MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – AUGUST 20, 2026
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
YAKIMA-TIETON IRRIGATION DISTRICT

The special Board meeting was called to order at approximately 12:00 p.m. by Board President Ron Smith. Present were DIRECTORS – Ron Smith, Chuck Turner, Andy Judd, and Jason Bolin, STAFF – Travis Okelberry, Brian Boyd, and Mandy Burkett, CONSULTANTS – Todd Hunziker with Jacobs, AND VISITORS - None. Participating online were Director Randy Adams, Legal Counsel Norm Semanko and Brittany Hughes with Jacobs.

A motion was made by Director Turner, seconded by Director Bolin and passed, to approve the following consent items:

a. Approve August 20, 2026, Special Board Meeting Agenda

Manager Report - Travis Okelberry

Offseason Planning. Assistant Manager Boyd and Manager Okelberry discussed current work activities and offseason preparations. Including; culvert clearing, concrete inventory for patching, canal cleaning, equipment checks and routine maintenance. Primary focus is on addressing leaks, and system stabilization work. #1 priority this off-season is making needed repairs and implementing mitigation measures to confidently remove the 90% canal restriction. The District discussed continuing canal preservation work and coordinating contractor support where needed.

2026 Canal Shutdown Date. The Board discussed the October 1-15 end-of-season window and the District's customary October 12-15 shutdown timing. October 7 and October 14 were discussed in light of construction needs, weather, and harvest schedule. The Board tabled selection of the official shutdown date until the next meeting. Jacobs and staff will develop an offseason work schedule. The Board members will review potential fruit timing. More to come.

90% Canal Capacity Restriction. Work needed to support removal of the restriction remains a top priority. Including; new canal covers, leak repairs, the 7.2 CMP replacement, milepost 9.1 emergency work, and stabilization needed at milepost 0.8.

Previously Authorized Canal Work. The Manager reminded the Board of previously authorized work. Including; milepost 9.1 repairs, additional canal covers and installation, the CMP replacement near milepost 7.2, and stabilization planning at milepost 0.8. Status report at milepost 9.1= 20 of 28 anchors had been drilled and grouted, with completion anticipated the following Wednesday. Helicopter coordination remained underway.

Invert Rehabilitation. The Manager discussed ongoing invert rehabilitation and canal preservation, including the use of qualified contractors, repeatable repair methods, and equipment and materials that could support future in-house offseason work. Potential FEMA 406 Mitigation funding support was also discussed.

USBR Trip Report 2 - YTID Final Response. The Manager reported that the District's response would request formal classification of each identified condition as Category 1, Category 2, Category 3, or no concern. Countless items that were as a result of the fire and/or atmospheric river storm were either completely left off the reports, under-prioritized, or lacking action category identification. Some fire related damage was incorrectly identified as "routine maintenance",

VP/VE Schedule. The Manager discussed unavoidable delays that are expected from Reclamation's Value Planning (VP) and Value Engineering (VE) process and potential impacts to project decisions. The Board approved self-funding up to $300,000 from reserves for the VP/VE studies in an effort to expedite the process.

Reclamation has repeated recently that Category 1 repairs will remain the immediate priority above long-term planning. The Manager requested moving up VE schedule from April 2027 to possibly December/January timeframe if self-funding from reserves.

Pilot Project. The Manager reviewed construction timing, winter construction risk, pipe capacity, constructability, procurement, permitting, and Reclamation coordination. The Manager reported that Jennifer Johnson, Acting Deputy Regional Director, has been assigned as the project sponsor and planned to meet with her that afternoon to request an expedited VP/VE schedule. Depending on the outcome of that discussion, a special remote Board meeting may be scheduled if Board action is needed before the next regular meeting.

Project Financing / Affordability. The Board discussed the affordability of proceeding without committed state or federal cost share, including the effect of current financing costs and interest rates, and the need to limit risk before committing significant District funds. The Manager reported a recent payment request of $826,000 submitted towards the Ecology grant.

FEMA Progress. The District coordination with WA State EMD is ongoing. EMD staff currently assigned to ongoing WA fires. All required documentation has been submitted. Review process underway.

French Canyon Dam Raise. The Manager reported on the potential project schedule and funding status, noting two funding pathways: an existing cost-sharing agreement with Reclamation (originally 50/50, now approximately 60/40 due to cost escalation) and the congressionally directed spending request. The Manager will follow up regarding the congressionally directed spending request.

Cattle Lease. The Manager will publish the cattle lease notice in the newspaper.

Jacobs Engineering Report – Brittany Hughes and Todd Hunziker

Task Order 21 - Retreat Fire Response. Jacobs reported on canal cover quotes, permit restoration planning at MP 1.4 pipe bridge, CMP replacement work near milepost 7.2, milepost 9.1 progress, and the upcoming YTID/Jacobs/USBR workshop regarding the milepost 0.8 retaining wall stabilization proposal. The CMP package will be finalized and submitted to YTID and Reclamation by August 31, with contractor selection targeted for the October 15 Board meeting.

Task Order 1 - Upper Canal Replacement Design. Jacobs presented four Phase 1 construction alternatives intended to test pipe transport, in-canal joint assembly, grouting, winter construction, capacity, productivity, cost, and proof of concept. Option 2, consisting of approximately 700 feet of pipe, was recommended as the best overall balance of investment, schedule, regulatory readiness, GC/CM participation, and risk reduction. The presentation estimated Option 2 at approximately $4.4 million and showed construction beginning in 2027, with final completion in early 2028.

New Task Orders and Amendments. Jacobs discussed a new task order in development for retaining walls support. Jacobs also discussed revising the applicable task order to reflect the selected 700-foot option, continue coordination with YTID and Reclamation, advance the draft GC/CM request for proposals, and support permitting activities consistent with the project schedule.

The Board supported planning around a 700-foot pilot project in fall 2027 rather than a limited two-pipe installation in the upcoming winter and risk posed by not completing the pilot project canal repairs in time for mid-March turn-on. The Manager will seek an expedited VE schedule and Reclamation guidance and may schedule a virtual special meeting if Board action is needed after that discussion.

At approximately 2:29 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 until 2:49 p.m. At approximately 2:49 p.m., the executive session ended.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:50 p.m. by President Smith.

RON SMITH, PRESIDENT

TRAVIS OKELBERRY, SECRETARY-MANAGER