

**MINUTES OF 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
11th DAY OF JULY, 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 from the meeting was 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; Jorge Munoz, Assistant Engineer; Anna Rioux, Summer Intern; Emily Sarantopulos, Summer Intern; and Ricard Zack, Historian. Present via Zoom teleconference roll call Nicole Bonna, Manulife Investment. 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 welcomed and introduced Anna Rioux and Emily Sarantopulos, two newly hired Summer interns, both presently attending California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo.

Approval of Minutes:

Director Bixler then noted that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 13, 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 June 13, 2023, were thereupon approved.

Watermaster Report:

Lake Kaweah Storage and Operations - Mr. Crenshaw began his report by presenting a Daily Water Summary as of July 11, 2023. Mr. Crenshaw reported the following: 3-Rivers: 2,766 CFS; Dry Creek: 13 CFS; Terminus Inflow: 2,886 CFS; Terminus Release: 2,696 CFS; Terminus Storage: 178,695 AF; TID Entitlement Shares: 1,335 AF; Diversion to TID: C.V.P. Parshall: 100 CFS; Wutchumna: 280 CFS; Rocky Ford: 96 CFS; Crocker Cut: 178 CFS; TIC to TID Main Canal: 46 CFS; Packwood Creek: 178 CFS; TIC Linda Loma Spill: 13 CFS; Deep Creek Spill: 10 CFS; Visalia Treatment Plant: 15 CFS; Total Diversions to TID: 916 CFS; Number of Turnouts on: 170; and Total Spills: 28 CFS.

Next, Mr. Crenshaw reported on Lake Kaweah Storage and Operations/Water Supply Outlook - Mr. Crenshaw reported the Terminus Reservoir total inflow as of July 10, 2023, was 2,866 CFS, and the storage at Terminus Reservoir for the previous day was 178,695 AF. He then reported that the daily release from Terminus was 2,696 CFS; Three-Rivers: 2,766 CFS; and Dry Creek: 13 CFS.

Thereupon, Mr. Crenshaw mentioned that the Millerton Lake total inflow was 11,967 CFS and the entire storage at Millerton Lake was 513,785 AF. He reported that the total daily release from Madera and Friant Canals was 5,775 CFS.

Mr. Crenshaw provided for Board discussion two charts: October - June Combined Diversion to TID Acre-Feet 1950-2023; and October-June Deliveries to TID Farmers Acre-Feet 1970-2023. Highlighting 2017 as

the perfect year.

Water Supply Outlook: Mr. Crenshaw continued his report by indicating that the District's current water supply stood at 111,154 AF. The January to June 2023 cumulative diversions to TID were 256,433 AF. 2023 CVP Supply Contract totaled: 51,150 AF.

Mr. Crenshaw continued with his report by indicating that the district's diversions for July stood at 56,466 AF. The June 2023 spill from TID was 1,398 AF. Recharge for Exchange with City of Visalia: 1727 AF; Water Delivered to Farm Turnouts: 29,296; District Groundwater Recharge: 24,045 AF. He also indicated that 52% of the diversions were delivered to farm turnouts, diversions spilled was 3% and diversions delivered to other districts was 3%.

Water Management Activities and Issues:

Statewide and Local Conditions - Mr. Fukuda first presented for board discussion the current California reservoir operations. Mr. Fukuda updated the Board on the following: (1) Friant Allocations: Class 1 (100%) and Class 2 (Residual after UCS): 10-15%; and Uncontrolled Season through the third to fourth week of July; (2) Airborne Snow Observatory (ASO) - San Joaquin estimate Snow Water Equivalent: 590,000 AF.

Mr. Fukuda next reported on the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Current Water Reservoir Conditions reporting on Shasta Reservoir and Millerton Lake. He highlight that both are reaching maximum capacity.

Next, Mr. Fukuda reported on Tulare Basin Precipitation: 6-Station Index, July 4, 2023 comparing: 1968-1969 Daily Precipitation (Wettest) 56.3 inches; 1982-1983 Precipitation (2nd Wettest) 56.2; Current Precipitation: 51.4 inches.

Mr. Fukuda presented groundwater monitoring well charts providing a comparison of the following: Upper Aquifer Cordeniz wells; Lower Aquifer Cordeniz wells; and Waukena Elementary School well.

Summer Irrigation Rate - Mr. Fukuda reported that the rate currently sat at \$52 per AF, which was set at the May Board Meeting. Then, Mr. Fukuda 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 a July increase would be about \$300,000 in increased revenue. With no further discussion, the water rate remained at \$52 per AF.

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. Mr. Fox cited TID's Operation and Maintenance crew is down to seven workers, reporting that the Shop and Pesticide departments are stepping up to help the Water Department. Mr. Fox is in the process of hiring Maintenance/Ditch Tenders.

2023 Quarter 2 O&M Report - No Report given.

Treasurer Reports:

Approval of Financial Statements - Ms. Artis presented the financial statements for June 2023 for the Board's review and consideration. She addressed first the revenue and expense statement, indicating that the total revenue for June 2023 was \$7,153,432, which was approximately 51.54% of the revised budget. She next presented the expenses, highlighting several items and reporting expenses from January totaling \$3,571,299, which was approximately 32.91% of the revised budget. She then went on to present the statements of cash

flows and net assets, stating that the current cash standing was at \$9,214,210. Based on the Statement of Net Assets, Ms. Artis reported that Total Liabilities and Deferred Inflows were at \$11,965,732 and the Total Equity in the District stood at \$35,942,214. She thereupon cited investment return for the district's several holding accounts, those being 2.720% with the Tulare County Pooled Investment Fund, 3.167% 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 Thomas and unanimously carried by all Directors present, accepted the financial statements and, by said motion, check nos. 54983 through 55025 totaling \$280,228.95 were all either ratified or approved as paid, exclusive of any voided or withheld checks.

Assessor-Collector Report: Ms. Holmes provided an update on the collections of assessments. For the current year, 2023 the balance owing was \$151,994.18, which is 97% paid. She stated proceedings for the collection of delinquent assessments are in process and letters were mailed on July 1, 2022, and payments must be received by July 26, 2023, in order not to be published in the local paper. Delinquent Assessment Publication dates are August 1, August 8, and August 15, 2023. Current 2023 tax sale liens will record August 23, 2023. Lastly, Mr. Holmes reported that the 2008-2022 delinquent Tax Sales totaled \$34,368.13.

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 six projects: (1) Visser Property Easement; (2) Curtimade Dairy Gas Line; (3) Paige Industrial Complex (Culvert Project); (4) Paige Overpass (Caltrans/TID/Roche Family); (5) West Street Westside Pipeline; and (6) Sault's Mutual Water Company Pipeline distribution system Project.

Department of Water Resources (DWR) Flood Reduction - Pump Rental Program: Mr. Fukuda reported Jorge Munoz, Assistant Engineer, wrapped up the DWR pump recharge projects that included: (1) Swall Basin; (2) Liberty Stormwater Basin; and (3) Visser Property Pump. Mr. Fukuda addressed the rental problems, high cost, and solutions to renting the pumps. Mr. Fukuda highlighted it would have been better to have purchased the pumps.

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) July 21, 2023 meeting; (2) Kaweah Subbasin GSA Technical letter; (3) Proposed Schedule for Probationary Hearings; (4) Kaweah Subbasin Technical Team assignments, deficiencies and schedule; (5) Revised GSP draft - March 2024; (6) Public Review - April 2024; and (7) Adopted GSPs by August 2024.

Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MKGSA) - Mr. Fukuda presented an update on the MKGSA. Mr. Fukuda briefed the Board on the following: MKGSA Well Mitigation Program Approval; MKGSA Mitigation Plan for public comment period and public workshops; FY 23-24 Budget; and Advisory Committee recommendations.

Then, Mr. Fukuda gave a summary of the MKGSA Advisory Committee Terms: Group I Four-Year Terms (12/31/2026); Group II Six-Year Term (12/31/2028; Chair: Steve Nelsen; and Vice-Chair: Blake Wilbur.

Friant Matters - Mr. Fukuda provided the Board with an update on Friant Activities. Mr. Fukuda reported on the following: (1) FWA FY 2024 \$12.359 Million Budget; (2) 1.5% COLA; (3) 1.5% Non-Labor inflation costs; (4) Comparative Year Over Year Operation, Maintenance and Repair (OM&R) Spending; (5) Major Maintenance Projects; (6) Fixed Assets; (7) Planned Asset Acquisitions; (8) Non-Routine OM&R; (9) Routine OM&R; and (10) TID's FWA O&M share of cost for FY 2024 total \$953,000.

McKay Point Reservoir/Seaborn Reservoir - Mr. Fukuda provided the Board with an update on the McKay Point Reservoir/Seaborn Reservoir. Mr. Fukuda first reported on the Seaborn Property, reporting the following: Seaborn Property - Site visit with Sequoia Riverlands Trust (SRT) Executive Director; and SRT will discuss opportunities for funding and potential partnership.

Next, Mr. Fukuda reported on McKay Point Reservoir reporting the following: (1) McKay Point Reservoir Draft Reclamation Plan was delivered to Tulare County for review; (2) EIR Revisions; (3) Public Notices; and (4) Outreach strategy.

Legislation - Mr. Fukuda updated the Board on the following two pieces of legislation: Senate Bill 231 (Hurtado) and Assembly Bill 1205 (Bauer Kahn). First, Mr. Fukuda summarized SB 231, reporting that the bill was created based upon an audit of DWR in regards to Water Year 2021 loss of 700,000 AF. Mr. Fukuda recommended a "Watch" position and to convey to Senator Hurtado that TID believes DWR needs tools such as ASO flights to be more accurate. Mr. Fukuda Highlighted DWR needs to continue funding ASO flights. By motion of Director Martin, Seconded by Director Thomas and unanimously approved by all Directors present, Mr. Fukuda was directed to take a watch position.

Next, Mr. Fukuda gave a summary of AB 1205, reporting the bill states the sale, transfer, or lease of an interest in surface or groundwater right previously used for agricultural purposes is a waste or unreasonable use of water. Mr. Fukuda presented reasons the Board should oppose the bill. By motion of Director Thomas, Seconded by Director Martin and unanimously approved by all Directors present, Mr. Fukuda was directed to take a watch position.

General Manager Report:

General Manager Fukuda reported his focus has been on two events: (1) California Adaption Forum - panel discussion with River Partners and Stanford University; and (2) FWA Board Retreat - November 14-16, 2023. At that time, Mr. Fukuda highlighted the FWA Board Retreat will fall on TID's November Regular Board meeting. After a lengthy discussion, the Board approved moving the November Board meeting to November 7, 2023.

Matters for Consideration of Board Action:

Resolution No. 23-09 - Moving 2017 Delinquent Assessments to Tulare County 2023-2024 Tax Roll. Ms. Holmes presented the Resolution needed to place direct charges (Special Assessments - Liens 2017) on the secured tax roll. By motion of Director Martin, Seconded by Director Thomas and unanimously approved by all Directors present, Resolution No. 23-09 was approved as presented.

Consideration of Wage/Salary CPI Adjustment. Mr. Fukuda presented

tabular information regarding the Consumer Price Index changes over time and corresponding board-approved cost-of-living adjustments. Mr. Fukuda reported on three CPI indexes: (1) US Cities 4.05%; (2) Southern CA 3.18%; and (3) US West Cities: 4.48%. The Board discussed the various options, and by a motion of Director Martin, seconded by Director Borges and unanimously approved by all Board members present, a COLA of 4.00% was approved to be implemented on the next paycheck to all employees.

Board Member Reports 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 reporting attending the following five Board of Director meetings: Kaweah Water Foundation June 26, 2023; Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association June 13, 2023; Kaweah and St. Johns River Association, June 13, 2023; Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District Board Meeting June 6, 2023; Friant Water Authority Board Meeting held June 22, 2023.

Director Thomas reported attending the Wutchumna Board meeting on June 14, 2023.

Director Bixler then moved the meeting to Closed Session.

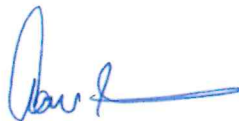
Closed Session:

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 upon the motion of Director Martin and seconded by Director Borges, unanimously carried by all board members present, the following merit raises were approved for hourly non-exempt staff:

- A. Munoz - Ditch Tender Step 4, Light Equipment Operator Step 3
- J. Frausto - Ditch Tender Step 2, Ditch Maintenance Step 5
- A. Castleberry - Herbicide Applicator Step 2
- K. Anderson - Ditch Tender Step 4
- M. Flores - Ditch Tender Step 3
- D. Burgos - Accounting Clerk Step 3
- J. Felix - Bonus
- D. Castro - Bonus

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 August 8, 2023.



Secretary



President