



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 Approved Minutes

September 11, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

1887 Howard Street, Anderson (Council Chambers)

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

Directors Present: Rickert, Amen, Wallis

Directors Absent: Butcher, Lund

Staff Present: Ruiz, White, Duncan, and Bell

2. Supervisor Chris Kelstrum led the Flag Salute

3. Public Participation

Time is set aside for members of the public who wish to address the Board regarding matters within the District's jurisdiction. Individuals are requested to limit comments to a maximum of three minutes.

Bridgette Grimsman expressed appreciation to Dan for his assistance and apologized for a prior phone interaction involving her husband. She thanked the district for resolving a recent issue with a grate.

- The primary concern presented was on behalf of her mother-in-law, a long-time resident and cattle rancher on Lateral 29, who has been experiencing insufficient water delivery to irrigate her field.
- Due to the lack of water, her pasture has dried up. She has reduced her cattle from 65 to 45 head. The feed is running low, and the field is now overtaken by weeds instead of grass.
- The issue was first noticed in June and partially addressed after meeting with the ditch tender, but water levels declined again.
- Despite contacting appropriate personnel, no lasting resolution was achieved until a recent conversation with Dan led to improved water flow.
- The speaker requested that this issue be formally added to a future board meeting agenda for resolution.

Jeff Carman, a resident of 22903 Adobe Road, expressed ongoing frustration with the inconsistent water delivery throughout the irrigation season.

- Key concerns included: Missed water cycles early in the season with no prior notification. A major canal break was only discovered after the resident contacted the office.
- After a temporary improvement, water delivery declined again due to canal draining for vegetation management.
- A leak repair near the property was only partially completed (100 ft of a 200 ft section), and the issue reoccurred after the next cycle.

- The resident reported receiving only half to three-quarters of a head of water, impacting pasture growth, and forcing early relocation of cattle to dry pasture.
- Communication issues were emphasized: Lack of proactive alerts about service disruptions. Frustration with the ditch tender's dismissive responses to concerns. Positive feedback was given to a weekend replacement ditch tender, Kaleb, for being responsive and accommodating.
- The speaker urged the district to improve both water consistency and communication practices, especially for the remainder of the season and into next year.

Bill Gifford - Reported this season as the worst he has experienced, citing inconsistent water delivery after a typical first cycle. One strong flow showed that adequate delivery is possible, but it was not sustained.

He had to skip irrigation on an 8-acre field for a month, leading to poor grass and weed growth. His pond showed minimal refill despite extended water flow. Additional water purchases yielded less than expected, and erosion risks complicated water management.

Bill received only 43% of his contracted water, confirmed by his wife and engineer Susan Goodwin. He also faced:

- Unscheduled water reallocation by a neighbor.
- Reduced pasture quality, causing livestock removal.
- Frequent valve adjustments due to low flow.
- Lack of transparency in water allocation and poor communication with ditch tenders.

He emphasized the need for better water management and accountability, noting similar issues among neighbors.

Buddy Pettyjohn - Expressed staunch support for previous speakers regarding ongoing issues with water delivery on Line 29, stating this has been the worst irrigation season he has experienced.

- Key concerns included: Extended irrigation cycles: Promised 14-day cycles but have been stretched to 17–17.5 days, causing significant disruption. Noted visible fluctuations in water head and questioned why water delivery varies so drastically. Expressed frustration over receiving water at night instead of daytime and questioned whether this was punitive.
- Historical comparison: Recalled better irrigation service prior to district upgrades and funding, questioning current performance.
- Suggested remedies: Proposed temporarily shutting off pumps to Churn Creek to highlight the impact of delayed cycles. Asked the board to consider a 20% refund for affected users over the past two years due to reduced water access.

Board Response

- Board members acknowledged the seriousness of the issues on Line 29, stating the current level of service is unacceptable. Apologies were issued to affected residents, with recognition of their frustration.
 - The board committed to: Addressing Line 29 as a priority during the upcoming off-season. Evaluating appropriate actions, including potential compensation, though no decisions were made during the meeting. Working collaboratively to resolve infrastructure and service problems.

4. Consent Items

- a. Payroll: Approve the Payroll Check Register for August 2025
- b. Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS) & Automated Clearing House (ACH) – Approve transactions for the Payroll Periods August 15, 2025, and August 29, 2025
- c. Voided and/or missing checks for August 2025

VP Ivar made the motion to approve Consent Items; Director Wallis seconded the motion. No public comment. Vote 3-0 approved.

5. Regular Business Items

- a. Minutes – Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on August 14, 2025
- b. Financial Status Report for Year-to-Date through August 31, 2025
- c. Cash Disbursement Journal for August 2025

Director Wallis made the motion to approve Regular Business Items; VP Ivar seconded the motion. No public comment. Vote 3-0 approved.

6. New Business Items

- a. Review and Approve Resolution CDAA-2025-07: Cal OES Designation of Applicant's Agent Resolution, Non-State Agencies
- b. Review and Approve Proposal for Engineering Services for the Replacement of Damaged Lining at the North Hill St. Canal Reach, Anderson California
- c. Main Canal Capital Improvement Project Priorities and Pricing Update
- d. Churn Creek Bottom Project Priorities
 - a. Reshape & Compaction Priorities
 - b. Pipe Repair and Replacement Priorities
- e. Lateral Project Priorities
 - a. 33, 29, & 21

Item 6a: Review and Approval of Resolution CDAA2025-07 - Designation of Applicant's Agent for Non-State Agencies

- The board reviewed Resolution CDAA2025-07, a formal designation of the applicant's agent related to February flood events.
- The resolution is a procedural requirement following the Governor's declaration of a state of emergency in late July, with Shasta County having acted early in the process.
- The designation helps initiate project-related processes and may remain valid for several years.
- Due to staffing changes, including a new office manager, the resolution requires updating and submission.
- Deadline for submission is September 22 to ensure continued coordination with Shasta County.
- A motion to approve the resolution was made and seconded.
- No public comments were received.

VP Ivar made the motion to approve Resolution; Director Wallis seconded the motion. No public comment. Vote 3-0 approved.

Item 6b: Review and Approval of Engineering Proposal – North Hill Canal Reach (Anderson)

- The board reviewed a previously seen proposal for engineering services related to the replacement of a damaged lining at the North Hill Canal Reach.
- Total proposal cost: \ \$60,000, broken down into three phases:
 1. Hydrologic Evaluation – \ \$16,000
 2. Design & Replacement – \ \$22,000
 3. Construction Support – \ \$22,000
- Minor wording edits were suggested to clarify the outlet structure's function, replacing "pasture" with "storm water and watershed" to better reflect actual conditions.
- The hydrologic evaluation is prioritized due to lead time and urgency following recent flood events. Remaining phases will be revisited at a future meeting when the full board is present.
 - Discussion included: Clarification that the canal overtopping was due to a disconnected berm. No need for landowner approval due to existing easement, though outreach is planned. Potential for further investigation outside the current scope.

Director Wallis made the motion to approve Hydrologic evaluation only; VP Ivar seconded the motion. No public comment. Vote 3-0 approved.

Item 6C, D and E: Main Canal Capital Improvement Project, Churn Creek Bottom and Lateral Projects

- Main Canal, Lateral 29, Pickup Ditch: Discussion continued for priority upgrades. No formal action taken; board to await committee recommendations. Work may begin as early as Nov. 1, pending dry conditions and contractor availability.
- Project Estimates: Staff presented bids from two contractors for three segments:
 - Priority 1 (11,000 ft): \ \$990K–\ \$996K
 - Priority 2 (3,400 ft): \ \$374K–\ \$414K
 - Priority 3 (200 ft): \ \$230K–\ \$243KTotal: \ \$1.59M–\ \$1.65M. Discounts possible if all segments awarded. Final scope expected mid-October.
- Lateral 29 & Pipe Issues: Historical infrastructure problems noted. CCTV inspections planned for 1,800 ft to assess pipe conditions. Long-standing leaks and obstructions identified; some repairs may be delayed due to access.
- Pickup Ditch (Area 5): Multiple leaks and structural issues reported. Plan to re-pipe degraded sections and extend piping based on material availability. Significant water loss documented.
- Landowner Access & Easements: Staff faced disputes over ditch access. Work paused pending proper permits. Proposal made to standardize fencing policies and clarify easement boundaries to avoid future conflicts.
- Operational Challenges: Water delivery delays and rotation issues persist, especially in Lateral 29. Staff evaluating siphon installation and infrastructure upgrades. Vestra consulting on feasibility.
- Personnel & Oversight: Early season staffing issues acknowledged. Recommendation to re-engage experienced staff (e.g., Phil) for field oversight and training. Suggestion to create a ditch tender manual.

- Public Feedback: Irrigators voiced concerns over poor water delivery, rigid scheduling, and lack of communication. Calls for more frequent engagement, an action plan for Lateral 29 and Pickup Ditch, and better coordination among neighbors.
- Next Steps: The Board directed staff to work collaboratively with residents to develop a comprehensive plan, which was to be presented at the current meeting. Future meetings involving key decisions should be held during regular sessions to ensure public participation.

7. Other Business

- a. General Manager Report
- b. Operations Manager Report
- c. Committee Reports
 - a. Budget
 - b. Personnel
 - c. Diversion Dam
 - d. Assessment
 - e. Strategic
 - f. EAGSA
 - g. SRSC

Item 7a: General Manager's Report – September – included in the Board packet

Item 7b: Operations Manager Report

Water Operations

- Main Canal: Flow reduced from 240 to ~210 CFS; algae bloom affecting volume. Crowley Gulch holding 70–90 CFS. Area 5 laterals add ~20 CFS when active.
- C Creek: Stable at 55 CFS (3 pumps); drops to ~33 CFS with 2 pumps.
- River Flows: Ramping down to 7600 CFS for conservation; impacts Churn Creek pump pressure.
- Rain Impact: Brief storm caused overnight spillage at Crowley.
- Season Wrap-Up: Most laterals ending around Sept 20; full shutdown by Oct 31. Final splash planned for Lateral 29 and pickup ditch.

Infrastructure & Maintenance

- Repairs: Fish screens/pulleys restored; pipe leaks exposed and redirected. Grill installations are ongoing.
- Emergencies: Beaver dam removed; tree cleared from Lateral 3; golf course leak resolved.
- Drainage Issues: Temporary levee redirected water; pipe repair/replacement proposed.
- Ditch Work: Reactive vegetation clearing; excavator use tracked.
- Cow issue, temporary metal done, grill list made, and improvements planned.

Projects & Funding

- NRCS Project: Approved after 3+ years; planning underway for materials, labor, and reimbursement.
- Contractor Estimates: Lateral reshaping at \$25–\$35/ft; pipe materials priced separately.

- NRCS Bulk Pricing: Potential discounts for truckload purchases.

Spray Program

- Application Timing: Late winter/early spring, mid-June, optional fall.
- Cost Breakdown:
 - Contractors: \$160/acre
 - District Staff: \$124/acre (labor, chemicals, maintenance)
- Equipment: 200–300 gallons/day capacity; ~146 acres in main canal.
- Notes: Costs may rise due to limited access and terrain.

Canal Shutdown Recommendation

- Most scheduled laterals (e.g., 33, 35) will naturally end around October 20. Unscheduled laterals (e.g., 29, 33) may continue running until water is unavailable.
- Recommendation: shut down main around the 20th, allow 3–5 days for water to run out, and let the system taper off organically.

Next steps

- Finalize Dam Removal: possibly scheduled for Nov 1, first Monday in November. Board approval for next Board Meeting.
- Board/Public Support: Appreciation for emergency response and transparency.
- Finalizing proposals, calibrating spray coverage, and preparing for off-season work.

Board & Public Feedback

- Public and board members expressed appreciation for: Emergency response to electrical hazard and water lowering. Continued commitment to safety and equitable water delivery.
- Transparency and thoroughness in planning and reporting.

8. Adjourned Public session at 7:47 pm

9. CLOSED SESSION – started at 7:50 pm

- Existing Litigation (Government Code § 54956.9(d)(1)).** United States of America v. 4.04 Acres of Land et al., U.S. Dist. Court, Eastern District of California, Case No. 2:23-cv-02800 – no action taken
- Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Government Code § 54956.9(d)(4))** One Case Closed session adjourned at 8:55 p.m. – no action taken

10. Adjourn – meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.



Board President, James Rickert