

**MINUTES OF ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE TULARE IRRIGATION DISTRICT
HELD AT 6826 AVENUE 240,
TULARE, CALIFORNIA 93274
VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE ON THE
13th DAY OF JUNE, 2023 AT THE HOUR OF 9:00 A.M.**

Call to Order and Roll Call:

Directors present at the meeting held at the date and time above designated were President David Bixler, Rick Borges, Dave Martin, and Mike Thomas. Absent Director Scott Rogers. Staff present at the meeting were Aaron Fukuda, General Manager; Kathi Artis, Controller, Beth Holmes Assessor-Collector; Diana Zegarra, Assistant Water Resources Engineer; James Fisher, Water Resources Engineer; Marco Crenshaw, Watermaster; Wayne Fox, Superintendent; and Jorge Munoz, Assistant Engineer. Present via Zoom teleconference roll call were Don Wright representing Water Wrights; Frank Roche; Sabrina Roche; Susan Roche, and Johnny Gailey via Zoom. Also present was Jason Phillips, Friant Water Authority Chief Executive Officer, and Paul De Jong, Waukena Dairyman. Mr. Bixler thanked everyone for attending and announced that there was a full quorum of the Board of Directors present. President Bixler asked if there were any changes, additions, or deletions to the agenda, of which Mr. Fukuda reported there were none. The meeting was thereupon called to order by President Bixler.

Public Comments:

Mr. Fukuda commented that the meeting would be moved into closed session at the beginning of the board meeting to accommodate the schedule of some of the presentations for the Board Meeting.

Via Zoom Comment, Frank Roche, Sabrina Roche, and Susan Roche reported being approached by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) regarding a project on Paige Avenue that would impact their property/business. Mr. Roche requested TID's comments and recommendations.

Paul De Jong, Waukena Dairyman, addressed the board with questions and concerns regarding spilled surface water into the Tulare Lake Bottom, ongoing costs of surface water, and the ability of landowners to access surface water for groundwater recharge. President Bixler and the Board thanked Mr. De Jong for his comments and concerns.

President Bixler then moved the meeting to Closed Session.

Closed Session:

The Board thereupon adjourned into closed session under §54956.8, §54956.9(a), §54956.9(b)), §54956.9(c)), §54957.6, §54957, and §54956.95 of the Government Code.

Upon return to open session, it was reported that no reportable actions were made by the Board.

Approval of Minutes:

Director Bixler then noted that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 3, 2023 were distributed and asked if any errors or omissions were noted therein. By the motion of Director Borges and seconded by Director Martin, unanimously carried by all Directors present, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 3, 2023, were thereupon approved.

Water Management Activities and Issues:

Statewide and Local Conditions - Mr. Fukuda first presented for board discussion Current California Reservoir Operations. Mr. Fukuda updated the Board on the following: (1) Friant Allocations: Class 1

(100%) and Class 2 (70%); and Uncontrolled Season through July; (2) Airborne Snow Observatory (ASO) - San Joaquin estimate 3.45 million acre-feet (MAF).

Mr. Fukuda next reported on the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Current Water Reservoir Conditions reporting on Shasta Reservoir and Millerton Lake.

Mr. Fukuda presented for discussion the following: California Nevada River Forecast Center (June 10, 2023 - June 16, 2023) 6-Day Forecast Precipitation; and Tulare Basin Precipitation: 6-Station Index, as of June 10, 2023. Percent of Average for June 10, 2023: 186%.

Next, Mr. Fukuda reported on Tulare Basin Precipitation: 6-Station Index, June 10, 2023 comparing: 1968-1969 Daily Precipitation (Wettest) 56.3 inches; 1982-1983 Precipitation (2nd Wettest) 56.2; Current Precipitation: 51.2 inches.

Then, Mr. Fukuda informed the Board his main concern is the California Snow Water Content reporting as of June 9, 2023, Percent of April 1st Average: North: 225%; Central: 337%; South: 446%; Statewide Percent of Average: 305%.

Mr. Fukuda reported Monthly Volume Exceedance Values on the San Joaquin - Friant Dam. Reporting the following: Latitude: 36,995; Longitude: -119.691666; Forecast for the period June 10, 2023 through June 1, 2024: Exceedance Probability: 10-25%.

Lastly, Mr. Fukuda presented a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Monthly Volume Exceedance Values on the Kaweah-Terminus Dam forecast chart for the period 06/01/2023-06/1/2024 based on current conditions as of June 10, 2023. Mr. Fukuda highlighted Exceedance Probability: July: 190,000 AF; August: 170,000 AF; and September: 50,000 AF.

Summer Irrigation Rate - Mr. Fukuda reported that the rate current sat at \$52 per acre food (Af), which was set at May Board Meeting. Mr. Fukuda then reported that the maximum allowable water rate the Board could consider was \$55 per AF, which was set by a prior Proposition 218 process. Lastly, Mr. Fukuda reported that increasing the rate to \$55 per AF would net a \$3 increase and would be about \$300-\$400,000 in increased revenue for the year. The Board of Directors did not take any action to adjust the Summer Irrigation rate.

Watermaster Report:

Lake Kaweah Storage and Operations - Mr. Crenshaw began his report by presenting a Daily Water Summary as of June 12, 2023. Mr. Crenshaw reported the following: 3-Rivers: 3,248 CFS; Dry Creek: 33 CFS; Terminus Inflow: 3,733 CFS; Terminus Release: 2,817 CFS; Terminus Storage: 136,637 AF; TID Entitlement Shares: 1,890 AF; Diversion to TID: Wutchumna: 300 CFS; Rocky Ford: 92 CFS; Crocker Cut: 258 CFS; TIC to TID Main Canal: 28 CFS; Packwood Creek: 184 CFS; TIC Linda Loma Spill: 18 CFS; Deep Creek Spill: 2 CFS; Visalia Treatment Plant: 15 CFS; Total Diversions to TID: 897 CFS; Number of Turnouts on: 131; and Total Spills: 46 CFS.

Next, Mr. Crenshaw reported on Lake Kaweah Storage and Operations/Water Supply Outlook - Mr. Crenshaw reported Terminus Reservoir total inflow as of June 12, 2023, was 3,733 CFS, and the storage at Terminus Reservoir for the previous day was 136,637 AF. He then reported that the daily release from Terminus was 2,817 CFS; Three-Rivers: 3,248 CFS; and Dry Creek: 33 CFS.

Thereupon, Mr. Crenshaw mentioned that the Millerton Lake total inflow was 14,048 CFS and the entire storage at Millerton Lake was 298,682 AF. He reported that the total daily release from Madera and Friant Canals was 3,848 CFS.

Water Supply Outlook: Mr. Crenshaw continued his report by indicating that the District's current water supply stood at 177,565 AF. The January to May 2023 cumulative diversions to TID were 200,007 AF. 2023 CVP Supply Contract totaled: 130,304 AF.

Mr. Crenshaw continued with his report by indicating that the District's diversions for June stood at 51,377 AF. The May 2023 spill from TID was 2,232 AF. Recharge for Exchange with City of Visalia: 448 AF; Water Delivered to Farm Turnouts: 22,738; District Groundwater Recharge: 25,959 AF. He indicated that 44% of the diversions were delivered to farm turnouts; Diversion spilled 4%; Diversion Delivered to Other Districts: 1%.

O&M Superintendent Report:

Routine Work - Mr. Fox reported on the maintenance activities undertaken during the past month in the delivery system and within the upstream diversion channels. He cited the following work: Helping the Water Department; Lagomarsino Farm's pipeline turnout repair; Weed Control; Areas: 1, 7, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 21, 22, 24, and 25 Pipeline leak repairs. Mr. Fox noted that due to Groundwater Sustainability Agency guidelines, landowners are using pipelines that haven't been used in 25+ years.

Mr. Fox is in the process of hiring Maintenance/Ditch Tenders. Reporting Occu-Med's hiring process takes 30 days or more to complete. Mr. Fox brought to the Boards attention that Daniel Castro, Shop/Maintenance Worker; and Adam Castleberry, Herbicide Applicator; were helping ditchtend. Also, Mr. Fox reported rehiring Andrew Linhares as a part-time ditchtender.

Treasurer Reports:

Approval of Financial Statements - Ms. Artis presented the financial statements for May 2023 for the Board's review and consideration. She addressed first the revenue and expense statement, indicating that the total revenue for May 2023 was \$3,344,919 which was approximately 24.10% of the revised budget. She next presented the expenses, highlighting several items and reporting expenses from January totaling \$3,129,818 which was approximately 28.85% of the revised budget. She then went on with presenting the statements of cash flows and net assets, stating that the current cash standing was at \$7,992,784. Based on the Statement of Net Assets, Ms. Artis reported that Total Liabilities and Deferred Inflows were at \$13,330,093 and the Total Equity in the District stood at \$32,575,182. She thereupon cited investment return for the district's several holding accounts, those being 2.490% with the Tulare County Pooled Investment Fund, 2.993% with the State LAIF, and 0.100% with Citizen's Money Market Fund. Lastly, Ms. Artis reported that the district has six months of funds to support operations.

Then, Ms. Artis reported on the following Designated Funds: Water Sale Rate Stabilization, Groundwater Replenishment, and CVP Environmental Charges.

Approval of Bill Payments - Ms. Artis presented the list of bills submitted for ratification and approval by the Board. After scrutiny of particular bills, the Board, by the motion of Director Borges, seconded by Director Martin and unanimously carried by all Directors present, accepted the financial statements and, by said motion, check nos. 54878 through 54982 totaling \$321,921.94 were all either ratified or approved as paid, exclusive of any voided or withheld checks.

Engineer Report:

Update on Engineering Activities - Mr. Fukuda provided an update on engineering activities, reporting on several projects that would impact the district. Mr. Fukuda reported on the following four

projects: (1) Visser Property Easement; (2) Area 21 Development Project (Location: Prosperity/Morrison); (3) Curti Bio Gas Line Project; and (4) Packwood Creek Basin G Project.

Department of Water Resources Flood Reduction - Pump Rental Program: Jorge Munoz, Assistant Engineer, reported on the following three projects that involved accessing DWR funding to provide pumps to increase recharge: (1) Swall Basin; (2) Liberty Stormwater Basin; and (3) Visser Property Pump.

Mr. Fukuda moved the meeting to Agenda Item #7, Matters for Consideration at the request of President Bixler.

Matters for Consideration of Board Action:

Revised 2023 Budget - Mr. Fukuda proceeded to provide a discussion of the Revised 2023 Budget, noting several critical components of the report. Mr. Fukuda reported revised revenue of approximately \$17.9 million, of which, with the current wet water year, the District expected revenue from water operations to be roughly \$10.2 million. Next, Mr. Fukuda noted that expenses were anticipated to be approximately \$16.4 million, with operations and administration being \$12.7 million and capital outlay being \$3.7 million. Mr. Fukuda noted that cash reserves at the end of the year would stand at approximately \$9.4 million.

Mr. Fukuda reported: Current CPI (Western) Trending at 5.12%; 2024 Incremental Increases is \$25 (\$67+\$25= \$92); Total Max. Assessment for consideration: \$96.71. Mr. Fukuda recommended reassessing the 2024 Assessment Rate in the Fall.

By the motion of Director Martin and seconded by Director Thomas, unanimously carried by all Directors present, the Revised 2023 Budget was approved as presented.

Resolution No. 23-08 - State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) Block Grant: Diana Zegarra, Assistant Water Resources Engineer, presented for board review and consideration the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) Block Grant Program. Ms. Zegarra first reported on the Objective: Provide financial incentives for California agricultural operations to invest in irrigation systems that save water and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; Block Grant Pilot format vs Precious Years; Grant Term: Three Years. After the presentation, it was moved by the motion of Director Borges and seconded by Director Thomas, unanimously carried by all Directors present, approving Resolution No. 23-08 State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) Block Grant as presented.

Consider Cultivate California 2023 Donation. Mr. Fukuda presented for Board review and consideration Cultivate California letter dated May 4, 2023, requesting continued financial support. Mr. Fukuda stated the District's 2022 contribution was in the amount of \$5,000 to Cultivate California. After a lengthy discussion on outreach marketing needs and social media. By the motion of Director Borges, seconded by Director Martin, and unanimously carried by all Directors present, Cultivate California 2023 donation in the amount of \$5,000 was thereupon approved.

Management Staff Report:

Sustainable Groundwater Management ACT (SGMA) Matters - Mr. Fukuda summarized recent activities concerning the Kaweah Subbasin. Mr. Fukuda reported on the following: (1) California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Meeting; (2) SWRCB Meeting - June 21, 2023: presenting schedule on probation; (3) Kaweah Subbasin Mitigation Program (KSMP), stakeholder outreach is critical and will be conducted before and during implementation; (4) MKGSA Well Mitigation Plan; (5) MKGSA mitigation qualifications; (6) MKGSA mitigation funding; and (7) MKGSA Mitigation Program & Mitigation Plan.

Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MKGSA) - Mr. Fukuda presented an update on the MKGSA. Mr. Fukuda and Mr. Fisher briefed the Board on the following: (1) FY 23-34 Budget; (2) Advisory Committee - Recommendations; (3) Mitigation Program and Plan.

Healthy Soils Grant: Ms. Zegarra presented for Board discussion the Healthy Soils Block Grant Pilot Program. Ms. Zegarra first reported on the program objective, reporting the following: increase statewide implementation of conservation management practices that improve soil health, sequester carbon, and reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases; block grant pilot format vs. previous years; grant term of four years.

LandFlex Program: Mr. Fukuda and Ms. Zegarra presented for Board discussion the MKGSA Landflex Emergency Groundwater Reduction Program. Ms. Zegarra gave a summary of the program, reporting the following: (1) the program provided immediate drought relief by reducing groundwater pumping near vulnerable domestic wells by providing funding to growers to fallow or grow crops that will not be irrigated with groundwater; (2) the program creates a groundwater buffer around vulnerable, domestic wells from going dry; (3) growers would apply with the grantee agency to be a part of the program.

Next, Ms. Zegarra reported on LandFlex - Phase 2. Ms. Zegarra reported on the following: (1) May 26, 2023, the DWR Landflex grant team announced all LandFlex applicants would be receiving funds, (2) Mid-Kaweah GSA Grower Scoring Criteria, (3) Grant Awards to Growers, (4) the Landflex incentive payments have three components: Domestic Well Drought Relief, Sustainable Yield Acceleration, and Transition to Sustainability, and (5) Grower Application Portal Opens June 14, 2023.

Friant Matters - Mr. Fukuda provided the Board with an update on Friant Activities. Mr. Fukuda reported on the following: (1) Pixley Irrigation District has rejoined Friant; and (2) Revised Cost Recovery Program.

McKay Point Reservoir/Seaborn Reservoir - No Report provided.

Legislation - Mr. Fukuda updated the Board on the following legislation: AB No. 460 (Bauer-Kahan); AB No. 1337 (Wicks); SB No. 389 (Allen). Mr. Fukuda reporting all three bills passed the Assembly and are headed to the Senate.

General Manager Report:

General Manager Fukuda reported his focus has been on six events: (1) ACWA Conference - well attended and has three days filled with meetings; (2) League of Woman Voters Panels - Discussion of water issues in Tulare County; (3) 2-day Tour with Kaweah Subbasin Technical Team; (4) Stanford University - Pulse of the Planet Conference; and (5) Met with Sequoia River Trust Executive Director.

Mr. Fukuda briefed the Board on Collaborative Action Plan - Executive Order on Recharge Letter.

Board Member Reports of Meetings:

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

Director Thomas reported attending the Wutchumna Board meeting on May 10, 2023.

Director Borges then moved the meeting to Closed Session.

Closed Session:

The Board thereupon adjourned into closed session under \$54956.8,

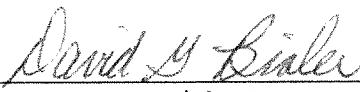
\$54956.9(a)), \$54956.9(b)), \$54956.9(c)), \$54957.6, \$54957, and 54956.95 of the Government Code.

Upon return to open session, it was reported that no reportable actions were made by the Board.

There being no other items to come before the Board of Directors, the meeting was then adjourned to the next regular board meeting reported to be on July 11, 2023.



Secretary



President