

December 5, 2023

The Board of Directors for the Roza Irrigation District convened in regular session on Tuesday December 5, 2023. Present were President Ric Valicoff, Vice-President Jim Willard, Director Jason Sheehan, Director Tanner Winckler, Director Jason Don and Engineering Manager Wayne Sonnichsen. Policy Director Sage Park, Watermaster Dave Rollinger, Assistant Watermaster Aaron Wiederspohn, Maintenance Superintendent Dave Clampitt, and Assessment Clerk/Assistant Secretary Kristel Espinoza and District Attorney Brian Iller

Via telephone conference: District Manager Scott Revel

The President called the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M. and requested that the Board consider the consent agenda as presented:

- a. Minutes of November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Regular Board meeting.
- b. Status of Investments Report – November 30, 2023.
- c. Treasurer's Report– November 30, 2023.
- d. Comparative Balance Sheet report for the ten periods ending October 31, 2023.
- e. Statement of Income Expense report for the ten periods ending October 31, 2023.
- f. Claims.
- g. Miscellaneous Bills.

The following claims were approved for payment: Payroll numbers:29677 – 29679 in the amount of \$3,741.51. Voucher numbers 69548 – 69551, 69614 – 69627, 69640 – 69673 and 69674 – 69747 on the amount of \$749,358.23 and electronic payments 10-2023, 10-23, 23-33, 23-34, 23-35, 23-36, 31-23, 32-23 and 33-23 in the amount of \$347,104.91 from the period of November 2, 2023 to December 5, 2023.

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

The Board convened as the Board of Equalization. Mr. Revell confirmed for the Board that notice of the equalization hearing was published in the Yakima Herald and the Tri-City Herald pursuant to RCW 87.03.255 and the assessment roll was delivered to the Board on November 1, 2023 and had been available for inspection. No water users were present for the Board of Equalization. Mr. Revell noted that the equalization reflects only irrigated acres assigned to parcels and not the amount assessed. Following discussion, Mr. Willard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sheehan, and unanimously adopted Resolution # 2-2023 pursuant to RCW 87.03.255 to equalize the 2024 assessment roll.

District Manager Revell updated the Board on the 2024 water year. The 2024 water year began on October 1, 2023, and water in storage is only 34% of average. The first 2024 water forecast will occur on Monday March 4, 2024.

District Manager Revell reported to the Board on the 2024 drought preparation which Staff is working on several issues simultaneously in case there is a drought in 2024: including water leases with the Selah Moxee Irrigation District, coordination with Ecology staff, cloud seeding and water user communication.

District Manager Revell updated the Board on the cloud seeding webinar he attended in November which included several presentations including the science of cloud seeding, costs and funding, the seeding programs in several states and other various topics. Mr. Revell explained that he had been coordinating with senior executives at the Washington Department of Agriculture, Fish and Wildlife, Ecology's Water Resources program and Office of Columbia River. Following discussion, Director Don moved, seconded by Mr. Willard, and unanimously approved up to \$250,000 from the drought fund for cloud seeding activities.

District Manager Revell updated the Board on the 2024 budget planning and discussed the background information on several line items detailed in the staff report and options for balancing the budget. No action was requested from the Board.

District Manager Revell discussed with the Board the 2024 operations and maintenance assessment. Board members and Staff discussed at length about the districts rising costs for insurance, United States Bureau of Reclamation power and operation & maintenance expenses,

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current needs, long term capital improvements and water supply development. Mr. Winckler stated that his opposition was primarily based on the district's ability to operate in 2024 with a lower assessment and that he understood the United States Bureau of Reclamation expenses reductions were temporary. The Board discussed potential use of reserves, use of Tier II funds, accumulation of reserves and interest income. Following a lengthy discussion, Mr. Willard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sheehan and motion was carried by majority with Mr. Don in favor and Mr. Winkler opposed, the Board approved to increase the assessment and set the 2024 operation and maintenance assessment at \$202.00 per acre.

Watermaster Dave Rollinger presented, and the Board reviewed the Watermaster's written report.

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

Engineering Manager Wayne Sonnichsen presented, and the Board reviewed the Engineering Manager's monthly written report.

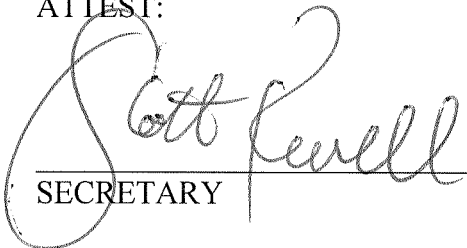
The President declared the Board to be in executive session for an estimated ten minutes beginning at 11:30 A.M. pursuant to:

- a. Executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). Potential and pending litigation- State v. Acquavella, Terrace Heights Sewer District, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.
- b. Executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(2)(a)(iii). To evaluate the legal risk of a proposed action.
- c. Executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(b). Selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate.

The President returned the Board to regular session at 11:36A.M.

No further business appearing and upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the Board did there upon adjourn at 11:37 A.M. on Tuesday December 5, 2023.

ATTEST:

  
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SECRETARY

  
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PRESIDENT