he was referred to our attorney's office.

Jacobs Engineering report: Todd Huziker:

1. Task Order 21 – Retreat Fire Response

- a. Debris barriers have been completed.
- b. MP 7.3 pipe bridge – This pipe bridge had some damage from the Rimrock Retreat fire. The crew cleaned out the inside of the pipe and ordered a new gasket to fix a leak.
- c. MP 9.1 Bridge – The eroding footings on this bridge still need to be addressed. A.L.C. was originally going to address this, however, the debris fence project took longer to complete than originally anticipated. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to ask Brian Boyd and Josh Akehurst physically inspect the access conditions to this bridge and report back to Jacobs. (Todd Hunziker) Mr. Hunziker will then take an action item to procure a qualified contractor. The job will entail preventative labor to divert water away from the footings by applying Shot-Crete around them.
- d. There were two remaining items: First, staff and Uribe Tree Service have identified 67 trees that are a potential hazard to the canal that will need to be cut down. (The bid for this service is \$57K.) The Manager would like to incorporate other identified strategies that will contribute to the safety of the canal that will coincide with this tree-fall effort. Second, Mr. Hunziker discussed the optional task to inventory canal covers.

2. Task Order 1 – Canal Replacement design – 30%

- a. H.L.A. surveying work will be used to complete the 30% design and environmental compliance services for YTID's upper main canal replacement project.
- b. At the time Task Order 1 was written, YTID requested that Jacob's accelerate Reach 1 design and permitting as it was assumed that each reach could be designed, permitted, and constructed sequentially. In the original Task Order 1, 30% design drawings and cost estimates were provided for Reach 1 only. However, a complete 30% design for the full Upper Main Canal, including Reaches 2,3 & 4, will be necessary to provide a launch point for NEPA compliance.
- c. A motion was made by Director Bolin, seconded by Director Turner and passed, to approve Amendment 1 to Task Order 1. The task and subtask numbers supplement and align with existing tasks found in Task Order 1 and will include Task 6 – the Upper Main Canal preliminary design for Reaches 2,3 & 4.
 - Amendment 1 revises the original project schedule, including a Draft Basis of Design Technical Memorandum, which will include narrative descriptions of proposed improvements, design criteria (hydraulic, structural and geotechnical) reference standards, construction schedules and sequencing, and operations and maintenance considerations.
 - Will include 30% Design drawings for reaches 2,3 and 4 with specifications outline.
 - Will include Engineer's opinion of probable construction costs.
 - Also includes the square flume structural evaluation.
- d. Environmental field work described in Task 4 was postponed until the 30% drawings are completed. This work should begin in April 2026, and environmental reports described in Task 4 will be completed by June 2026.

3. GC/CM selection: Brittany Hughes:

YTID has been approved by the State to hire a GC/CM contractor for the upper canal. Brittany went through the steps involved along with the time frame and schedule. The contract should be rewarded by Early June of 2026.

4. Gravity Tunnel:

The Board will need to have another special board meeting soon to discuss the various delivery options.

Manager Report with Travis Okelberry: Discussion regarding the main canal project funding update and efforts.

1. The Manager should have an update in February of 2026 on congressionally directed emergency determination by the Interior within 30 days of signing E&WD Appropriations Bill.
2. Funding based alternatives were also discussed.
3. There was some discussion on public outreach.
4. The election schedule and timeline were also discussed.

At approximately 4:04 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 4:20 p.m. At approximately 4:20 p.m., the executive session was extended an additional 5 minutes to 4:25 p.m. At approximately 4:25 p.m., the executive session was extended an additional 5 minutes to 4:30 p.m. At approximately 4:30 p.m., the executive session was extended an additional 10 minutes. The Executive session ended at approximately 4:40 p.m.

Todd Hunziker left the Board meeting at approximately 4:04 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:40 p.m. by President Smith.

RON SMITH, PRESIDENT

TRAVIS OKELBERRY, SECRETARY-MANAGER