



James Rickert,
President, Division 5

Ivar Amen,
Vice President, Division 4

Ronnean Lund,
Director, Division 1

Audie Butcher,
Director, Division 2

Garrett Wallis,
Director, Division 3

Daniel Ruiz,
General Manager

BOARD MEETING

Final Minutes

August 14, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

1887 Howard Street, Anderson (Council Chambers)

1. Call To Order at 6:00 p.m.

Directors Present: Rickert, Lund, Amen, Wallis late arrival 7:10

Directors Absent: Butcher

Staff Present: Ruiz, White, Duncan

2. General Manager Dan Ruiz led Flag Salute

3. Public Participation

Time is reserved for members of the public to address the Board on matters within the District's jurisdiction. Comments are limited to a maximum of three minutes per individual.

Buddy Harry Johns - Expressed frustration that their delivery is still not on the promised 14-day water rotation, an issue that has persisted for over a year.

- Suggested, the Board considers issuing refunds to residents on Lateral 29, who have not received their scheduled water deliveries for more than two years.
- Criticized District spending, noting that despite receiving approximately \$25 million from water-related transactions, A.C.I.D. has issued pay increases—including a 7% raise to one employee within six months—while failing to resolve water delivery issues.
- Asserted that the problem is not water availability but poor timing and oversight, placing blame on a specific manager. Cited Bowman as an example of an area receiving water on a more consistent 13-day rotation, highlighting inconsistency across the District.
- Strongly oppose any further employee pay increases for at least three years, advocating that funds be redirected toward repairing and maintaining ditches.

Lund/Ruiz Response - Clarified that A.C.I.D. has not sold any water rights and noted that a report concerning Line 29 would be reviewed during the meeting.

Dennis Prescott - Raised a serious safety concern involving individuals—particularly children—standing in water to operate electrical pumps, creating a risk of electrocution. Provided photographic evidence and emphasized the issue has persisted for a long time.

- Briefly mentioned missed irrigation deliveries and inquired about the process of obtaining a refund when water is not provided.

Board Discussion and Responses –

- **Liability Concern:** Board members acknowledged the safety issue as a liability risk, which could prompt more immediate action from Fish and Game.
- **Jurisdiction & Responsibility:** The area in question is on Fish and Game property. Although A.C.I.D. has a historical agreement to operate there, any modifications (e.g., adding gravel) require formal permission.
- **Communication Gap:** It was revealed that Fish and Game may not have been officially notified of the issue, despite multiple complaints. Dennis clarified he expected the Board to handle that communication.
- **Easement Discussion:** There was mention of an easement that may grant A.C.I.D. the right to access and maintain the area; confirmation is needed.
- **Temporary Solution:** Suggested lowering the pond level by removing a board to reduce standing water, though this may impact water availability for pumping.
- **Long-Term Fix:** Proposed placing a load of gravel around the electrical pole to raise the ground level and prevent water pooling. A.C.I.D. must contact Fish and Game for approval. Additional coordination with PG&E may be required due to liability concerns involving electrical infrastructure.

President Rickert - Asked if there were any further public comments. Hearing none, the meeting proceeded with Consent Items.

4. Consent Items

- a. Payroll: Approve the Payroll Check Register for July 2025
- b. Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS) & Automated Clearing House (ACH) – Approve transactions for the Payroll Periods July 11, 2025, and July 31, 2025
- c. Voided and/or missing checks for July 2025

Director Lund made the motion to approve Consent Items; Vice President Amen seconded the motion. No public comment. Vote 3-0

5. Regular Business Items

- a. Minutes – Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on July 10, 2025 – Comment: Director Lund - I would like to note that Mike Berry made a public comment during the previous meeting. I have asked our General Manager to provide an update on that issue during his report at this meeting, and he has confirmed that he will do so.

Director Lund made the motion to approve Minutes; Vice President Amen seconded the motion. No public comment. Vote 3-0

- b. Financial Status Report for Year-to-Date through July 2025- Comments: Director Lund - discussed a \$20,000 charge from LAFCO that the General Manager is currently investigating, which now reflects 250% overbudget of that line item due to this charge. This issue is in the process of being resolved, and I wanted to make sure it was mentioned. President Rickert - Question for Dan Ruiz regarding item 4115 – Water Transfer Revenue. We budgeted about \$15,000 more than what was received. Can you clarify the reason for that discrepancy?

Dan Ruiz - The shortfall is due to a \$10 per acre-foot reduction by Reclamation, which will be allocated to the Winter Run Action Plan. Since there is currently no mechanism to charge that extra \$10, ACID will receive a bill for it at the end of the year from its Settlement Contractors.

Director Lund made the motion to approve Financial Status Report; Vice President Amen seconded the motion. No public comment. Vote 3-0

c. Cash Disbursement Journal for July 2025

Director Lund made the motion to approve Cash Disbursement Journal; Vice President Amen seconded the motion. No public comment. Vote 3-0.

6. New Business Items

a. Review and Discuss Proposed Offseason Work

1. Main Canal Compaction Project Priorities
2. Churn Creek Bottom
3. Lateral 33, 29, 21 & 3

Dan Ruiz- went through basic concerns above and Ben Duncan went through proposed plan and maps with board/members in associate board packet.

Key Project Areas:

- Main Canal Compaction – Continuing work from last year, especially around Section 37, which remains low and problematic.
- Churn Creek Bottom – Proposed vegetation removal and compaction in an area with poor soils and high operational costs.
- Laterals 33, 29, 21, 35, and 3 (Redding) – Targeted repairs and assessments, with Lateral 3 requiring a full engineering design due to its complexity and potential risks.

Goals & Strategy:

- Aggressive Fixes: The team aims to stabilize the system with substantial repairs that will last for years.
- Contractor Availability: Contractors are currently looking for work, making this an ideal time to secure bids and move quickly.
- Flexible Approach: Most projects will proceed without formal bidding or engineering, using sole source contracting for speed. Lateral 3, however, will follow a formal design and bid process due to its high stakes.
- Long-Term Vision: The goal is to develop a sustainable rehab plan, starting with the most critical areas.

Challenges:

- The system is in disarray, especially in Area 5 (South Anderson and Cottonwood).
- Staffing/Contractor issues
- Vegetation overgrowth, poor soil conditions, and lack of a spray program are contributing to inefficiencies.
- Lateral 3 will be deferred to next year due to the need for engineering and formal bidding.
- While fixing the entire system in one offseason is not feasible, the team is seeking board support to tackle as much as possible within budget constraints.

Next steps:

- Budget Planning: Cost estimates, and budget proposals will be presented next month for board review.
 - Get members out to look at issues/comments, get going on it sooner, not six months from now.
- d. Review and Discuss Draft Request for Proposals: District Herbicide Spray Program

The team presented a draft RFP for herbicide spraying, aiming to formalize the process and solicit competitive bids from contractors. The current contractor has performed well, but the goal is to ensure apple-to-apples comparisons and explore other options.

In-House vs. Contracted Work:

- While in-house spraying is possible, it has proven inconsistent due to staffing limitations and competing maintenance demands. Staff often get pulled away from spraying duties, making it difficult to maintain a reliable program.
- Equipment capacity is limited in-house (100–200 gallons per application), whereas contractors have larger rigs and can cover more ground efficiently.

Licensing & Oversight:

- There was discussion about whether ACID staff have the necessary certifications to oversee or perform spraying in-house.
- One staff member is working towards certification but has faced delays due to daily operational demands.

Next Steps:

- Finalize the RFP language and bring back formal cost estimates within the next month or two to board.
- Compare the cost of contracted spraying twice a year with the potential cost of hiring and certifying dedicated in-house staff. Use this comparison to determine the most cost-effective and sustainable approach.

7. Other Business

a. General Manager Report

Accounting System Transition:

- The district is transitioning from Sage to QuickBooks, requiring a specialized contractor to assist with the migration. The process is ongoing, with accounts receivable reconciliation still in progress.
- A finalized balance sheet aligned with the Treasurer's report is expected by October. Sage may continue to run in parallel until the transition is complete.

Lateral 46 Project:

- Staff will contribute time to the Lateral 46 piping project, expected to span 2–3 off-seasons.
- Ben will develop a staff scheduling plan to determine what work can be done in-house. A recommendation for contractor support will be presented alongside staff capacity planning.

Special Meeting Scheduling:

- A special meeting is needed to review North Hill Street proposal, Second Street float and Soils report. After coordinating availability, the board agreed to meet on Wednesday, September 3rd, with a proposed start time of 8:00 or 9:00 AM.

Hydrologic & Allocation Update:

- Dan presented a hydrologic analysis in response to prior board discussions and public comment.
- March and April forecasts were strong, but May and June showed a dry pattern, still Reclamation increased South-of-Delta allocations by 5%, raising concerns.
- July's forecast improved due to a storm, but the timing of Reclamation's decision remains questionable.
- South-of-Delta contractors are pushing for higher allocations (up to 65%), creating tension and a potential divide between North and South interests.
- Reservoirs are generally above historical averages, except San Luis, which is slightly below but expected to refill in October–November.

Allocation Modeling & Bin Year Classification:

- Allocation modeling suggests the district may fall into a Bin 2B or 3A year under the Drought Protection Agreement, which could impact future supply planning.
- A Bin 3B year would indicate a 50% supply. To avoid this, forecasts must show storage above 2 million acre-feet at year end (September 30th) and storage above 3 million acre-feet by key dates (April 3rd and April 15th).
- Current forecasts suggest a 1B/2A classification, but concerns remain about the accuracy and motivation behind Reclamation's projections.

Strategic Advocacy Discussion:

- The Settlement Contractors sent a letter to Reclamation last month expressing concern over allocation decisions based on flawed forecasts.
- The board acknowledged the risk of having to advocate independently and agreed to monitor developments closely.

South-of-Delta Diversions:

- Dan presented visual data showing a significant increase in South-of-Delta diversions compared to the previous year.
- These diversions are contributing to reservoir depletion.

b. Operations Manager Report

General Operations:

- Ben reported ongoing work involving personnel management, water operations, and emergency repairs. The team has been responding to broken pipes and shifting staff to maintain water delivery.

Fish Screen System Failure:

- A complete failure occurred in the fish screen system where Screen A: Pulley failure caused the cable to derail, shutting down the system. Screen B: The drive pulley became too slick to function, preventing the trolley from cleaning the screen.
- Immediate action was taken when the broken pulley was removed and sent for repair.
- A mobile mechanic was brought in and successfully repaired the pulley, which will be reinstalled the following morning.

Temporary Staffing & Manual Operations:

- Due to the failure, temporary staff were hired to monitor and manually clean the screens 24/7.
- Water flow dropped from 228 CFS to 128 CFS, highlighting the need for constant supervision.
- Staff observed that even short breaks (e.g., 10 minutes) resulted in measurable flow loss (~10 CFS).
- Manual cleaning tools, including telescoping wire brushes, were deployed to maintain operations.

Staff Response & Safety Measures:

- Water operators voluntarily extended their shifts to help restore functionality.
- A night crew was arranged through K&S Staffing to support ongoing manual operations.
- Safety protocols were followed during repairs, including use of harnesses and safety belts.

Contractor Support:

- A local mobile mechanic was praised for his efficiency, completing in 20 minutes what would have taken staff 3 hours.
- He is scheduled to return the following morning to assist with further repairs.

c. Committee Reports

- a. Budget
- b. Personnel
- c. Diversion Dam
- d. Assessment
- e. Strategic – meet to prioritize projects
- f. EAGSA
- g. SRSC

Dan Ruiz - Sacramento River Settlement Contract Update

- During the recent meeting of the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors, a decision was made regarding 1,700 acre-feet of water that was unclaimed due to smaller entities not signing the Drought Protection Agreement (DPA).
- The board opted to distribute the water pro rata among contractors who had signed the DPA.
- As a result, ACID will receive 102 acre-feet, which is approximately 6% of the total, generating an estimated \$50,000 in revenue.
- Once Exhibit A is finalized, it will be shared with the board.

8. Adjourn Board Meeting

The Board moved into closed session at 7:47 p.m.

**9. CLOSED SESSION – PUBLIC EMPLOYEE EMPLOYMENT AND/OR PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
(Government Code §
54957)**

i. Title: General Manager

The Board returned from closed session at 8:49 p.m., and reported no action taken.

10. Adjourn at 8:50 p.m.



Board President, James Rickert