

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – JUNE 11, 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, Jason Bolin, Dan Keller, Secretary-Manager Travis Okelberry, Assistant Manager Brian Boyd, Administrative Assistant Laurie Beth Hood, Todd Hunziker of Jacobs. Norman Semanko of Parsons Behle & Latimer and Brittany Huges of Jacobs attended via zoom.

There were three visitors: Michael Miller (unidentified), and Jeff Young, a YTID water user, attended via zoom. Ryan Williams was the third visitor who attended in person.

Ryan Williams addressed the Board regarding a cattle grazing lease on the former Koempel property. Ryan asked the Board to reconsider renewing the lease and/or allow them access through said property to herd their cattle to a set of corrals on the other side of the property, as this is their only access point. The Board agreed to address this request in the Executive session due to the fact that certain rules apply to public entity property ownership as opposed to private property ownership.

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

- a. Approve June 11, 2026, Board Meeting Agenda
- b. Review/Approve May 14, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- c. Review/Approve May 21, 2026, Special Board Meeting Minutes
- d. Payroll for May 2026 - \$136,199.79.

After review, a motion was made by Director Bolin, seconded by Director Turner and passed, allowing the District to adopt policy 2026-1 : Accounts Payable & Payment Authorization.

A motion was made by Director Turner, seconded by Director Keller and passed, to approve the regular bills for May 2026, in the amount of \$180,232.80 and to approve the new check register report, including authorization of unpaid claims and ratification of previously authorized payments.

The manager reported on the budget.

- a. The Manager reminded the Board that they split pipeline maintenance account into two categories: maintenance & pipeline repairs.
- b. There was nothing budgeted for the LID for 2026, however, we installed a flow meter in the LID tank to measure water usage there.
- c. All invoices being received that are connected to the “main canal project” are being placed in this line item.
- d. Administration expenses are slightly above budget. This item includes travel fees for Board member’s expenses such as conferences and DC trips.
- e. Reserves are down about \$1 million, however the District recently purchased the Koempel property late December 2025.
- f. The Manager has asked staff to investigate what other water districts charge for particular items, including but not limited to, filing fees for Association paperwork, Multi-user turnouts and Water Transfer deeds.

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

SHARES TRANSFER		EXISTING SHARES	TRANSFERRED SHARES	RESULTING SHARES
FROM:	171409-24403	21.5	-2.0	19.50
	DANIEL P. & VANESSA B. WILLIAMS			
TO:	171409-21001	0.0	+2.0	2.0
	RODNEY & JENNA SODEN ALLEN			

The Manager reported on the Hazard Mitigation plan. This plan has been submitted to the State and is still in the review process.

Directors Ron Smith and Chuck Turner are due for their Open Public Meetings Training. Also, Jason Bolin does not have a certificate on file for completing this training. The training needs to be completed every 4 years and/or within 90 days of taking office. Board members were provided with a link to the training in their board meeting email.

After some discussion a motion was made by Director Bolin, seconded by Director Keller and passed, to adopt the updated District Bylaws.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Director Turner, seconded by Director Keller and passed, to adopt the Updated District employee manual.

A motion was made by Director Bolin, seconded by Director Turner and passed, to approve attendance of the District Manager to the NWRA Western water seminar in Boise on August 3-6, 2026.

HR Safety Program update given by District Manager:

- a. The Assistant Treasurer Position closed May 15, 2026. Two of the applicants met the minimum qualification requirements for the position. First and second interviews were held and one candidate will be offered the position once the background check is completed.

O & M Projects report: Brian Boyd:

- a. Crew is doing maintenance to the valve boxes, which includes vacuuming them out, weed eating and fixing leaking grower valves. Also, two buried air vents were located and moved.
- b. Josh Akehurst is currently working with RH2 on the Cowiche Creek Water User Association flow meter valve to set the correct flow rate.
- c. Josh Akehurst took the initiative to locate our current copier lease agreement. Our lease was up, and a new lease was signed. The office will be getting the new copier machine soon.
- d. Josh Akehurst is also working to integrate our timecard system with Quick Books.

At approximately 1:00 p.m., two more visitors entered the meeting, Carol Degrave and Nancy Lust. Carol Degrave is a YTID water user and Nancy Lust is part of the “Friends of Rocky Top” group. They had questions regarding DTG and whether YTID could charge DTG to recoup costs from their use of the West Valley Fire Department hydrant water. Norm Semanko stated that since this item was not on today’s agenda, that this item could not be discussed. Norm requested this item be put on the July Board meeting agenda for any further discussion. At approximately 1:10 p.m. both visitors left the meeting.

The Manager report: Travis Okelberry

- a. TWSA River ops: The reservoirs storage is at 99.2% of average, with higher-than-average precipitation in the short term. The Yakima Basin snow water equivalent is at 0% of average. Pro- rationing remains at 52% for junior rights and is at 100% for senior rights. The current forecast is for a hot & dry summer with El Nino conditions developing into and through the end of 2026.
- b. Washington State water futures: WA state is forming a coalition to collaborate on Washington water supply and ongoing drought conditions. Meetings will be coordinated at various locations across the state.
- c. Main Canal rehab and replacement project update:
 - a. Funding: YTID has been approved for \$80 million through Reclamation (XM). We are waiting to hear from USBR what projects will qualify for the 35% non-reimbursable portion (EXM). After the second USBR site visit in May, the district expects additional category 1 projects to be identified. (Currently there are six Category 1 items identified). Also awaiting CDS funding determinations and coordinating with FEMA/EMD.
 - b. Next Steps:
 - i. Pilor project discussion: The pilot project would need to be done in concert with BOR permitting and the BOR is currently extremely short staffed. The Manager stated that he thought it would not be practical to start the pilot project this year, because by the time the pipe design, the contractor and permitting are procured, the projected start date would land in the middle of wintertime. However, if the district decided to go ahead with the pilot project this year, it could show how the work could possibly be completed during the winter months This could be helpful, as winter will be the only time this work could be done over the coming

years. However, if the weather does not permit the pilot project to begin, the district would need to find storage for 700' of pipe.

- ii. The Manager recommended the priority should be to focus on the repairs and stabilization items that will be identified by the USBR and to work at getting the 90% flow restriction lifted. The Manager also provided a financial comparison of the various replacement alternatives. Due to their costs and lack of federal funding partnership, believes that YTID cannot afford Plan A: the box culvert/tunnel project, Plan B, the steel liner/tunnel project and arguably even Plan C: the steel liner/steel liner alternative without federal/state commitments. In his opinion, the only feasible alternative the district might afford is a low-cost 25-year liner system for the canal. The Manager also discussed requesting Jacobs do a deep dive into the steel liner estimate, to pare it down to the bare necessities, and work to make the project more affordable.
- iii. Todd Hunziker of Jacobs brought up the option of doing a “pay as you go” with the steel pipe project. (Could possibly do approximately 1000 ft per year at \$4 million annually.) The current estimate is it would take approximately 50 years to complete the 90” steel liner project.
- c. Public outreach: The Board requested that the Manager begin outreach to the water users by the middle of August, to bring them up to date what the District has been studying and the costs involved.
- d. The Manager will present a new task order for approval at the July Board meeting for Jacobs to address the failing retaining walls, additional covers for the canal and drainage issues.

Jacobs Engineering Report: Todd Hunziker

- a. Task Order 21 update: (Retreat Fire Response) and Task Order 1, Canal design 30% update:
 - a. There is no new progress to report per Todd Hunziker.

At approximately 2:15 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 15 minutes and would be concluded or extended, via public announcement, at 2:30 p.m. At approximately 2:30 p.m. the executive session ended.

A motion was made by Director Turner, seconded by Director Bolin and passed, to authorize Board President Smith to sign a response letter in accordance with the water call.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Director Turner, seconded by Director Bolin and passed, to change the July Board meeting from July 16th to July 14th.

After July 17, Director Keller will no longer be a resident of the District as he will be moving. This vacancy may be filled by appointment of the Board. It was the consensus of the Board that action will be taken on this item at the July board meeting to appoint a new Vice Chairman.

Director Bolin and Turner left the meeting at approximately 2:40 p.m.

Other: YTID will need to locate the gauging station for CCWUA, as the district may need to curtail their water in the event that restrictions are advised and will become necessary to protect the system. The department of ecology flow meters are working. According to legal counsel, YTID has the right to curtail this water if necessary.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:35 p.m. by President Smith.

RON SMITH, PRESIDENT

TRAVIS OKELBERRY, SECRETARY-MANAGER