

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE TULARE IRRIGATION DISTRICT HELD ON THE
8th DAY OF DECEMBER 2015 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, Scott Rogers, Mike Thomas and Dave Martin. Staff present at the meeting were J. Paul Hendrix, General Manager and Secretary; Kathi Artis, Controller and Treasurer, Wayne Fox, O&M Superintendent; Aaron Fukuda, Engineer; and Marco Crenshaw, Watermaster. Members of the public in attendance were Richard Zack, local historian. The meeting was called to order by President Bixler.

Approval of Minutes:

Director Bixler then noted that the minutes of the regular meeting held November 10, 2015 had been distributed and asked if there were any errors or omissions noted therein. By the motion of Director Borges and second by Director Martin, unanimously carried by all board members present, the minutes of that meeting were thereupon approved as corrected.

Public Comments:

Mr. Zack thereupon provided an update on the final preparations to publish his manuscript of District history and some of the pictures to be inserted therein. There were no other comments brought before the Board from those members of the public in attendance.

Closed Session:

The Board then adjourned to a closed session per Gov't. Code §54956(b). There were no reportable actions taken in closed session and the Board thereupon returned to open session.

Watermaster Report:

Lake Kaweah Storage and Operations - Mr. Crenshaw noted that inflow to Lake Kaweah is currently 69 cfs and that lake storage stands at about 22,000 AF. He noted that the K&SJRA Watermaster is discussing the need for a flood release with USCE and is urging a delay until the lake approaches 30,000 AF. It is uncertain if the District would receive much of a 1,500 cfs flood release. Water may be acquired from Rocky Hill prior to any such release to add to the District's share thereof. Mr. Crenshaw then noted that snowfall in the San Joaquin and Kaweah watersheds are below average for this time of the year.

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 made mention of trash removal, turnout repairs, and sand deposition at key levee areas in the system. He added the activities ditch bank mowing, weed spraying, and equipment repairs as being ongoing as well.

Mr. Fox then detailed work done for non-district entities which, for the last month, focused on basin excavation for Corcoran ID. Also, staff is preparing for construction of the Cordeniz Basin and Serpa Ditch piping project.

Treasurer Reports:

Approval of Financial Statements - Ms. Artis then presented the financial statements for the month of November 2015 for the Board's review and consideration. She cited year-to-date income of \$3.08 million as compared to the amount budgeted of \$5.70 million, the difference being primarily delayed grant fund disbursements to the District. A discussion ensued as to the amount of property tax revenues accruing to the District from Tulare County. Ms. Artis next contrasted expenses for the year as compared to budgeted amounts and discussed the disparity between these figures for equipment rentals. She made note of a net loss to-date, inclusive of capital outlay, of \$2.4 million. Ms. Artis next reviewed the statement of cash flows and statement of net assets, detailing certain line items in those statements.

Ms. Artis then reported on the status of the District's investments, citing yield rates of 1.09% in the Tulare County pooled fund, .36% at the state LAIF, and .91% with CalTrust. She also referred the Board to the graphical depiction of investment rates since 2008. She indicated that, as a required financial disclosure, cash on hand would be sufficient to cover at least six months of future expenses. Ms. Artis lastly made reference to the amortization schedule for the USBR contract loan with Banc of America, noting no changes since last month.

Approval of Bill Payments - Ms. Artis next presented the list of bills submitted for ratification and approval by the Board. Several questions from the Board were fielded by her, including those related to vehicle purchases, equipment rentals, and consultant billings. By the motion of Director Martin, second by Director Thomas and unanimously carried by all board members present, the Board accepted the financial statements and, by said motion, check nos. 46772 through 46860 totaling \$260,610.06 were all either ratified or approved as paid, exclusive of any voided or withheld checks.

Management Staff Reports:

Mid-Kaweah GSA - Mr. Hendrix summarized the status of the ongoing Mid-Kaweah activities, including the search for a groundwater consulting firm, make-up of the advisory committee, and the county-led facilitation concerning the development of a groundwater sustainability plan. Director Martin expressed support for a stand-alone, coordinated plan for the Mid-Kaweah entities.

2016 On-Farm Recharge Program - Mr. Fukuda informed the Board of feedback received from some landowners regarding proposed terms for the on-farm recharge program. He indicated that, for a variety of reasons, some growers expressed a willingness to accept surplus deliveries on open ground without any payment from the District. Upon further discussion, the Board directed staff to announce the program to water users for voluntary participation to receive excess District water from the inception of the program through April 15th, and that no payments to participants would be forthcoming nor charges for the water so delivered. The Board acknowledged some alteration of the program could occur depending on the degree of participation by water users and amounts of surplus water available to the District.

KRPA Unit No. 2 - Mr. Fukuda next briefed the Board on the planning efforts of KRPA in pursuit of a second hydropower turbine at Terminus Dam. He described the cross-flow turbine design and flow capabilities, construction costs and expected energy rates from So. Calif. Edison Company.

USBR Groundbreaking Ceremony - Mr. Fukuda then announced that, at the

request of USBR, a groundbreaking ceremony is being planned for the Cordeniz Recharge Basin project on December 15th. Several board members indicated their intention to attend the ceremony.

Matters for Consideration of Board Action:

2015 Ag Water Management Plan - Mr. Fukuda explained the need to add a drought management section to the plan as well as other elements, including water measurement standards as substantiated by the Cal Poly ITRC findings for canal head gates. He noted that the District's SB7X-7 compliance per the plan will consist primarily of head gate inspection, gate measurements per ITRC protocol, along with potential gate replacements if necessary. Mr. Fukuda noted that full gate replacement program would amount to a cost budget of about \$817,000. Then, by the motion of Director Rogers, second by Director Thomas and unanimously carried by all board members present, the District's revised agricultural water management plan was approved.

CEQA Addendum for Cordeniz Basin Project - Mr. Fukuda explained the additional items needing to be addressed in the CEQA documentation for the project. By the motion of Director Thomas, second by Director Rogers and unanimously carried by all board members present, the amended Environmental Assessment for the Cordeniz Basin project was approved.

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 first commented that the only Friant WA meetings held recently were dealing with the search for a new CEO.


Then Director Bixler summarized the quarterly meeting of the KRPA held on November 18th. He said the main topic and presentation was on the planning and design for the Unit No. 2 hydropower plant at Terminus Dam.

Director Martin then covered the KSJRA meeting held on December 3rd and the discussions related to SGMA compliance. He then covered the topics dealt with at the ensuing KBWQA meeting, which included annual fees, grower workshops, and RWQCB positions on various compliance provisions.

Lastly, Director Thomas summarized the content of the last Wutchumna WC meeting held on November 11th. He made note of an assessment of \$275, annual income from a bridge lease and Caltrans work adjacent the Company's property at the head of the Wutchumna Ditch.

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


Secretary


President

