

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – FEBRUARY 12, 2026
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
YAKIMA-TIETON IRRIGATION DISTRICT

The Board meeting was called to order by President Smith at approximately at 12:00 p.m. Present were Directors Andy Judd, Dan Keller, Jason Bolin, Chuck Turner, Secretary-Manager Travis Okelberry, Assistant Manager Brian Boyd, H.R. and Safety Director Mandy Burkett, Project Coordinator Josh Akehurst, Administrative Assistant Laurie Beth Hood, Norman Semanko of Parsons Behle & Latimer, Todd Hunziker of Jacobs and Brittany Hughes of Jacobs & Nancy Twineham of CLA (via zoom). Commissioner Amanda McKinney entered the meeting at approximately 12:20 p.m.

There was one visitor via zoom looked to be observing the Board meeting, however, they did not respond to the President's inquiry to address the Board.

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

- a. Approve February 12, 2026 Board Meeting Agenda
- b. Review/Approve January 15, 2026 regular Board Meeting Minutes
- c. Review/Approve January 22, 2026 Special Board Meeting Minutes
- d. Payroll for January 2026 - \$133,109.34

A motion was made by Director Turner, seconded by Director Bolin and passed, to approve the regular bills for January 2026, in the amount of \$857,881.73.

The manager gave a report on the budget. Spreadsheets are in development. The 2025 Renewable Energy Credit prices are down. The Tieton Hydro is producing power due to early USBR flood control releases.

A motion was made by Director Judd, seconded by Director Turner and passed, to approve Resolution 2026-2, to ratify the contract with Uribe Tree Service in the amount of \$56,234.78.

The Manager reported on the Hazard Mitigation planning process. The plan will be released for a 30-day public comment this upcoming week and afterwards will go to FEMA for final review. The Manager is participating in the Yakima County update as well.

A motion was made by Director Judd, seconded by Director Turner and passed, to approve attendance of the District Manager and Board at the NWRA conference in WA., D.C. on April 27-29, 2026.

Commissioner McKinney entered the meeting at approximately 12:20 P.M. and she updated the Board on several items, including, but not limited to the following:

- a. Her campaign efforts for Congressman Newhouse's seat.
- b. The Ag-Tech conference has been moved to Yakima from Sacramento.
- c. Commissioner McKinney is advocating Yakima County businesses and Yakima Tieton Irrigation District, as Washington State prepares to implement various labor changes.

Commissioner McKinney left the meeting at approximately 1:20 p.m.

It was the consensus of the Board that a Special Board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 19th, at 12:00 p.m.

The H/R and Safety report with Mandy Burkett:

1. Management is working on office processes to help improve flow at the front desk. The Items under discussion are: possibility of no longer accepting credit card payments over the phone because we have the on-line payment option and possibly automating the phone system.

2. H/R: The Assistant Treasurer position has been posted and interviews with qualified applicants will begin in March.
3. Online payments system is being utilized.
4. There was one accident to report: An employee slipped on ice, hit his head on the canal and suffered a concussion.
5. YTID staff and crew will be attending First Aid Training and Sexual Harassment training in the coming weeks.

O & M Projects report: Brian Boyd/Josh Akehurst:

- a. The maintenance crew has been replacing valves over the past month.
- b. Brian Boyd and Josh Akehurst did an inspection of the Headgates inspection and found significant amounts of silt built up, as well as damage to the radial gates. They are looking at various ways to possibly flush the excess silt out.
- c. A 5 ft. portion of the canal had to be repaired due to a large boulder hitting it.
- d. There was some conversation surrounding frost water delivery and the uncertainty of the water supply. There was a question regarding the spray filler availability, should frost water be unavailable this year.
- e. The Project Coordinator reported that Uribe Tree service will begin work the week of February 16th.

Jacobs Engineering Report: Todd Hunziker

- a. Task Order 21 update: (Retreat Fire Response) Global Rock Works investigated the area at MP 9.1 to assess what is necessary to work on the slope under the pipe bridge. They are preparing a proposal for the March 12 Board Meeting, however, the Manager requested that the proposal date be moved up because water will be running in the canal by March 12th. The work may need to be completed before March 12 if possible.
- b. Task Order 1, Canal design update: At the February 13, 2026 Special Board Meeting Jacobs will provide the following:
 - a. Project delivery methods for the tunnel
 - b. Discuss the method of construction to be a design build, GC/CM or a progressive design build?
 - c. Discuss what role Jacobs will play?
 - d. There are scheduling issues with the BOR in getting a Structural Engineer to inspect the square flume.
- c. Brittany Hughes discussed Ecology grants and state funding that will be available.

At approximately 2:00 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 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 30 minutes and would be concluded or extended, via public announcement, at 2:30 p.m. At approximately 2:30 p.m., the executive session was extended an additional 20 minutes. At approximately 2:50 p.m. the executive session ended.

Norm Semanko physically left the meeting at approximately 2:20 p.m. but remained in the meeting remotely.

Manager Report with Travis Okelberry:

1. The report on River Ops/TWSA Water Forecast: There is a 2026 snow drought. The storage is up but the snowpack is down, due to above average precipitation. Flood control releases are being made at Rimrock and Bumping.
2. The Manager gave a report on the Water Caucus and discussed the various presentations that were given.
3. There was a discussion on recent water leasing discussions.
4. Main Canal Replacement Project update:
 - a. A Congressions delegation letter was sent to Assistant Secretary Andrea Travnicsek.
 - b. Reclamation Technical Service Center (TSC) engineers will be on-site next week for evaluation.
 - c. A full replacement liner will be necessary if long-term solution funding isn't available.
 - d. Structural instability behind Trout Lodge.

- a. Foundations under rock gabions have eroded due to atmospheric river in Dec. 2025.
- e. Funding: Federal and State funding remains uncertain at this time.
- f. The aim is to supplement the \$123M EXM loan with OBBB funds.
- g. Washington State Local Community Projects application - requested \$60M for upper canal project starting in 2027.
- h. Election update: Grower outreach agenda and schedule progress dates to discuss challenges, unknown scope of work unknown funding, permitting, contractor engagement, etc.

President Smith left the meeting at approximately 3:15 p.m., therefore Vice President Keller took over the proceedings.

- 5. The Manager is attending the Ag Industry Round Table scheduled for March 6, 2026.
- 6. The Board was reminded to review and give feedback on the By-Laws and the Employee Manual.
- 7. Norm Semanko stated that the district cannot make a Resolution to provide gift certificates for volunteers who helped with the December director elections.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m. by Vice President Keller.

RON SMITH, PRESIDENT

TRAVIS OKELBERRY, SECRETARY-MANAGER

DAN KELLER, VICE PRESIDENT