

Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District
Regular Board Meeting
March 11, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

At 5:30 PM, President Teals called the March 11, 2025 Regular Board Meeting of the Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District to order. The record shows that President Teals, Vice President Ketterer, Director Perry, Director Dexter, and General Manager Sam Castro were present. Legal Counsel Brian Iller attended via-telephone. The record shows the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The record indicates that this meeting was recorded.

DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEM(S)

President Teals called for discussion on any agenda items, and nothing was brought forward.

DISCUSSION OF NON-AGENDA ITEM(S)

President Teals called for discussion on any non-agenda items, and General Manager Sam Castro and Leroy Boyd asked to be added to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

President Teals called on the board members to approve the agenda. Director Dexter made a motion to approve the agenda. Vice President Ketterer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

President Teals called on the board members to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the meeting minutes from the 02/11/25 Regular Board Meeting and 02/06/25 and 02/11/25 Special Board Meetings, Bills/Checks (#19472 - #19494) and Rehabilitation Voucher #1000282 totaling \$70,886.45 and Irrigation Voucher #1000282 totaling \$7,890.19. Director Dexter made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Director Perry seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

General Manager Sam Castro stated the notice of filing petitions for additions of lands to Moses Lake Irrigation & Rehabilitation District pursuant to RCW 87.03, the following listed have filed petitions for addition of lands to MLIRD pursuant to RCW 87.03, wherein said Petitioners seek to amend the boundaries of the District to include the following parcels of property owned by CFML, LLC, parcel numbers 161358000, 161359000, 161359005, 161703000, 161358005, 161706000, 161714000, and Cove West HOA, parcel number 091187051. All persons interested in matters related to the Petitions or that may be affected by such change of the boundaries of the District, shall appear at the offices of the Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District, 932 E Wheeler Road, Moses Lake, WA 98837 at 5:30 PM on March 11, 2025, and show cause in writing why the change in the boundaries of MLIRD, to include the above described properties, as stated in the Petitions should not be made. The land petitions hearing was advertised on February 21, 28, and March 11, 2025.

In 1984, the total MLIRD irrigable acres was reduced from 11,213 acres to 4,174 acres by the Department of Ecology. An accurate assessment of the irrigable acres is currently under review by Neal Welbourne with Welbourne Geographic Services for MLIRD due to the petitions. General Manager Sam

Castro requested the Board consider a motion to table this until the next public Board meeting on April 8, 2025. Neal Welbourne will be in attendance to discuss the findings of the total irrigable acres at that Board meeting.

President Teals stated that it has always been the desire of the Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District to supply water to the property owners in the area. However, he said as was explained by General Manager Sam Castro, the Board does not know how many acres is being irrigated currently.

Director Perry asked what the status was of the negotiations with the Department of Ecology and MLIRD's water right. General Manager Sam Castro stated the MLIRD office has not reached out to the Department of Ecology recently. However, MLIRD's consultant, Aspect Consulting is conducting a study of the natural flows of Moses Lake and has a meeting scheduled with them in the next two weeks to discuss the current findings.

MLIRD's water right was discussed.

Legal Counsel Brian Iller suggested the discussion take place in Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into Executive Session at 5:45 PM to discuss with legal counsel the received and evaluated complaints or charges brought against a public officer or employee as authorized by RCW 42.30.110 (1)(f), to discuss with legal counsel the consideration of the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause the likelihood of increased price as authorized by RCW 42.30.110 (1)(b), and to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency as authorized by RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i). Legal Counsel also addressed discussing the legal risks of a proposed action or current practice as authorized by RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)(iii). Possible action may be taken after Executive Session. The expected time was 30 minutes, and the Board was to return approximately at 6:15 PM.

The Board extended Executive Session for an additional 15 minutes and the expected time to return was 6:30 PM.

The Board entered back into Regular Session at 6:30 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING cont.

Vice President Ketterer made a motion to table the current and future petitions for addition of lands to amend the boundaries of MLIRD until April 8, 2025. Director Perry seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL MANAGER MLIRD BOARD REPORT

General Manager Sam Castro reported the following:

- The MLIRD office has received a few phone calls in regards to the high water levels. MLIRD had a meeting with the Columbia Basin Conservation District and also another meeting with the USBR.

MLIRD has responded to property owners who call in with the high water concerns that both the Moses Lake North Dam gates and the Potholes Reservoir gates are fully open which means that Moses Lake and the Potholes Reservoir are equalizing. This means that the water from the Potholes Reservoir is backing up into Moses Lake and there is nothing that MLIRD can do to control it. MLIRD is mandated by the Federal Government when to open and close the Moses Lake North Dam gates. The Moses Lake North Dam gates will be fully open until the first Monday in April which is April 7, 2025 when MLIRD will close all gates at the Moses Lake North Dam to bring Moses Lake up to the summer elevation.

- During the USBR meeting, the W-20 route was also discussed. It was decided that the W-20 was not worth the cost over benefit comparison. The water that the City of Othello is receiving from the USBR will be routed to come through Moses Lake via the Rocky Coulee Wasteway. The quantity of the water will not be large; however, any amount is better than none. USBR Staff also mentioned that the water levels in the Potholes Reservoir are currently high and they do not anticipate a lot of water being ran through Moses Lake for irrigation. Also discussed during the meeting was staff cuts for the USBR employees. General Manager Sam Castro has drafted a letter of support for no more additional staff cuts for the USBR in Ephrata, WA. He is also working with Sara Higgins with the Columbia Basin Development League in creating a letter of support for the USBR that will be provided to approximately 32 agencies to consider signing the letter of support.
- MLIRD received communications last week from Nick Vira with NRCS who represents the NRCS grant that MLIRD is persuing and let us know that the funds for the grant have been frozen. Mr. Vira stated there is currently a panel that is reviewing to make a determination whether or not MLIRD will receive a grant award letter. This is one of the reasons why MLIRD Staff is working on a 2025 Budget amendment.
- MLIRD Staff will discuss the request made by Reva Miller with Legal Counsel Brian Iller and will then reach out to her regarding the decision made.
- MLIRD Staff reached out to the Grant County Emergency Management which is a division within the Grant County Sheriff's office to establish a quartley meeting with them. MLIRD does have an Emergency Action Plan in regards to the Moses Lake North Dam. Research is still ongoing regarding this matter.
- Kim Yeager with the Iron Horse Real Estate & Property Management has reached out to MLIRD regarding an amendment to MLIRD's lease agreement with them in regards to the Parker Horn Pump Station and the dock. She stated that the amendment to the lease agreement will include public access for the dock at the Parker Horn Pump Station. Legal Counsel Brian Iller has reviewed the amendment to the lease agreement and it has been forwarded back to Mrs. Yeager.
- The Moses Lake Elevation as of March 11, 2025 was 1044.25 feet.
- The Barge boat has been fully repaired and is now back at the MLIRD office.
- The MLIRD office has a new large map for public display in the MLIRD Board Room.
- General Manager Sam Castro is planning for MLIRD to celebrate its 100 year anniversary in 2028.
- Lakeshore Cleanup is on Saturday, March 22, 2025 at 8:00 AM
- A draft of Indigenous People Acknowledgement was read for consideration. President Teals stated Moses Lake was named after Chief Moses and believes the statement is appropriate to make and would like the Board to think about it and review at the next Regular Board meeting to have in MLIRD's mission statement. He also mentioned the Board should review MLIRD's mission statement.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Leroy Boyd thanked the Board and stated he appreciates the education he has learned at tonight's Board meeting.

WORKSHOP/DIRECTOR QUESTIONS and/or COMMENTS


President Teals mentioned the passing of former Secretary to the MLIRD Board of Directors Regan Bonato and wanted to recognize her for her 20+ years of dedication to the District.


ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.


Richard Teals, President


Joe Ketterer, Vice President


Kris Dexter, Director


Chuck Perry, Director

Samuel Dart, Director

By:


Secretary to the Board of Directors
Sam Castro