

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

May 17, 2024

The Board of Directors for the Roza Irrigation District convened in special session at the Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District Field office at 1105 Yakima Valley Hwy. in Sunnyside, Washington on Friday May 17, 2024. Present were President Ric Valicoff, Vice-President Jim Willard, Director Tanner Winckler, Director Jason Don, Director Jason Sheehan, and District Manager Scott Revell. Engineering Manager Wayne Sonnichsen, Watermaster Dave Rollinger, Assistant Watermaster Aaron Wiederspohn, Maintenance Superintendent Dave Clampitt, Policy Director Sage Park Assessment Clerk/Assistant Secretary Kristel Espinoza, and District Attorney Brian Iller.

27 Audience members: Please see attached sign-in sheet.

The President called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M.

Biologist Walt Larrick reported to the Board on the 2024 smolt outmigration to Prosser Dam to date and river flows at Prosser. Mr. Larrick discussed the pattern of smolt outmigration by month and the five-year average for steelhead, hatchery Spring Chinook and Coho. Mr. Larrick explained that the fish flushing pulses used water conserved under the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project program in 2023 before prorationing and that success was high. This was an informational overview, and no action was requested from the Board.

District Manager Revell reported the water supply forecast is 51% for the proratable irrigation districts. Snowpack is currently 46% on the Yakima River mainstream arm and 60% of average on the Naches River arm. Mr. Revell noted the snowpack has been dropping off rapidly and USBR will issue the next water supply forecast on June 6th.

District Manager Revell updated the Board on the 2024 drought response measures and operating plans detailed in the May 17th staff report. Policy Director Sage Park noted working with Selah on additional lease/purchase of 500-acre feet. Mr. Revell reported that proration was not expected to begin before May 22nd and delivery restrictions will begin upon prorationing and noted there is no advantage to implementing delivery restrictions or a shutdown prior to prorationing because water cannot be moved to later in the season. Engineering Manager Wayne Sonnichsen presented operating plans with delivery info and reported water usage begins to drop around mid-August as harvest progresses. Mr. Revell mentioned deliveries in September have been reduced in the supply plans and the water moved to peak times as water usage drops further in the second half of September and explained the material in the staff report which differentiates between natural run off proportion (NRP), prorationing and storage control.

Keith Oliver with Olsen Brothers expressed that a shutdown would be better sooner rather than later and that he was supportive of a ten-day duration.

Court Wyckoff with Wyckoff Farms stated that he concurred with shutting down sooner rather than later and ten days was acceptable.

Water users Chris Van Belle and Kevin Gay inquired about the shutdown date and time.

Policy Director Sage Park updated the Board regarding the status of the supplemental water leasing and purchasing.

Following and extended discussion, Mr. Willard moved, seconded by Mr. Don, and unanimously approved obtaining water with senior priority dates from Suncadia with 830-acre feet, Mack Creek with 283-acre feet and SC Aggregate 140-acre feet.

Following discussion, Mr. Don moved, seconded by Mr. Willard, to authorize the District Manager to shut down the canal system for up to ten days. Following discussion from the Board and audience members, Mr. Don withdrew his motion.


Mr. Don moved, seconded by Mr. Sheehan and the motion was carried by majority with Mr. Willard and Mr. Valicoff in favor of authorizing the District Manager to shut down the canal system for up to ten days if prorationing occurs on or before May 24th. Mr. Winckler opposed the motion.

No further business appearing and upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the Board did there upon adjourn at 10:38 A.M. on Thursday- May 17, 2024.

ATTEST:



SECRETARY



PRESIDENT