

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 11, 2025

The Board of Directors for the Roza Irrigation District convened in regular session on Tuesday February 11, 2025. Present were President Ric Valicoff, Vice-President Jim Willard, Director Tanner Winckler, Director Jason Don, and District Manager Scott Revell. Engineering Manager Wayne Sonnichsen Watermaster Dave Rollinger, Assistant Watermaster Aaron Wiederspohn, Maintenance Superintendent Dave Clampitt, Assessment Clerk/Assistant Secretary Kristel Espinoza, Roza Consultant Chris Lynch and District Attorney Brian Iller

District Manager Revell noted that Director Sheehan was at the State Legislature.

Via telephone conference: Sage Park – Policy Director, Urban Eberhart – District Manager, Kittitas Reclamation District.

The President called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M. and requested the Board consider the consent agenda as presented:

- a. Minutes of January 7, 2025, Regular Board meeting.
- b. Minutes of January 23, 2025, Special Board meeting.
- c. Status of Investments Report – January 31, 2025.
- d. Treasurer's Report– January 31, 2025.
- e. Claims.
- f. Declaration of Surplus items

The following claims are approved for payment: payroll numbers 29694 – 29695 in the amount of \$699.36. voucher numbers 71466 – 71468, 71548 – 71604 and 71605 – 71680 in the amount of \$1,290,536.78 and electronic payments 01-25, 01-25, 01-25, 02-25, 03-25, 04-25, 1-25, 12-24, 12-3124, 1231-24, 1231-24, 2-25, 25-01, 25-02 and 25-03 in the amount of \$504,071.80 from the period of February 11, 2025, to February 28, 2025.

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

District Manager Revell reported that Reclamation will issue the first water supply forecast for the proratable irrigation districts on March 6th and noted the snowpack is currently 84% of average in the upper Yakima River mainstream basin and 95% average in the Naches River basin and reservoir storage is 33% of average.

Roza Consultant Chris Lynch reported on the 2025 water year to date which are below average and discussed with the Board the various effects of snow accumulation and snow melt. Mr. Lynch reported on the current reservoir content and the total precipitation trends and past drought patterns.

District Manager Revell updated the Board on the supplementation leases/purchases and requested direction from the Board. Following discussion, Mr. Don moved, seconded by Mr. Willard, and the motion carried by majority vote with Mr. Valicoff in favor and Mr. Winckler abstaining, authorized the supplementation lease/purchase of 1,060-acre feet of senior water from Estoos and 689 acre-feet of senior water from New Suncadia in Kittitas County.

Urban Eberhart discussed the elements of conserving and storing water and groundwater rights in the Yakima Basin.

District Manager Revell gave a brief overview to the Board on the Yakima River Water Stargrass control. Stargrass causes the dissolved oxygen levels to drop at night when the plants are not photosynthesizing and expressing oxygen. In 2024, up migrating adult sockeye could not breath and died in large numbers in the lower Yakima River. Irrigation entities with proratable water supplies could be impacted disproportionately in 2025 because of the extent of the Stargrass problem and its effect on fish. The most effective removal approach is at the plant's roots. Removal by hand takes a tremendous amount of time and requires a permit from WDWF. Staff have been working with the DFW staff to expand the work window permanently at both ends of the season when river conditions permit. There is very little research available on Stargrass due to it not being an invasive plant. State funding is unavailable for Strgrass because it is a native plant. The approach for the 2025 season includes aquatic herbicide use and harvesting. Other options are also being examined through United States Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs and United States Department of Agriculture. No action was requested from the Board.

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Assistant Treasurer/Bookkeeper Jody Williams reported to the Board on the capital assess threshold increase as part of the most recent state audit and explained the history of the threshold as described in the staff report. Following discussion, Mr. Willard moved, seconded by Mr. Winckler and unanimously approved increasing the threshold to 25,000.

Policy Director Sage Park and Director Jason Don recused themselves from the Aquifer Storage and Recovery project.

Engineering Manager Wayne Sonnichsen reported to the Board on the Aquifer Storage and Recovery consulting firm selection. Staff advertised a request of qualifications and two firms submitted. A three-person panel ranked the firm's qualifications. Following discussion, Mr. Winckler moved, seconded by Mr. Willard and unanimously approved entering a contract for Services with Geosyntec Consultants for conducting an Aquifer Storage and Recovery pilot test and related groundwater modeling and financial analysis. Mr. Revell noted that Policy Director Sage Park was not part of the evaluation team due to a conflict of interest.

The President declared the Board to be in executive session for an estimated twenty minutes beginning at 11:55 A.M. pursuant to:

- a. Executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). Potential and pending litigation- State v. Acquavella.
- b. Executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(2)(a)(iii). To evaluate 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.

District Manager Revell returned at 12:15 P.M. and noted the presiding officer had determined that the Board would be in executive session for an additional ten minutes.

The President returned the Board to regular session at 12:25 P.M.

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

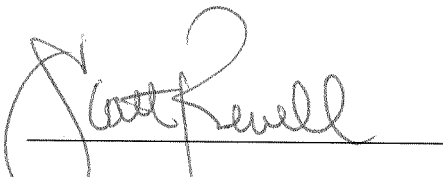
District Manager Revell presented, and the Board reviewed the District Manager's monthly report.

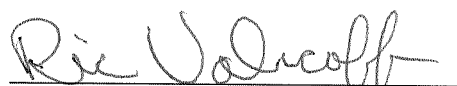
Policy Director Sage Park updated the Board on the monthly meetings report.

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

No further business appearing and upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the Board did there upon adjourn at 12:28 P.M. on Tuesday February 11, 2025.

ATTEST:


SECRETARY


PRESIDENT