



BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, March 7th, 2023 – 9:00A.M.

AGENDA

1. Consent Agenda (approved with one motion).
 - a. Minutes of February 7, 2023, Special Board meeting.
 - b. Status of Investments Report – February 28, 2023.
 - c. Treasurer’s Report– February 28, 2023.
 - d. Claims.
2. 2023 water supply forecast.
3. Wasteway 5 Re-Regulation Reservoir repair update.
4. NIO Tour report.
5. DID #11 overview.
6. *Sunnyside Fish Screen Ground-Breaking Ceremony - 1984.
7. Watermaster’s report.
8. District Manager’s report.
9. Engineering Manager’s report.
10. Executive Session:
 - a. Executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). Potential and pending litigation- State v. Acquavella, Terrace Heights Sewer District.
 - b. Executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(2)(a)(iii). To evaluate legal risk of a proposed action.

Item #1

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 7, 2023

The Board of Directors for the Roza Irrigation District convened in regular session on Tuesday February 7, 2023. Present were President Ric Valicoff, Vice-President Jim Willard, Director Tanner Winckler, Director Jason Sheehan, Director Jason Don and District Manager Scott Revell, Assistant Watermaster Cody McMillan, Assessment Clerk/Assistant Secretary Kristel Espinoza, and District Attorney Brian Iller.

Director Jim Doornink and Director Shawn Phelps, Directors with Union Gap Irrigation District joined the meeting.

The acting President called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M. and requested the Board consider the consent agenda as presented:

- a. Minutes of January 31, 2023, Special Board meeting.
- b. Minutes of January 10, 2023, Regular Board meeting.
- c. Status of Investments Report – January 31, 2023.
- d. Treasurer’s Report– January 31, 2023.
- e. Claims.

The following claims are approved for payment: Payroll numbers 29653 – 29655 in the amount of 3,830.46, Voucher numbers 68154 – 68163, 68237 – 68291, and 68303 – 68369 in the amount of \$1,390,264.36 and electronic payments 01-23, 01-23, 02-23, 03-23, 12-2022, 12-22, 123122, 23-01, 23-02 and 23-03 in the amount of \$298,578.07 from the period of January 4, 2023, to February 7, 2023.

It was moved by Mr. Willard, seconded by Mr. Winckler, and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda.

The President declared the Board to be in executive session for an estimated thirty-minutes beginning at 9:05 A.M. pursuant to:

- a. Executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(2)(a)(iii). To evaluate legal risk of a proposed action.

District Manager Revell returned at 9:35 A.M. and noted the presiding officer had determined that the Board would be in executive session for an additional thirty minutes.

District Manager Revell returned at 10:05 A.M. and noted the presiding officer had determined that the Board would be in executive session for an additional fifteen minutes.

District Manager Revell returned at 10:20 A.M. and noted the presiding officer had determined that the Board would be in executive session for an additional fifteen minutes.

District Manager Revell returned at 10:25 A.M. and noted the presiding officer had determined that the Board would be in executive session for an additional five minutes.

The President returned the Board to regular session at 10:30 A.M

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 7, 2023

District Manager Revell reported to the Board on the release of easement agreement for the McFadden property. The district entered into an easement agreement in February 2020, to grant access to the District for the rerouting of Wasteway 2, the District did not reroute Wasteway 2 and the easement is no longer necessary. Following discussion, Mr. Sheehan moved, seconded by Mr. Don and unanimously approved Mr. McFadden's request for abandonment and release of the Easement between McFadden's and the District.

District Manager Revell presented the Board with a short-written overview of the capital planning priorities from the January 31, 2023, special meeting and potential funding scenarios for several projects. No action was requested from the Board.

District Manager Revell presented the proposed Roza operations and maintenance budget for 2023 and discussed the background information detailed in the written staff report. Following discussion, Mr. Don moved, seconded by Mr. Sheehan, and unanimously approved the 2023 budget.

The President declared the Board to be in executive session for an estimated thirty-minutes beginning at 11:33 A.M. pursuant to:

- a. Executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). Potential and pending litigation- State v. Acquavella, Terrace Heights Sewer District.
- b. Executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(2)(a)(iii). To evaluate legal risk of a proposed action.

District Manager Revell returned at 12:05 P.M. and noted the presiding officer had determined that the Board would be in executive session for an additional fifteen minutes.

District Manager Revell returned at 12:20 P.M. and noted the presiding officer had determined that the Board would be in executive session for an additional five minutes.

District Manager Revell returned at 12:25 P.M. and noted the presiding officer had determined that the Board would be in executive session for an additional fifteen minutes.

District Manager Revell returned at 12:40 P.M. and noted the presiding officer had determined that the Board would be in executive session for an additional five minutes.

The President returned the Board to regular session at 12:45 P.M.

District Manager Revell presented, and the Board reviewed the District Manager's monthly report.

Assistant Watermaster Cody McMillan presented, and the Board reviewed the Watermaster's monthly report.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 7, 2023

No further business appearing and upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the Board did there upon adjourn at 12:55 P.M. on Tuesday February 7, 2023.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

Item #2



To: Board of Directors
From: Scott Revell, District Manager
Date: March 7, 2023
Re: 2023 Water Supply Forecast

2023 Water Supply Update

- ✓ Snowpack is currently 96% on the Yakima River mainstem arm and 84% of average on the Naches River arm.
- ✓ The most recent long-range weather forecasts for the next three months remain mixed but favorable, which is common for this time of year.


<u>Reservoir storage status on March 2, 2023</u>		<u>Capacity (Ac. Ft)</u>
Keechelus	40%	157,800
Kachess	59%	239,000
Cle Elum	42%	436,900
Bumping	42%	33,960
Rimrock	61%	198,000
Total	49%	1,065,400

- ✓ Reservoir storage in the system is at 82% of average.
- ✓ Precipitation for the water year, which began on October 1, 2021, is 73% of average.
- ✓ USBR will issue the next water supply forecast for the proratable irrigation districts on March 9th.
- ✓ Diversions will begin on Sunday March 19th. Deliveries will begin several days later as the canals are primed.
- ✓ To date the water year is similar to 1985 and 2017. Both of which were reasonably good years. The water year also looks similar to 1993 which finished with 78% supply.

Item #3



To: Board of Directors

From: Wayne Sonnichsen, Engineering Manager 

Date: March 7, 2023

Re: WW5 Re-Regulation Reservoir Embankment Repair

Background:

Staff met with engineers from HDR Engineering and Shannon & Wilson at the Wasteway 5 Reservoir site to discuss options for repairing the northeast corner of the reservoir invert which was damaged from excess seepage through the embankment at the end of December and first part of January.

Shannon & Wilson had drafted a matrix of potential solutions to address the damage and to prevent future damage from runoff events. Options discussed included creating a deeper cutoff wall, installing deep sumps with pumps to pump the water into the reservoir, installing sumps with a pipe system that would pass through the embankment to carry the runoff water to the reservoir by gravity. Of the ideas discussed, two ideas came to the forefront as being the most cost-effective and reliable.

1. Constructing a channel through the embankment that will allow runoff to flow directly into reservoir without pooling upstream of the reservoir. Purchase enough land upstream of the embankment to fully line an area up the elevation of a full reservoir. This would involve reshaping this area with fill to minimize the area that would need to be lined. Repair the damaged area in the reservoir invert to original design specifications.

This option would entail either the purchase of property or securing an easement from the landowner to the north.

2. Constructing a channel in the embankment and installing a flap gate at the reservoir end of the channel that would prevent backflow from the reservoir, building a large soil abutment with a robust drain system under it in the reservoir invert to carry any water that would pass through the embankment without the potential for a failure like the one that has occurred.

With subsequent review, option 1 has evolved into filling the area upstream of the embankment to within a foot or less of the top of the embankment and installing a shallow channel through the embankment (6 to 12 inches deep by about 20 ft wide). This solution will most likely require a relatively small, lined area upstream of the embankment to maintain a detention area for soils that drop out of the water. They would be cleaned out periodically.

The reason that an embankment was constructed at the north end of the reservoir is twofold; to keep water in the reservoir, and to slow down runoff coming into the reservoir to allow debris to settle out upstream of the reservoir. Installing a shallow channel proposal would still allow the embankment to impound water upstream of the embankment to allow a large proportion of sands to drop out of the runoff water before the water enters the reservoir.

Staff and engineers from HDR and Shannon & Wilson are currently working on vetting option 1 as the preferred alternative, determining how best to accomplish the work in an economical manner, and determining estimated costs. Project details and costs will be presented at the April board meeting with a request for approval to move forward with the project.

Item #5



To: Board of Directors
From: Scott Revell, District Manager
Date: March 7, 2023
Re: Drainage Improvement District #11 Overview

Attachments

1. 1960 Contract between Roza/DID#11& Yakima County
2. Map depicting drainage problems in Moxee

Background

USBR hired Gray and Osborne, an engineering firm in Yakima, in the mid-1950s to examine solutions to drainage problems in the Moxee area. The report proposed solutions which included a proposed DID #47, a series of new drainage channels and upgrades to existing channels which were the subject of over two years of debate by the Roza Board and affected water users. The costs of construction of the proposed drains and maintenance of the exiting drains and how those costs were distributed was central to the discussion in 1958 to 1960.

The discussion culminated in a contract between Roza, DID #11 and Yakima County which spells out the various maintenance responsibilities for the drainage system. The contract established Roza being responsible for 60% of the shared drains expenses.

The contract requires review by the Roza board of the DID #11 expenses. The contract also requires DID #11 to submit its budget for review by Roza by July for the following year. Those reviews have not occurred in many years for reasons unknown.

Eric Desmarais from the DID #11 Board has proposed to review with maps, contract, budget and relevant documents with a Roza Board member and the two district managers. Doing so will be a good step in making sure all parties understand their respective duties and the expected levels of service to keep the drainage system operating correctly and the projected costs. Drainage Improvement Districts are created by the County Commissioners under the authority of RCW 85.

The attached map is a digitized version of a 1956 map in the Gray and Osborne report with the color-coded maintenance responsibilities overlaid.

Tom Belaire is on the DID #11 Board of Supervisors and also serves as the District Manager. Bill Poirier had served in this role for many years prior to 2018.

DID #11 assesses certain lands in the District and relies on revenue from Roza for the shared drains. The assessment formula is based on ongoing and continuous benefits and is not easily understood by either DID #11 or the assessed landowners. Adjoining properties pay very different amount in many cases and do not appear to be based on parcel size.

Drain O&M Responsibilities

DID #11 has 2 employees. Watermaster Dave Rollinger and I toured DID #11 with Mr. Belair in January. The employees use hand tools to remove and burn brush and rent equipment on occasion. The employees use their personal vehicles for DID #11 work daily and DID #11 pays for their fuel.

There are eleven drain facilities in total which are segregated into three categories in the 1960 contract:

1. Roza duties
2. DID #11 duties, and
3. Joint Roza-DID #11 duties (which are split 60% Roza and 40% DID #11)

There are other drains in the area that Roza is responsible for which are not listed in the 1960 contract.

There was minimal drain maintenance work done in the 1990s until about 2017.

Roza has been using a tree removal contractor for larger trees in difficult locations in recent years, which has includes drains in the Moxee area and prioritized cleanout out some of the drains in the Moxee area. The new mulcher will expedite much of this work.

The middle portion of the upper Moxee A drain, between Desmarais Cutoff Road and Beane Road, is in need of significant work to remove beaver dams and trees. This work will take multiple seasons to accomplish and will occur in stages.



Drain	District	Notes
Milepost 17.1 drain (1.97 miles)	Roza	Upstream of the Moxee police station on Postma Road. Minimal maintenance for 20+ years prior to 2017. Burned, mowed, sprayed & cleaned out in places since 2017 w/ some tree removal. Hop wires over the drain in places and hop anchors in the right of way. Many trees need to be removed.
Milepost 19.4 (1.33 miles)	Roza	Minimal maintenance for 20+ years prior to 2017. Has been burned, mowed, sprayed & cleaned out since 2017 w/ some tree removal
Milepost 21.5 (.55 miles)	Roza	Minimal maintenance for 20+ years prior to 2017. Burned, mowed, sprayed & cleaned out since 2017 w/ some tree removal.
Branch A is the Moxee A drain upstream of the SMID canal (2.5 mi).	Roza	Hop wires over the drain in places near Desmarais Cutoff Road and hop anchors in the right of way. Major large tree removal needed upstream of Beane Rd. Several beaver dams need to be removed. Beavers also need to be trapped. Beavers have been removed in the past.
Ditch 1 (.51 miles)	DID #11	
Ditch 2 (1.63 miles)	DID #11	
Branch B (1.25 miles)	DID #11	Roza has cleanout out Branch B with heavy equipment twice in the past 3 years, burned, sprayed mowed it 3x per season.
Branch D (.95 miles)	DID #11	
Ditch 11 (3.33 miles)	Joint	Moxee A drain downstream of the Selah Moxee canal
Branch D (.78 miles)	Joint	
Ditch 2 (3.24 miles)	Joint	
Branch D (.78 miles)	Joint	

6-24-81
Main Division
copy.

C O N T R A C T

THIS AGREEMENT, made this 14th day of February, 1960, by and between ROZA IRRIGATION DISTRICT, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Washington, and having its principal place of business at Sunnyside, Washington, hereinafter called "Roza" and BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 11, at Yakima County, hereinafter called "Drainage District."

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Roza is an irrigation district organized and existing under the laws of the State of Washington for the purpose of irrigating certain lands in the Yakima Valley part of which lie in the Moxee Valley; and

WHEREAS, Drainage Improvement District No. 11 of Yakima County is a duly organized and existing drainage district under the laws of the State of Washington for the purpose of draining certain lands in the Moxee Valley area in Yakima County; and,

WHEREAS, certain disputes have arisen between the parties hereto concerning the construction and maintenance of drains in such drainage districts used by the Roza and concerning the contribution of the Roza to certain drainage problems in the Moxee Valley; and

WHEREAS, it is the purpose and desire of the interested parties to settle such dispute;

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual covenants and conditions hereinafter contained, the parties do agree as follows:

1. The Drainage District does hereby give, grant and convey unto Roza a permanent, non-exclusive right and privilege to use for the purpose of providing drainage for the Roza Division, Yakima Project, and an outlet for surface and to the waters from said Division, all of these certain drains held in trust by Yakima County for said Drainage District that are described as D.I.D. #11 Main Drain and Branch Drains, C. D. and E. in that certain map which is marked Exhibit "A" and which is attached hereto and which is by reference incorporated into and as a part of this agreement.

2. Roza agrees that it will, at its own expense, construct and maintain the following drains and that said drains may be either open or piped. The drains to be so constructed are listed herein by the number and letter designation given to them on Exhibit "A", which is hereto attached.

<u>DRAIN</u>	<u>Approximate Length in Miles</u>
R17.1	2.0
R19.4	1.5
R20.2	.5
R21.1	.25
R21.5	.5
R22.7	<u>1.75</u>
Total	6.50

3. In addition to the drains which are described in Section 2, Roza further agrees to pay to Yakima Cement Products Company the amount of its bid, dated February 12, 1960, a copy of which is hereto attached, in the sum of \$39,643.09 and \$1,505.72 sales tax, for the construction of drain line from the northern side of Postma Road as the same intersects with the Northern Pacific Railway line and State Highway No. 11-A and ending at the southerly side of Bell Road near the center of Section 2, Twp. 12 N. Rg. 19, E.W.M., at such time or times as Drainage Improvement District shall enter into contract with said Yakima Cement Products Company to pay the same.

4. Upon the payment of the sums as provided for in the preceding paragraph, said Drainage Improvement District and the Supervisors thereof agree to accept such payments so made in full payment and satisfaction of all drainage construction costs in said drainage district and all claims against Roza, save and except as provided in Section 2 of this contract.

5. Drainage Improvement District No. 11 and Board of Supervisors agree to deepen the existing channel south of the Bell Road to provide an adequate and unrestricted flow of water, such construction work to be done at the expense of Drainage District No. 11, and shall be completed prior to deepening of the drain

channel and installation of drain pipe lying north of the Bell Road.

6. It is agreed that the parties shall maintain drains as follows:

(A) All those drains listed in Paragraph 2 hereof shall be maintained at the expense of the Roza Irrigation District.

(B) All drains belonging to the District and which are within the District and which are not described in Exhibit "A" hereto attached shall be maintained by the said District.

(C) Those drainage ditches which will be used jointly by Roza and the District are shown on Exhibit "A" and designated as follows: Main D.I.D. No. 11, from its crossing of the Selah-Moxee Canal in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8, Township 12 N. Range 20, E.W.M., to the Yakima River, and D. I. D. Branch D, from the Southwest corner of Section 36, Township 13 North, Range 19, E.W.M., to its junction with Main D.I. D. No. 11, near the southeast corner of Section 3, Township 12 North, Range 19, E.W.M. Maintenance costs on the above-described drains shall be paid sixty percent (60%) by Roza and forty percent (40%) by the Drainage District. These provisions shall in no way be construed as a delegation of authority by the Drainage District to Roza to maintain such drains or supervise the maintenance of such drains and shall not be in delegation of any of the authority, powers or duties of the supervisors of said Drainage District with respect to the maintenance of such drains.

7. It is agreed that whenever the cost of maintenance of drains herein is to be shared by the parties hereto, that the actual amount to be expended on such maintenance shall be reached by decision between the Board of Directors for Roza and the Board of Supervisors of the Drainage District, and in making such decision each Board shall consider what expenditures are reasonably necessary to provide adequate drainage and adequate outlets for both of the parties hereto. It is further agreed that the amount of the maintenance provided for the drains to be maintained by both the parties hereto shall be decided as follows:

(A) On or prior to the 1st day of July of each year, the Drainage District shall submit in writing to the Roza its estimate of the maintenance cost for such drains for the following calendar year. The Roza may accept such budget or may, in writing, request a meeting with the supervisors of the Drainage District to discuss such budget and shall at such time designate a time which shall in no event be more than thirty (30) days after the date of postmark of such notice, and shall ^{IN THE EVENT ROZA} ~~not~~ set a place for a meeting to discuss the budget within thirty (30) days after the date of postmark of the notice of the proposed budget which was sent to the Roza, then the budget submitted by the District shall be deemed in all respects approved.

8. It is agreed that wherever in this contract, matters are to be settled by agreement between the interested parties, and in such event it appears that no agreement can be reached that in such event Roza shall select one arbitrator, the Board of Supervisors of said Drainage District shall select one arbitrator, and the two so selected shall choose a third and the decision of at least two members of said board so constituted shall be binding upon all of the parties hereto.

9. Roza agrees to pay to said Drainage Improvement District the Roza's share of operation and maintenance costs prior to June 10th following year in which estimate is made.

10. This agreement shall be fully binding upon the parties hereto, their successors in interest and assigns.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

YAKIMA COUNTY

By Lee Crossen

By Tim H. Nichols

By Walter A. Stauffer

Comprising the Board of County Commissioners of Yakima County

ROZA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

By Carl Hull

By Carl Hull

By Carl Hull

Comprising its Board of Directors

DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
No. 11 OF YAKIMA COUNTY

By Leonard Pelf

By Richard G. Ralston

By W. J. Sweet

Comprising the Board of Supervisors of said District.

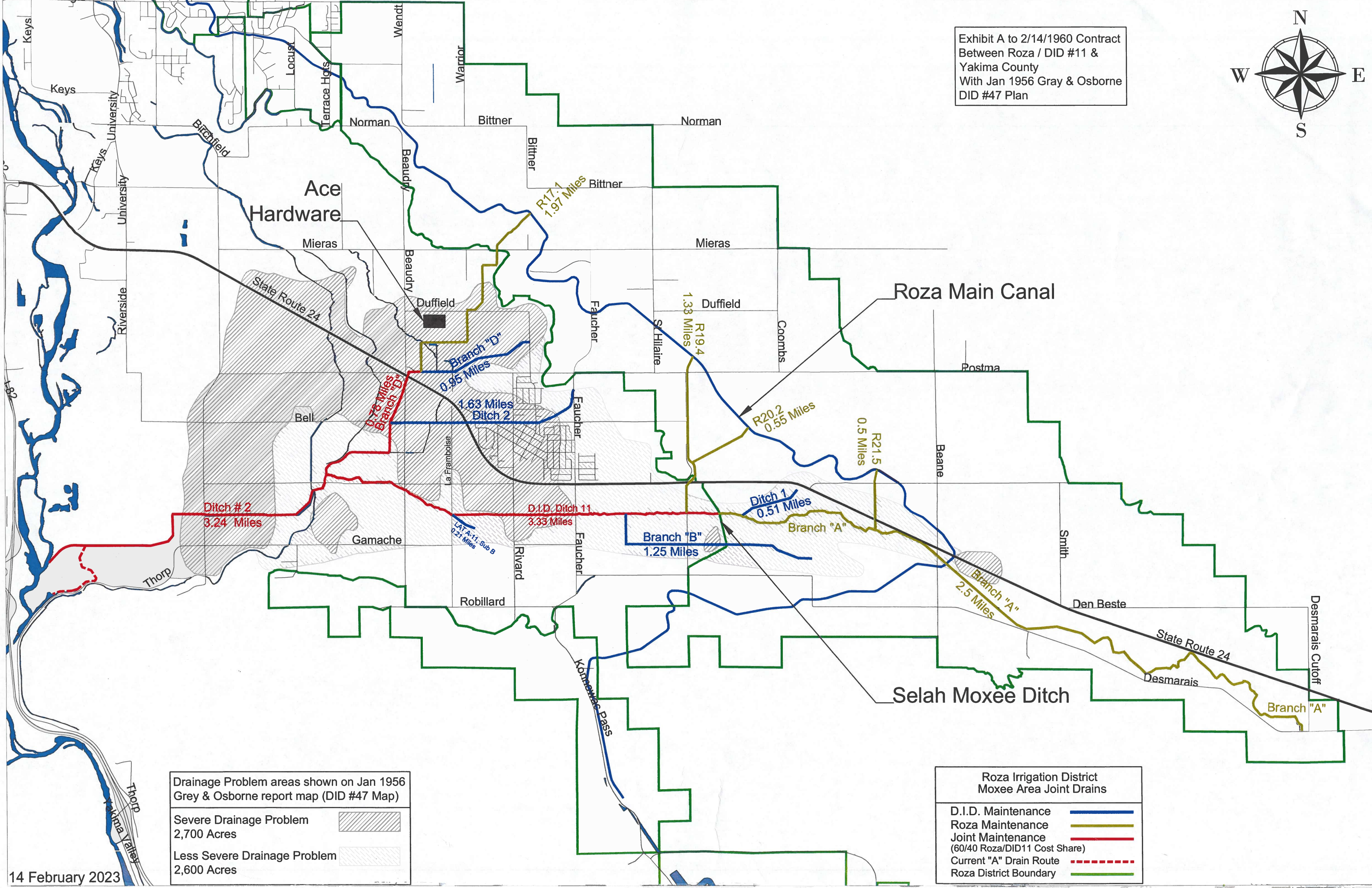
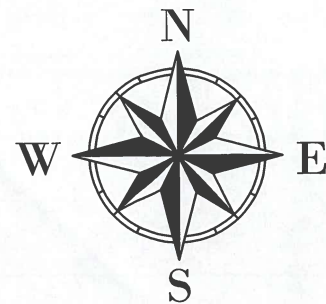
APPROVED AS TO FORM THIS

29th DAY OF Feb. 1960

Walter A. Stauffer

Deputy PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Exhibit A to 2/14/1960 Contract
 Between Roza / DID #11 &
 Yakima County
 With Jan 1956 Gray & Osborne
 DID #47 Plan



Drainage Problem areas shown on Jan 1956
 Grey & Osborne report map (DID #47 Map)

Severe Drainage Problem 2,700 Acres	
Less Severe Drainage Problem 2,600 Acres	

Roza Irrigation District
 Moxee Area Joint Drains

D.I.D. Maintenance	
Roza Maintenance	
Joint Maintenance (60/40 Roza/DID11 Cost Share)	
Current "A" Drain Route	
Roza District Boundary	

Item #7



To: Board of Directors
From: Dave Rollinger, Watermaster *DR*
Date: March 7, 2023
Re: Recent Past and Future Maintenance Work

Summary for February

March madness has started and crews have been doing a great job burning, cleaning the Main Canal, and open laterals getting ready for the upcoming water year.

Water Delivery

The Main Canal turn on date has changed to Sunday March 19, 2023.

P14 ECS Project

- All of the pipe has been installed and the final hookups have been made for the ECS projects, crews will continue to form and pour pads, install bollards post, haul rock and have start building operation and maintenance roads.

Distribution System Maintenance

- Crews finished installing the 8" PVC line on Pump 1 Low Pipeline 1. Piping this open pipeline will save on ditch cleaning and mowing that normally has taken two people a full 8 HR day 4 times year.
- Crews have finished the over dig at MP 85.6 and draped huskers liner around two under shot drains to prevent any future subbing around the structures.
- All scheduled gravel packs have been installed at MP 38.5, 35.2A and 54.1.
- Trouble shooters have installed 17 out of the 30 scheduled badger flow meters on courtesy valves that were previously not metered.
- Crews have dug all Main Canal turnouts and reinstalled all the turn out grates. They have also finished digging the forebays at Pump plants 4,5,6,15 and 16 using the Vermeer skid steer.
- Ditchriders have burned all the drains and have started burning open laterals, under shot drains and the Main Canal.
- Crews have started cleaning drain ditches and open laterals with the 314 excavators and will continue until finished.

- Trouble shooters replaced the Huesker liner on two expansion joints in the Main Canal at MP 22.1 and 26.2.
- All 6005 jobs are complete.
- Pump shop personal continue to work on P14 automation, pump reinstallation, and main canal check calibration. H&N Electric removed and is rewinding our 250 HP motor from WW5 Re-regulation reservoir at a cost of \$28,000 +/-.

Equipment

- Over President's Day weekend, the USBR electricians parked their bucket truck at Pump 10 in the fenced yard, someone cut the fence and broke into service bed and stole some of their tools. The next Thursday I noticed our MP 56.0 stilling well's solar panel and control box was also stolen, the stilling well is just downstream of WW-5 Re-Regulation Reservoir and Pump 10. WW-5 Re- Regulation pump station control building was also broken into and vandalized.

Training and NWIO Tour

- Tim King, Roza/SVID safety coordinator put on the annual spray recertification school for Roza and SVID district employees.
- Five staff members spent three days in Sacramento at the NWIO tour. The first day was spent at Lake Shasta Dam and Red Bluff Diversion and Pumping Plant, day two we traveled to UC Davis Agriculture Water Center and the third day we toured C.W. Bill Jones Pumping Plant and then to Los Banos Grassland Water District.

Projected for March

- Clean garbage from the Main Canal before water.
- Continue burning The Main Canal, laterals, drains and under shots.
- Prime the Main Canal and gravity and pump laterals.
- Continue building and graveling operation and maintenance roads on the P14 ECS project.

Item #8



To: Board of Directors
From: Scott Revell, District Manager
Date: March 7, 2023
Re: District Manager's Monthly Update

Attachments

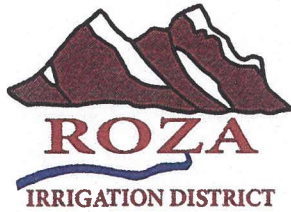
1. Roza letter in support of full breach of the Bateman Island causeway
2. RSBOJC letter in support of full breach of the Bateman Island causeway

Miscellaneous Items

1. Repairs for the excavator which hit the I-82 overpass were \$5,400. The overpass has been repaired by WSDOT but we have not received a bill yet. The \$10,000 deductible is an unbudgeted expense. Staff measured the overpass at 15 ft 2 inches above the eastbound road surface. The overpass is signed at 14 ft 8 inches clearance.
2. WSWRA legislative update calls occur each Monday at 9 a.m. during the 2023 legislative session. Board members are invited to join the calls.
3. Staff attended a federal funding workshop on February 3rd.
4. We have brought the PFAS chemical contamination issues in Pomona and the proximity to the Main Canal to the attention of the Department of Ecology and will be submitting formal written comments, which will be copied to USBR.
5. Ria Berns, the acting Water Resource Program Manager from Ecology will tour Roza in March.
6. Chris Duke has been hired as the Area Manager for the Columbia-Cascades Area Office and will start in late March. He has been with USBR for 33 years and comes from the Technical Service Center in Denver.
7. The Integrated Plan Implementation Commission will be Washington D.C. in Late March for the first time since 2019.

February Meetings Report

- ✓ River Operations (February 9th)
- ✓ Yakima Basin Intreated Plan presentation to Leadership Kittitas County (February 10th)
- ✓ Yakima Basin Integrated Plan U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs Regional Administrator briefing (February 14th)
- ✓ WSWRA (February 15th)
- ✓ Yakima Basin Integrated Plan U.S. Bureau of Land Management Regional Director briefing (February 15th)
- ✓ Yakima Basin Joint Board (February 17th)
- ✓ Ecology Aquatic Herbicide permit hearing (February 21st)
- ✓ D.C. Leadership group prep (February 27th)



U.S Army Corps of Engineers

February 23, 2023

This letter is submitted in support of complete removal of the Bateman Island causeway in the Yakima River Delta.

The Roza Irrigation District is comprised of 72,517 irrigated acres supplied from the Yakima River with a combined crop value approaching \$1.5 billion. Roza has a water right which is prorated (reduced) in drought years. The District was at the center of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Program (YRBWEP) legislation enacted by Congress in 1979, 1994 and 2019. Roza growers experienced \$96 million dollars in losses (in 2022 dollars) through reduced crop quality and yields in the 2015 drought.

The Roza Irrigation District has a 40+ year history of supporting fact driven, science-based decision making to improve fish habitat and has supported stream flow supplementation, robust water conservation, fish passage improvements, canal intake screening and water quality improvements in the Yakima River Basin.

An on-going study has determined up to 70% of out-migrating smolts in the Yakima River basin are dying before reaching the Columbia River. Roza has advocated removal of non-native fish for decades as a top priority to compliment the other work being done to recover native species, especially those listed under the Endangered Species Act, and the District supports actively managing avian predators.

Roza supported the elimination of bag limits and seasonal restrictions in 2013 to favor native species over non-native species. Doing so was important for salmon and steelhead in the Yakima and Columbia River basins. The number of walleye, smallmouth bass and catfish in the river is so high that these actions have not been enough to reduce high levels of predation, and the non-native predatory fish continue to pose a severe problem for migratory native fish.

Hundreds of millions of public dollars are being spent in the Yakima basin on habitat improvements, fish passage, modifications to irrigation infrastructure, water storage and enhancements to in-stream flows. The Bureau of Reclamation is in the process of upgrading the fish screens at the headworks of the Roza canal for the third time since the 1970s, a project which involves a public investment of over \$25 million.

Roza has invested over \$50 million of Roza grower funds since 1983 on water conservation projects such as piping, lining and sealing canals and constructing re-regulation reservoirs to use water more efficiently. Roza growers have also invested hundreds of millions of dollars in on-farm water efficiency measures over several decades which have reduced water use and have helped in-stream flows for fish.

The fish passage facility under construction at Cle Elum Reservoir represents a public investment of over \$200 million by the state and federal governments and is a crucial step toward successfully reintroducing of sockeye to the basin. It is the first of six reservoir passage facilities in the basin.

Likewise, the Lake Cle Elum Pool Raise project, which will provide 14,600-acre feet of additional water for the benefit of salmon and steelhead during the spring out-migration, also represents a separate significant public investment in these fish. The project was approved by Congress in 1994, with the support of the Roza Irrigation District and many others.

Roza completed a \$31 million re-regulation reservoir in 2017 to improve water efficiencies in the District's canal system, a project which was 83% funded by the state and federal governments in order to keep 5,500 acre feet in the Yakima river.

Controlling non-native predator fish in the Yakima River is a critically important compliment to the investments being made in the upper Yakima basin for the benefit of salmon and steelhead. Removal of the causeway is an important step to improving in-basin survival for out-migrating fish.

Removal of the causeway will also help to optimize the success of the Yakama Nation's supplementation facilities at Prosser (chinook, coho, lamprey & reconditioning of steelhead kilt), Ellensburg (coho) and Cle Elum (spring chinook) and the pending facility at Easton (bull trout & other species).

If you need any additional information or have any questions Roza's manager can be reached at (509) 840-2721 or via email at srevell@roza.org.

Sincerely,



Ric Valicoff, President
Roza Board of Directors

Cc: Phil Rigdon-Yakama Nation
Roza Board of Directors
Richland City Council



Roza-Sunnyside Board of Joint Control

U.S Army Corps of Engineers

February 23, 2023

This letter is submitted in support of the Bateman Island causeway full breach/removal project in the Yakima River Delta.

The Roza-Sunnyside Board of Joint Control (RSBOJC) was formed in 1996 and spans 171,000 irrigated acres from Selah to Benton City which are supplied from the Yakima River and have a combined crop value over \$2.5 billion annually.

RSBOJC has implemented one of the most robust on-farm water quality programs in the western United States to reduce on-farm suspended sediment run-off in the lower Yakima river. The water quality improvements have taken over 25 years to achieve, the results have been striking and have been very beneficial for both salmon and steelhead.

We have examined use of our irrigation drains and wasteways by salmon and steelhead through peer reviewed scientific studies, and have constructed a fish passage barrier in Sulphur Creek Wasteway south of Sunnyside near its confluence with the Yakima River to keep these fish out of the irrigation wasteway and in the river with the support of the Yakama Nation as well as the state and federal fisheries agencies.

Full removal of the causeway at Bateman Island is another important measure for improving in-basin survival for out-migrating salmon and steelhead and reducing predation by non-native fish and avian predators. Our staff have been working to implement this project with our tribal partners, as well as state and federal legislators and regulators for many years. If you need any additional information or have any questions RSBOJC Secretary Scott Revell can be reached at (509) 840-2721 or via email at srevell@roza.org.

Sincerely,

Doug Simpson, President
Roza-Sunnyside Board of Joint Control

Cc: Phil Rigdon-Yakama Nation
RSBOJC Board of Directors
Richland City Council

P.O. Box 810 ■ Sunnyside, WA 98944 ■ (509) 837-5141

Item #9



To: Board of Directors

From: Wayne Sonnichsen, Engineering Manager *WS*

Date: March 7, 2023

Re: Engineering Manager's Report

Miscellaneous items of note:

- As noted in the January Board meeting, a water sample pulled from one of monitoring wells in the Roza yard south the of the shop contained contaminates exceeding the MTCA-A cleanup level of 500 micrograms per liter (ug/L) with a concentration of 555 ug/L.

Staff asked Shannon & Wilson to prepare a cost estimate for partial cleanup of the site. They produced a cost estimate of \$445,000, +/- 50%. The cleanup would involve injection of compounds that would react with the groundwater diesel plume to reduce the contaminate concentration at the source and within the downgradient plume.

Staff contacted the Department of Ecology to discuss how best to proceed. We will need to show a full year's worth of groundwater samples that do not exceed the State limits even with injecting chemicals into the ground. This would likely include adding a couple of additional monitoring wells.

Staff has concluded that the best course of action to get to a No Further Action (NFA) status is to go ahead and install two more monitoring wells downgradient from the MW-24 and begin resampling. Shannon & Wilson is preparing a cost estimate for this work.

- The conversion to the new phone system basically occurred February 23rd.

Ring Central had concluded that the existing phones would work with the new system. It was discovered during the changeover that this conclusion was wrong. Fortunately, new phones had been ordered for the front office and they had been configured ahead of time.

The new phones purchased were \$283.00 each. Ring Central offered a rental fee of \$1.00/phone/month for the remaining phones needed to replace the old phones. Staff decided to rent the phones given that it will take 25 years to reach full cost.

- The process of scanning and archiving the District's historic photos was scheduled to begin February 27th, but the historian who is going to oversee the process was unable to make the trip due to illness. She is now scheduled to arrive March 8th. The public will be able to access the photos for viewing and download via the District's website under the "About Us" section.