



**Board of Directors
Special Meeting**

Monday, August 6, 2018, 11:30 a.m.
Carl W. Petersen Board Room
2015 S. Ely St., Kennewick, WA 99337

Minutes

Meeting Host: U. S. Representative Dan Newhouse, 4th District of Washington

KID Directors Present:

Dean Dennis, President
Gene Huffman
David McKenzie

Absent:

Kirk Rathbun, Vice President
Raman Venkata

Other Persons Present:

Brian Iller, KID Legal Counsel
Representatives of other local entities
Members of the press

Staff Present:

Charles Freeman, District Manager
Seth Defoe, Land & Water Resources Manager
Jason McShane, Engineering/Operations Manager
Kipp Drummond, District Treasurer
Shelbea Voelker, Public Relations Coordinator
Ben Woodard, Asst Engineering/Operations Manager
Becky Hiles, Staff Engineer
Lynda Rosenbaum, Real Property Manager
Lori Gibson, Executive Assistant
Doris Rakowski, Executive Assistant

Representative Newhouse called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Press Conference on the Introduction of Title Transfer Legislation: Rep. Newhouse announced that he had introduced legislation authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to transfer title of certain U. S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) assets to the KID. In accordance with a Memorandum of Agreement between KID and USBR, works beginning at KID 's head gate extending 40 miles east would be transferred. He said the conveyance of land and project facilities must be completed no later than two years after the legislation's enactment.

Rep. Newhouse said title transfer was important because it would allow KID to more efficiently manage water supplies, and would reduce federal liabilities and provide cost savings to the federal government. He spoke about challenges facing western water providers including growing demand, aging infrastructure, and changing precipitation patterns. He said title transfer would the empower local water managers to be responsive, efficient, and innovative in serving the community.

Rep. Newhouse noted that title transfer was not privatization of federal water projects or properties; it simply conveyed title for the facilities already managed and operated by the local, public irrigation district. He said required environmental reviews would still be completed such as those required under the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, National Historical Preservation Act, and hazardous review processes.

At 11:35 a.m., Mr. Freeman thanked Rep. Newhouse for his support and work on the legislation for KID.

Mr. Freeman said that after more than a year of working on title transfer and coming to an agreement with the USBR, there was more to be done. He said KID would be hiring appropriate consultants for needed environmental and cultural surveys.

Mr. Freeman spoke about the importance of title transfer and what it means for the community. He noted that there were over 300 property transfers in the district each month and said KID was better staffed to handle this than the USBR.

Mr. Freeman briefly reviewed the history of the KID and its relationship with the USBR. He said KID's 66-year interest-free loan from the USBR was sun-setting in 2024, but KID had offered to pay early.

Mr. Freeman said the transferred works included many miles of canals, laterals and drains. While title transfer would mean local people were running the facilities, the purpose and use of those facilities would not change.

At 11:38 a.m., President Dennis thanked Rep. Newhouse and his staff for organizing the event. He also thanked local partners for attending the press conference and the media for their coverage.

President Dennis said Title Transfer would benefit the community by allowing local challenges to be addressed locally, and by enhancing operational efficiencies. He thanked Rep. Newhouse for his leadership on the legislation.

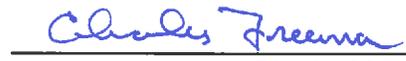
At 11:40 a.m., Rep. Newhouse summarized that Title Transfer was the culmination of what was planned all along and it meant that KID would assume title for properties and facilities it had been managing and operating historically. He offered to answer questions, and, hearing none, ended the press conference.

Attest:

Witness:



Dean Dennis, Board President
Minutes Approved August 7, 2018



Charles Freeman, District Manager

Prepared by Doris Rakowski