

**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  
11<sup>th</sup> DAY OF April, 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, Scott Rogers, and Mike Thomas. 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; and Nicole Bonna. 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 was none. The meeting was thereupon called to order by President Bixler.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments to come before the board.

Approval of Minutes:

Director Bixler then noted that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 14, 2023 were distributed and asked if any errors or omissions were noted therein. Director Rogers indicated that he had read the minutes and noted one correction. By the motion of Director Rogers and seconded by Director Borges, unanimously carried by all Directors present, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 14, 2023, were thereupon approved as corrected.

Watermaster Report:

Lake Kaweah Storage and Operations - Mr. Crenshaw reported on Lake Kaweah Storage and Operations/Water Supply Outlook - Mr. Crenshaw began his report by noting Terminus Reservoir total inflow as of April 10, 2023, was 1,982 CFS, and the storage at Terminus Reservoir for the previous day was 66,478 AF. He then reported that the daily release from Terminus was 4,087 CFS; Three-Rivers: 2,041 CFS; and Dry Creek: 93 CFS. Mr. Crenshaw highlighted TID Diversions from Kaweah River Sources totaled 690 CFS with 90 turnouts on.

Mr. Crenshaw reporting March 2023 was the highest inflow on record at 310,000 AF and 700 CFS spilled over the top of Terminus. Peak inflow was reported as 26,000 CFS for a 24-hour period. Mr. Crenshaw stated that the District was required to take flood water and was diverting 900 CFS through the headgate and spreading approximately 700 CFS through irrigation and recharge efforts. Mr. Fukuda thanked KDWCD and everyone here at TID for a fantastic job at controlling the uncontrol flows.

Thereupon, Mr. Crenshaw mentioned that the Millerton Lake total inflow was 3,814 CFS and the entire storage at Millerton Lake was 244,220 AF. He reported that the total daily release from Millerton was 10,865 CFS.

Next, Mr. Crenshaw reported on the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) April 10, 2023 Runoff Projections: Kaweah River: 290% of Average, 800,000 AF inflow; San Joaquin: 260% of Average, 3,200,000 AF Inflow; and Kings River: 270% of Average, 3,200,000 AF.

Water Supply Outlook: Mr. Crenshaw provided a 1952-Current Kaweah River Snow Water Content chart, which showed the Kaweah River Surrounding Snow Sensor Water Content Above Average Years 253% of the April 1<sup>st</sup> Average. Mr. Crenshaw highlighted that 2023 was one of the wettest years ever.

Mr. Crenshaw cited precipitation amounts to date at the District yard totaling 196% of the April 11<sup>th</sup> Average. Mr. Crenshaw highlighted the March 2023 Cumulative total of 15.32 inches.

Mr. Crenshaw continued with this report by indicating that the District's diversions for March stood at 31,917 AF. The projected January 2023 to March 2023 cumulated diversions to TID was estimated to be 102,681 AF. Mr. Crenshaw thereupon reported: Water Delivered to Farm Turnouts: 8,531 AF; On-Farm Recharge to Turnouts: 0; District Ground Water Recharge: 18,344 AF; Percentage of Diversion to Farm Turnouts: 27%; and Percentage of Diversion Spilled: 16%.

Mr. Crenshaw reported on the impacts of February-March atmospheric river storms and that California now has one of the largest snowpacks on record, bringing drought relief, groundwater recharge, flooding concerns, and public safety issues. Mr. Crenshaw thereupon mentioned that as spring temperatures rise, the Terminus Dam reservoir level could increase causing excessive flood risks that would impact levees and downstream communities.

#### Water Management Activities and Issues:

Statewide and Local Conditions - Mr. Fukuda first presented for board discussion before and after flood pictures of the Historic Tulare Lake Basin. Mr. Fukuda provided Google Earth 1983/1987/2023 pictures showing a split in the lakebed highlighting subsidence.

Next, Mr. Fukuda reported on Current California Reservoir Operations reporting on Friant Allocation. Mr. Fukuda updated the Board on the following: (1) Friant Allocations: No change on Class 1 (100%) and Class 2 (70%); Unreleased Restoration Flows (URF) - Block 2 was made available, reporting TID could not take the water; (2) Airborne Snow Observatory (ASO) - San Joaquin 3.5 million acre-feet (MAF).

Set Winter 2023 Water Rate - Mr. Fukuda opened for discussion the need to revise the water price for the current irrigation run, given the current uncontrolled flood conditions and maximum water supply. Mr. Fukuda reported on the following: (1) Prior to the channel capacity release the water rate was set at \$52 per AF for groundwater credit and \$0 for no groundwater credit; (2) Army Corps of Engineer (ACOE) channel capacity release is \$0 per AF, allow for groundwater credit - set percentage: 75% grower / 25% TID; (3) March - After the reservoir is under control evaluate ongoing water rate credit scenario.

Mr. Fukuda recommended returning to \$52 per AF for groundwater credit and \$0 for no groundwater credit. After Board deliberations concerning the price of irrigation water and groundwater credit the board, by the motion of Director Martin, second by Director Rogers, and unanimously carried by all board members present, approved moving deliveries to an irrigation demand mode and setting the irrigation rate at \$42 per AF beginning Monday, April 17, 2023.

#### 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: City Pump pipeline repair; Weed Control between rains; Hauling of rip-rap and rock to Main Canal for erosion control; Grade canals and basins for wash-in repair; Oakland Colony Ditch supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) automatic gate problems; Antelope Creek levee repair; and removal of homeless debris and trash. Then, Mr. Fox

mentioned the need to hire two Heavy Equipment Operators.

Treasurer Reports:

Approval of Financial Statements - Ms. Artis presented the financial statements for March 2023 for the Board's review and consideration. She addressed first the revenue and expense statement, indicating that the total revenue for March 2023 was \$1,528,116 which was approximately 11.01% of the revised budget. She next presented the expenses, highlighting several items and reporting expenses from January totaling \$2,330,288 which was approximately 21.48% 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 \$7,995,029. Based on the Statement of Net Assets, Ms. Artis reported that Total Liabilities were at \$13,488,235, and the Total Equity in the District stood at \$31,961,279. She thereupon cited investment return for the district's several holding accounts, those being 1.860% with the Tulare County Pooled Investment Fund, 2.831% 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. 54737 through 54822 totaling \$623,314.01 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, reporting on the ongoing Paige/I Street industrial development project.

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) Kaweah Subbasin Technical Team: Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MKGSA) tech team Montgomery & Associates; East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EKGSa) tech team Provost & Pritchard (P&P) and Intera; and Greater Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GKGSa) tech team Thomas Harder and 4 Creeks; (2) Kaweah Subbasin Tech Team working on addressing California Department of Water Resources (DWR) comments on Kaweah Subbasin GSPs; (3) California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) meeting on May 3, 2023; (4) Kaweah Subbasin Management Committee Meeting; (5) Progress is being made on the Data Management System (DMS); and (6) Kaweah Subbasin MODFLOW model.

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) MKGSA Board approved invoice appeals; (2) Revised MKGSA invoices have been sent out; (3) and MKGSA Staff beginning to work on formal Rules and Regulations.

Friant Matters - Mr. Fukuda provided the Board with an update on Friant Activities. Mr. Fukuda reported on the following: (1) Friant Water Authority (FWA) Board approved a mid-year 3.3% cola adjustment, effective April 1, 2023; (2) Friant-Kern Canal Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project mentioning approximately \$2.8 million in change orders so far, which is only 2% of the budget; (3) Friant Water

Authority (FWA) external affairs, Alex Beiring, has left FWA and will be joining California Farm Bureau; and (4) Revised Cost Recovery.

Next, Mr. Fukuda presented for Board discussion a FWA Comparison of Impacts of Inclusion of Warren Act Water Deliveries in 25-Year Rolling Average for Long Term Contractors chart.

McKay Point Reservoir/Seaborn Reservoir - Mr. Fukuda provided the Board with an update on the McKay Point Reservoir/Seaborn Reservoir Project. Mr. Fukuda first reported on the Seaborn Reservoir Project, reporting Congressman Valadao and Jim Costa are working to get funding for a feasibility study on the Seaborn Reservoir. Mr. Fukuda reported that the request was being made for \$975,000 for completion of a Feasibility Study.

Next, Mr. Fukuda reported on McKay Point Reservoir. Mr. Fukuda reported on the following: (1) will begin setting up the process for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Public Review; (2) Establish a contract with Lockwood Agency to help with publication; and (3) Expect a public hearing in late summer (August/September).

Legislation - Mr. Fukuda provided for Board review and consideration a new 2023 Legislation Bill Tracker list. Mr. Fukuda briefed the Board on the following legislation: AB No. 429 (Bennett); AB No. 1563 (Bennett); AB Bill No. 560 (Bennett); AB No. 460 (Bauer-Kahan); AB No. 1337 (Wicks); SB No. 389 (Allen); and AB Bill No. 30 (Ward). Mr. Fukuda highly recommends that the Board support Assembly Bill No. 30. Mr. Fukuda recommended opposing the other bills. By the motion of Director Martin and seconded by Director Thomas, unanimously carried by all Directors present, the Board elected to support AB No. 30, opposing all other bills presented: AB No. 429; AB No. 1563; AB Bill No. 560; AB No. 460; AB No. 1337; and SB No. 389.

General Manager Report:

General Manager Fukuda reported his focus has been on three events: (1) Future of Ag Summit at Fresno State University; (2) Collaborative Action Plan (CAP) Meeting and Tour; and (3) Testifying at the Committee on Natural Resources in regard to HR 215 and HR 872.

Matters for Consideration of Board Action:

Consider Friant-Kern Canal System-Wide Capacity Correction Activity Agreement and Contract. Mr. Fukuda presented for Board consideration the Friant-Kern Canal (FKC) System-wide Capacity Correction Activity Agreement and Contract. Mr. Fukuda presented for discussion: (1) Scope of work and contract with Stantec to look at restoring the full design capacity of the Friant Kern Canal and also looking at storage in the Kaweah/Kings area; (2) Total capacity study cost estimated to be \$670,000; TID's portion: \$104,000; (3) Storage study is \$145,000 and will be put into Operations, Maintenance and Replacement (OM&R) budget; (4) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement to participate (Similar to the Temperance Flat Agreement); Mr. Fukuda recommended Board approval to authorize the FKC System-wide Capacity Correction Activity Agreement and Contract. By the motion of Director Borges and seconded by Director Martin, unanimously carried by all Directors present, approving the FKC System-wide Capacity Correction Activity Agreement and Contract as presented.

Resolution 23-06 - Roy Bell Years of Service Award. By the motion of Director Rogers and seconded by Director Thomas, unanimously carried by all Directors present, approving Resolution No. 23-06 as presented expressing sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr. Bell for his faithful 19+ years of service to the district.

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 Martin reported attending the Kaweah & St. Johns River Association (KSJRA) Board Meeting on April 6, 2023 mentioning Vic Hernandez is now Watermaster for KDWCD.

Director Borges reported attending the Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association (KBWQA) Board meeting and the KSJRA Board meeting both held April 6, 2023. Mr. Borges also reported attending the Friant Water Authority Board meeting on March 23, 2023.

Director Thomas reported attending two Wutchumna Water Company Board meetings.

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.

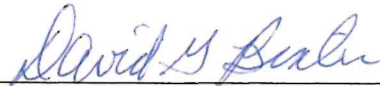
Upon return to open session, it was reported that no reportable actions were made by the Board.

Upon returning to open session, it was reported that no action was taken,

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 April 11, 2023.



Secretary



President