

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE TULARE IRRIGATION DISTRICT HELD ON THE  
20<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2017 AT THE HOUR OF 9:00 A.M.**

Call to Order:

Directors present at the meeting held at the date and time above designated were President David Bixler, Vice President Rick Borges, Mike Thomas, and Dave Martin. Director Rogers was not present. Staff present at the meeting were J. Paul Hendrix, General Manager and Secretary; Kathi Artis, Controller and Treasurer, Beth Holmes, Senior Administrator and Assessor-Collector; Wayne Fox, O&M Superintendent; Aaron Fukuda, Engineer; and Marco Crenshaw, Watermaster. Also present were Scott Kuney, District Special Counsel (via teleconference); and Daniel Mountjoy and Danielle Duncan with Sustainable Conservation; and Glen Low representing Earth Genome. The meeting was called to order by President Bixler. It was then noted that item 8 contained some corrections relative to the agenda as originally distributed.

Public Comments:

Director Thomas made some observations concerning the recent investigations of Panoche WD in western Fresno County regarding alleged financial impropriety.

Approval of Minutes:

Director Bixler then noted that the minutes of the regular meetings of January 10 and February 14, 2017 had been distributed and asked if there were any errors or omissions noted therein. With one correction regarding the February minutes and by the motion of Director Martin and second by Director Borges, unanimously carried by all board members present, the minutes of the meetings were thereupon approved.

Watermaster Report:

Lake Kaweah Storage and Operations - Mr. Crenshaw said that Lake Kaweah's storage has now risen to 90,000 AF. The District has been sustaining over 500 cfs in Kaweah diversions, with about 40 turnouts taking water and the balance going to groundwater recharge. He then presented a chart depicting Terminus inflow/outflow and storage since last December. Some discussion ensued as to the readiness of the Cordeniz and Enterprise basins for taking water.

Water Supply Outlook - Mr. Crenshaw next indicated that the snowpack water content stands at 177% of the April 1<sup>st</sup> average. He then discussed the projected supplies to come from the Kaweah River and Friant sources, saying that the District could have access to as much as 380,000 AF this year.

Water Sale Rate and Related Delivery Programs - A discussion diversion capacity and USCE reservoir release requirements was held, along with the pricing of District water to Water Users. Mr. Fukuda reviewed the means by which the District is now able to divert 600 cfs into its service area in contrast to historical diversions of one-held this amount historically. He also provided an update on the on-farm recharge program and participation. The Board reaffirmed that, other than on-farm participants, the water sale rate should remain at \$10/AF.

Water Management Activities - Mr. Hendrix then presented some figures

comparing the water-related revenues and expenditures in the 2017 preliminary budget with estimates based on currently-projected water supplies. He noted that the estimates were predicated on some level of increase in the District's water sale rate pending the outcome of the public hearing on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Closed Session:

The Board thereupon adjourned to closed session per Govt. Code §54956.9(a). Upon return to open session, it was reported that no action was taken in closed session.

Management Staff Reports:

Groundwater Recharge Assessment Tool - Mr. Hendrix introduced the representatives from Sustainable Conservation, which organization has been working with the District on tools to determine optimal means to expand groundwater recharge. Mr. Mountjoy thereupon gave a presentation on his company's objectives and on the groundwater recharge assessment tool (GRAT) being developed preliminarily for the Tulare and Madera irrigation districts. The Board and staff engaged in discussions about the tool's embedded assumptions and potential uses. It was also discussed how such a tool may be utilized in the preparation of a groundwater sustainability plan as mandated by SGMA.

O&M Superintendent Report:

Routine Work, Outside Work and Construction Projects - Mr. Fox reported on the maintenance activities undertaken during the past month in the delivery system and within upstream diversion channels. He told the Board that, due to wet conditions, primarily ditch wash-ins rut repairs and weed spraying occupied the limited time devoted to maintenance. He also noted that low-lift pumps are being borrowed from a local landowner to maintain maximum levels in all three Swall Basin cells for recharge, and that tractor engine and fuel costs might run about \$20/AF for such operations.

Treasurer Reports:

Approval of Financial Statements - Ms. Artis then presented the financial statements for the month of January 2017 for the Board's review and consideration. She cited monthly income of \$102,000 and a net loss of \$424,0400, said amount including capitalized expenses. Ms. Artis continued with presenting the statement of cash flows, calling out cash on hand of \$7.96 million as of the end of January. She then proceeded with review of the statement of net assets and investment data for perusal by the Board.

Approval of Bill Payments - Ms. Artis next presented the list of bills submitted for ratification and approval by the Board. Staff made note of billings for printing of the history book, SWPPP permit for the Cordeniz Basin project, and ABHP contributions. The Board thereupon reviewed the balance of the list of bills. By the motion of Director Borges, second by Director Martin and unanimously carried by all board members present, the Board accepted the financial statements and, by said motion, check nos. 48127 through 48238 totaling \$371,551.58 were all either ratified or approved as paid, exclusive of any voided or withheld checks.

Assessor-Collector Report:

Ms. Holmes reported that, out of a total of 1,439 individual parcel owners, 99 have submitted a written protest form in regards to the

District's intentions to increase the water sale rate. She added that these protests amount to about 7% of all landowners within the District. Discussions ensued as to the vote-counting process if and when necessary.

Management Staff Reports: (cont.)

Okieville Recharge Project - Mr. Fukuda described a potential project to construct a recharge basin northeast of the community of Okieville. The project would involve the acquisition of a 61-acre parcel on which to construct a recharge basin fed by the Packwood Canal. Several project partners could be involved, including Okieville, Self-Help Enterprises, Kaweah Delta WCD, Mid-Kaweah GSA, and potential grant funding from USBR. Mr. Fukuda noted that the project would exhibit water quality benefits for Okieville, raised water table levels nearby, and be a home for additional aquifer recharge for regional benefits.

Matters for Consideration of Board Action:

Resolution No. 17-02 - Mr. Fukuda thereupon explained the purpose of the resolution, which is to authorize and support an application for USBR grant funds to install canal and recharge basin equipment for flow monitoring and improved water management. By the motion of Director Martin and second by Director Thomas, duly put and carried, Resolution No. 17-02 was adopted.

Resolution No. 17-03 - Mr. Fukuda further explained a similar resolution to authorize and support an application for USBR grant funding to install SCADA equipment and provide for data recording devices to optimize canal monitoring and flow/depth data collection. By the motion of Director Martin and second by Director Thomas, duly put and carried, Resolution No. 17-02 was adopted.

Agreement with The Water Group - Mr. Fukuda lastly reviewed a proposed agreement with The Water Group for the installation of infiltration enhancement devices manufactured by Parjana Distribution. Monitoring of the before and after infiltration tests is to be conducted by Montgomery & Assoc., a consulting firm currently under retention by the District. The pilot project cost is estimated at \$2 million and, by the terms of the agreement, all to be paid for by The Water Group. With that clear understanding, and by the motion of Director Thomas, second by Director Martin and unanimously carried by all board members present, said agreement was authorized for execution.

Board Member Report of Meetings:

Director Bixler asked if any of the Directors have reports on meetings they attended or wished to discuss at this time.

Director Borges reviewed the highlights of the Friant WA meeting held on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Discussed were this year's water supply, air borne snow survey results, FWA's budget, HR 23, the Westlands WD settlement activities, and discussions with South Valley WA. He then summarized the annual shareholder meeting of the Consolidated Peoples DC, at which last year's water operations and director seat appointments were dealt with. Lastly, Director Borges summarized the K&SJRA meeting held on February 9<sup>th</sup> and made note of water supply and GSA formation updates provided. He then provided a report on the successive meeting held thereafter of the KBWQA, noting upcoming grower meetings, workshops, and certification procedures.

Director Bixler next provided a summary of the KRPA meeting held on

January 18<sup>th</sup>, making mention of the SCE refund for the rescinded interconnection lease, Unit No. 2, planned maintenance and energy generation to-date. He then proceeded to summarize the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Mid-Kaweah GSA board, noting presentations given by GEI and Self-Help Enterprises, as well as considerations regarding the GSA audit cycle. Director Bixler then talked about ACWA meetings he attended in Bakersfield and Sacramento.

Director Thomas then summarized the substance of the Wutchumna WC meeting held on January 11<sup>th</sup>. He made mention of a \$350 assessment, GSA boundary discussions with Woodlake, storm water discharges into Bravo Lake, and Caltrans' intent to widen the bridge over the Kaweah River at Ave 216.

Lastly, Directors Martin and Bixler gave reports on the annual meetings of Rayo WC and Evans DC held earlier today, saying the bills were paid, and directors and officers were reinstated.

Closed Session:

The Board thereupon adjourned to closed session per Govt. Code §54957. Upon return to open session, it was reported that a 3% merit increase was approved for the District Watermaster.

There being no other items to come before the Board of Directors, the meeting was then adjourned.

  
Secretary

  
President