



Board of Directors Special Meeting

Wednesday, August 26, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
Meeting conducted via the Zoom platform

Minutes

President Rathbun called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and Mr. Freeman called roll. Due to the COVID-19 office closure, the meeting was held via the Zoom platform.

Directors:

Kirk Rathbun, President
David McKenzie, Vice President
Gene Huffman
Arland Ward

Absent:

Raman Venkata

Staff Present:

Charles Freeman, District Manager
Jason McShane, Engineering/Operations Manager
Ben Woodard, Assistant Eng./Ops Manager
Matt Berglund, Public Relations Coordinator
Brad Crawford, Information Technology
Lori Gibson, Executive Assistant to Engineering
Doris Rakowski, Executive Assistant

Meeting Facilitator:

Ben Floyd, White Bluffs Consulting
Lara Floyd, White Bluffs Consulting

Meeting Attendance: Approximately 127 meeting attendees, including Directors and staff.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA: Director McKenzie moved to confirm the agenda. Director Ward seconded the motion. All present voted in favor and the motion carried.

President Rathbun welcomed meeting attendees. He thanked guests for attending the meeting. He said the meeting was intended to be an information exchange, not a public hearing, and that no decision would be made by the Board at this meeting. He introduced Ben Floyd, of White Bluffs Consulting, who would facilitate the meeting on behalf of the District.

Mr. Floyd reviewed the meeting approach and said the purpose was to share information and gather input. Questions or comments could be submitted to Mr. Floyd via Zoom chat, or by email to PR@kid.org. A summary of all questions, comments, and responses would be made available posted on www.kid.org a few weeks after the meeting. Mr. Floyd reviewed Zoom instructions and invited guest to begin submitting questions.

PRESENTATIONS:

Capital Improvement Plan: Mr. Freeman acknowledged KID's various partners in state and federal agencies.

Mr. Freeman provided background on KID's history as part of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Yakima Project. KID was established in 1917, authorized in 1948, and construction completed in 1958. The District has 20,201 irrigable acres, including about 11,000 agricultural acres and 9,000 rural/urban residential acres. The KID provides raw Yakima River water to 24,692 customer accounts.

Mr. Freeman spoke about the KID Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which started in 2006 as a way to dedicate resources for improvements and large component replacements.

Funding sources include general assessments, grant funding (e.g. WaterSMART), private contributions, and development.

Mr. Freeman introduced Ben Woodard to speak about development projects.

Mr. Woodard spoke about the importance of the water supply to KID's customers. He spoke about KID's stewardship and efforts to secure its water supply. He displayed photos and videos and spoke about projects including canal lining, pump consolidation, replacement of older pipelines and automated gates and sensors.

Mr. Woodard spoke about storage reservoirs. He said reservoirs were often installed by KID in tandem with pump consolidations or new development. He displayed a photo of a typical KID reservoir.

Mr. McShane introduced himself spoke about the need for a reliable water supply and changes to KID's water supply. He spoke further about KID's history.

Mr. McShane spoke about drought and Yakima Basin storage limitations. He reported that, over time, KID had seen less water available during droughts. He spoke about KID's water sources.

Mr. McShane displayed a graph and spoke about the need for a reliable water supply. He spoke about the water supply during previous droughts, and the success of the community's response to recent drought conditions.

Mr. McShane reviewed possible water supply solutions, including:

- Columbia River Alternatives. Opinions differ on whether Columbia River water would be available, but any potential Columbia River water would require replacement on a "bucket in - bucket out" basis, and storage would be required.
- Chandler Electrification. This could save the 1.5 gallons of drive water used by the hydraulic turbines to pump each gallon into KID canals. There would be some challenges to taking instream flows from the Yakima River.
- Groundwater Wells, such as KID's wells in Badger Canyon. Water would be available, but expensive to access. 1.5 CFS (cubic feet per second) costs nearly \$1 million.
- Water Storage. This would benefit operational needs and provide supplemental water in drought years.

Mr. McShane spoke about central storage projects. He said KID planning and analysis of central storage projects started in the 1980s. He noted that the largest reservoir shown by Mr. Woodard held about 10 acre feet, and said that about ten times that volume was needed for the worst 2015 drought day.

Mr. McShane listed and responded to typical question topics regarding central storage which had been asked prior to the meeting.

- *What volume of water would be needed for the proposed central storage reservoir?* 12,000 acre feet for large drought storage reservoir.
- *Where could a central storage reservoir be located and why not upstream of the entire system?* The reservoir should be located where most of the system could utilize the storage. In the first 25-mile stretch of the Main Canal, KID serves approximately one seventh of the District. If it were to be located on a smaller canal, it would only benefit those areas downstream on that sub-system.
- *On-District and off-District storage options.* Off-District storage would need to have room for drive water which is 1.25 to 1.5 gallons of water to drive the pumps for every gallon put into our canal.
- *Whether storage would be in a series of reservoirs or a large one, and how many reservoirs the KID needed.* KID already has several small reservoirs and in-channel storage. Having a central storage reservoir would not eliminate the possibility that other reservoirs would be needed down the line.
- *Potential appearance of the proposed reservoir.* Design would be decided during the development process, and could range from river-like to fenced with plastic lining.
- *Potential impacts to underground reservoirs, aquifers, and wells.* The intent is to line the reservoir and not impact underground reservoirs, aquifers, and wells.
- *How would a central storage reservoir would improve service and reliability of irrigation water delivery?* It would improve ability to have water in system where and when it was needed.
- *How would a central storage reservoir would be operated?* The initial plan is to have an operational storage reservoir(s) to help provide water at certain times of day. A large central reservoir would be used during water short years, and may be used to benefit fish and wildlife.
- *What pumping would be required?* There were not many locations where pumping would not be needed. Water will flow into and out of the operational reservoir without a pump station. Most of the time the large drought reservoir will need to be pumped.
- *Estimated total expected cost of the project and how it will be funded.* Primarily, district funds would be used, but we are seeking additional funding sources.
- *Estimated cost to maintain the proposed reservoir.* Maintenance costs would depend on the type of reservoir and design. The operational costs will be calculated as we move forward.
- *Will there be an emergency plan?* Any reservoir this size must follow dam safety requirements of the Department of Ecology.

Mr. McShane spoke about further potential benefits from central storage, in addition to securing KID's water supply. He said use of the stored water in marginal years could decrease KID's water diversion from the Yakima River to benefit smolt outmigration for anadromous species, and improve in Yakima River health.

Mr. McShane said the next step in the central storage project was continued feasibility analysis, for which Shannon Wilson was contracted. Their work would include:

- Conducting a siting study

- Reviewing existing documentation of canal system, grades, canal operations.
- Performing geotechnical and ground water analysis
- Providing SEPA (State Environmental Protection Act) process technical assistance

He said the feasibility analysis was expected to take six to seven months, during which time no decision would be made on further property acquisition for the proposed reservoir.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Floyd coordinated reading of questions which he received via Zoom chat during the meeting, and staff and the Board President provided answers. A separate document with questions from the public and KID answers would be published on the KID website.

Following the question and answer period, Mr. Berglund identified himself as the Public Relations Coordinator and asked that any further questions be sent to him at pr@kid.org. It was noted that staff tried to answer all the questions asked at the last meeting at this meeting. Anyone thinking a question was missed was asked to re-submit the question.

President Rathbun thanked the facilitator, and presenters, and staff. He thanked the public for their questions and attendance. He thanked local partners, from cities, county TRIDEC, state, tribal, and federal agencies. He noted that the Board of Director email addresses were on the website if anyone wanted to ask questions directly of the Board.

Director Ward moved to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. Vice President McKenzie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Attest:

Witness:



Kirk Rathbun, President
Minutes approved September 15, 2020



Charles Freeman, Board Secretary

Prepared by Doris Rakowski