



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

Dan Ruiz,
General Manager

BOARD MEETING

Approved Board Minutes

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

1887 Howard Street, Anderson (Council Chambers)

1. Call To Order at 5:59 pm by Board President Rickert

Directors Present: James Rickert, Ivar Amen, Garrett Wallis, Ronnean Lund, and Audie Butcher.

Directors Absent: all were present

Staff Present: Dan Ruiz, Ben Duncan, Terri White, Shawna Bell

2. Flag Salute by community member Jeremy Kellogg

3. Public Participation

Prior to public participation President Rickert made an announcement: He announced his resignation from the ACID Board of Directors, effective December 11, 2025. The decision was made due to a family member's health challenges requiring his full attention. He expressed appreciation for his time on the board, noted significant accomplishments during his tenure, and conveyed confidence in the board and staff to continue working collaboratively toward the district's long-term success.

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.

There were no public comments.

4. Consent Items

- a. Payroll: Approve the Payroll Check Register for November 2025
- b. Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS) & Automated Clearing House (ACH) – Approve transactions for the Payroll Periods 11/14/2025 and 11/26/2025
- c. Voided and/or missing checks for November 2025

Discussion on Closed Session Timing: Director Lund proposed moving into closed session early to address items on the current agenda potentially impacting the proposed budget. After consideration by the board, it was agreed to proceed with the regular meeting as planned and then address the items in the closed session where they could be discussed in length.

Vice President Amen made the motion to approve Consent Items; Director Butcher seconded the motion. No questions or comments. Vote 5-0 passed unanimously.

5. Regular Business Items

- a. Minutes – Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on 11/13/2025
2810 Silver Street, Anderson, CA 96007 | Phone: 530-365-7329 | Fax: 530-365-7623

- b. Financial Status Report for Year-to-Date through November 30, 2025
- c. Cash Disbursement Journal for November 2025

Director Butcher made the motion to approve Regular Business Items; Director Wallis seconded the motion. No questions or comments. Vote 5-0 passed unanimously.

6. New Business Items

- a. Review and Consider Approving Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District 2026 Operating Budget

General Manager Ruiz presented an attached proposed 2026 operating budget and provided a narrative overview with key highlights.

- Board Discussion and Direction
- Budget not approved at this meeting; will be revisited in Mid-January special meeting after December invoices finalized.
- Regular Board Meeting: January 8, 2026 will focus on appointment of a new director.
- List or map of ACID properties owned, and taxes was requested by the Board.
- Potential budget amendments for 2025 to capture year-end expenditures.
- Development of long-term financial plan (3–5 years) and capital improvement strategy. Reserve allocation and sustainability planning.

- b. Review and Consider Approving Repair Recommendation for Lateral 29 Main

Ben Duncan, Operations Manager shared a power point with details and reported significant issues with Lateral 29, including major root intrusion and water flow restrictions. Based on findings, Ben presented the two options:

- Pipe Replacement: Estimated at \$46,700 (includes \$16,700 for pipe and contractor costs).
- CIPP Epoxy Resin Lining: prohibitive cost noted on slide; deemed impractical.

Recommendation: Remove and replace approximately 300 feet of pipe near the main canal (behind the old mill on Locust, before the railroad tracks). Existing inventory will cover minor overages. Work to be completed before irrigation season to improve water delivery.

Board discussion confirmed the problem area is located before the railroad tracks at the main canal connection. Contractor Bill Spoon, budget estimate is \$100 per foot, totaling \$30,000 for labor. The Operations Manager said they would try to beat that price using time-and-materials contracts if possible, but Bill Spoon's quote was used as the initial benchmark for budgeting.

Director Lund made the motion to approve the repair of Lateral 29 at a cost of \$46,700; Director Wallis seconded the motion. No questions or comments. Vote 5-0 passed unanimously.

7. Other Business

- a. General Manager Report

- a. Offseason Work Budget Update (handout provided)

General Manager Ruiz presented a spreadsheet tracking offseason projects and expenditures through November. Contractors are active, with additional billing expected in December.

- Costs appear to be trending below initial quotes. Example: Schuppert & Ross billed \$44,600; final cost per foot pending completion.
- Core Ten Construction invoiced \$31,000 for Freeway Ditch; more invoices expected.
- Steve Manning project progressing well; photos to be shared separately.
- Spreadsheet will be updated monthly. Lateral 29 repairs will be added to the spreadsheet; Shady Lane project likely to be reviewed in January.

b. NRCS Project Budget Update (Lat 46)

General Manager Ruiz reported that the NRCS project bid was awarded to Hoy & Son at \$137,800, significantly lower than other bids. The selected contractor is familiar with NRCS requirements, contributing to the competitive pricing. Handouts were provided for Board review.

b. Operations Manager Report

Ben Duncan, Operations Manager continued with a PowerPoint presentation reporting with project photos and progress updates.

- Project Highlights:
 - Freeway Ditch: 3,000 ft section; ~50% complete; riprap installed to prevent erosion.
 - Countryside Lane Pipe: 180 ft replacement completed; finishing work pending.
 - Churn Creek Golf Course: 200 ft pipe replaced; minimal tree removal saved costs; completion expected tomorrow.
 - Peach Lane: Ditch reshaped; old slide gates removed for repair.
 - Lateral 33 & Lone Tree Section: Vegetation removal and reshaping underway; 1,250 ft pipe replacement planned; drone footage provided; major dirt hauling completed with cost savings from donated equipment and discounted material.
 - Main Canal: Progressed past Jim Dandy toward PG&E plant; new headwalls poured on-site for efficiency.
 - Pickup Ditch (Adobe Road): 900 ft pipe replacement addressing long-standing water loss.
 - Valve Repairs & Trash Screens: Multiple valve upgrades and new screens installed across system.

Next Steps:

- Complete ongoing canal reshaping and pipe replacement projects (e.g., Freeway Ditch, Peach Lane, Turn Creek Golf Course).
- Continue installing fencing along canal banks as contractors progress.
- Finalize repairs on problematic Laterals (e.g., Lateral 29 approved for replacement, Shady Lane to be addressed in January).
- Prepare for additional work on SCADA equipment at Anderson Flume and Smith Road for improved flow monitoring and telemetry.
- Vice President Amen suggested ACID should pursue a tree removal program and explore cost-sharing options with landowners.

- Track project progress monthly and report to the board with updated spreadsheets showing cost per foot and completion percentages.

c. Committee Reports

- a. Budget
- b. Personnel
- c. Diversion Dam
- d. Assessment
- e. Strategic
- f. EAGSA
- g. SRSC

Committee Reports

- Budget Committee: Will reconvene to finalize the 2026 operating budget after updated figures and amendments are prepared.
- Personnel Committee: Will meet to review staffing needs, including discussion of a proposed maintenance position and executive assistant vacancy.
- EAGSA Workshop: Update provided on groundwater sustainability efforts; board members attended the November workshop at Lima Ranch.
- SRSC: General Manager Ruiz noted ongoing discussions and the need for a future briefing on the Healthy Rivers program, which has been paused.

Open meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm, moving into closed session

8. Closed Session

- a. **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNCIL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (Government Code § 54956.9(d)(4))**
Two Cases

- b. **CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS (Government Code § 54956.8)**

Property: Water Transfers

District Negotiator: General Manager Ruiz & District General Counsel, Minasian Law

Negotiating Parties: Existing water transfer buyers: City of Redding, Bella Vista WD, Shasta Community Services District & City of Shasta Lake

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

- a. **PUBLIC EMPLOYEE EMPLOYMENT AND/OR PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (Government Code § 54957)**
Title: General Manager Ruiz and Operations Manager Evaluation

In the closed session, legal counsel and General Manager Ruiz were provided with general direction regarding all the items listed above by the Board.

9. Closed Session Adjourned at 9:17 pm

Signature: _____

