

**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  
21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF February, 2023 AT THE HOUR OF 9:00 A.M.**

Call to Order and Roll Call:

Mr. Fukuda reported due to the Governor's Executive Order (N-29-20) and the declared state of emergency, including current social distancing directives as a result of the threat of the COVID-19 virus, the Tulare Irrigation District (TID) Board Members met in person at the Tulare Irrigation District Administration Office, under social distancing guidelines. There was no physical location for this meeting for the public. Members of the public and other officials participated in the Open Session portion of the meeting remotely via Zoom teleconference.

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; Beth Holmes Assessor-Collector; Diana Zegarra, Assistant Water Resources Engineer; James Fisher, Water Resources Engineer; Marco Crenshaw, Watermaster; Jeremy Barroll, Assistant Engineer; and Jorge Munoz, Assistant Engineer. Present via Zoom teleconference roll call were Johnny Gailey, Delta Vista Water Association; and Geoff Vanden Heuvel. 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.

Matters for Consideration of Board Action:

Resolution No. 23-04 - Virtual Meeting Resolution. A Resolution of the Board of Directors to the Tulare Irrigation District proclaiming a local emergency, ratifying the proclamation of a State of Emergency by the California Governor's Executive Order N-15-21 and authorizing remote teleconference meetings of Tulare Irrigation District Board of Directors for the period February 21, 2023 to February 28, 2023 pursuant to Brown Act provisions. By the motion of Director Martin and seconded by Director Borges, unanimously carried by all Directors present, Resolution No. 23-04 was thereupon approved as presented.

Mr. Fukuda stated that he would work with President Bixler concerning the decision going to fully in-person-meetings starting in March.

Update on Virtual Meeting Legislation - Mr. Fukuda updated the Board on Virtual Meeting Legislation. Mr. Fukuda first reported COVID 19 State of Emergency will end on February 28, 2023.

Then, Mr. Fukuda reported changes to California Assembly Bill 361(Passed on 09/16/2021): Brown Act requirements for teleconference options have been suspended; Agenda do not need to be posted at remote locations; Remote locations did not need to be available to public; No quorum needed within the boundaries.

Next, Mr. Fukuda reported changes to California Assembly Bill 2449 (Passed on 09/16/22): Can use teleconference with the AB 361 allowances; Have to have a quorum within the jurisdiction; Board member can miss an participate remotely with approval and excuse (no more than 2 per year); and must provide two-way radio and video

capabilities.

Approval of Minutes:

Director Bixler then noted that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 17, 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 January 17, 2023, were thereupon approved as presented.

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 TID Releases and Inflows in CFS Diversions reporting the following: Central Valley Project (CVP) Parshall: 575 CFS; Wutchumna Water Company: 50 CFS; City of Visalia: 15 = 640 CFS; and Turnouts: 104 CFS.

Mr. Crenshaw reported: Terminus Reservoir total inflow as of February 20<sup>th</sup> was 492 CFS, and the storage at Terminus Reservoir for the previous day was 31,624 AF. He then reported that the daily release from Terminus Reservoir was 4 CFS; Three-Rivers: 429 CFS; and Dry Creek: 37 CFS.

Thereupon, Mr. Crenshaw mentioned that Millerton Lake total inflow was 1,828 CFS and the entire storage at Millerton Lake was 260,561 AF. He reported that the total daily release from Millerton was 4,353 CFS.

Mr. Crenshaw provided a 2005-Current Kaweah River Snow Water Content chart, which showed the Kaweah River Surrounding Snow Sensor Water Content Above Average Years 198% of the February 16<sup>th</sup> Average and 155% of the April 1<sup>st</sup> Average. Then, Mr. Crenshaw reported on San Joaquin River Snow Water Content: 274% of the January 16<sup>th</sup> Average and 142% of the April 1<sup>st</sup> Average.

Mr. Crenshaw cited precipitation amounts to date at the district yard totaling 141% of the February 17<sup>th</sup> Average.

Mr. Crenshaw presented for discussion the Average SST Anomalies for January 16, 2022 through February 11, 2023.

Water Supply Outlook - Mr. Crenshaw continued his report by indicating that the district's current water supply stood at 27,224 AF. The January 2023 to February 2023 cumulative diversions to TID were 72,816 AF. The Central Valley Project (CVP) Supply Contract totaled: 18,964 AF.

Then, Mr. Crenshaw presented a 2023 Headgate Diversions in Acre-Feet chart. Reporting: CVP: 320 AF; River: 35,481 AF; City of Visalia: 615 AF; Total Diversions to TID: 36,416 AF; Spills Out of District: 188 AF; and Outside Deliveries to Other Districts: 0.00 AF.

Mr. Crenshaw gave an account of Water Diversions: Water Delivered to Farm Turnouts: 9,763 AF; On-Farm Recharge to Turnouts: 3 AF; District Ground Water Recharge: 26,462 AF; Diversion to Farm Turnouts: 27%; and Diversion Spilled: .5%.

Lastly, Mr. Crenshaw provided for Board comparison a January 1950 through January 2023 Diversions to Tulare ID Acre-Feet historical record level chart. Mr. Crenshaw highlighted the following: 2023 historical record year that total 37,000 AF; 2017 total: 33,000 AF; and 1984: 30,000 AF.

Water Management Activities and Issues:

Statewide and Local Conditions - Mr. Fukuda first reported on Current California Reservoir Operations reporting on Friant Allocation. Mr. Fukuda updated the Board on the following: (1) Friant ended Uncontrolled Season on February 9, 2023; Restoration Program released Tier 1 Block 1 URFs; Airborne Snow Observatory (ASO) Flights were completed in late January; and Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Bureau seeking Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) to D1641 requirements.

Next, Mr. Fukuda provided for Board discussion a Snow Water Equivalent (in.) per the elevation band chart dated February 14, 2023.

Then, Mr. Fukuda presented California-Nevada 6-Day Forecast Precipitation for the period: February 20, 2023 through February 26, 2023.

Lastly, Mr. Fukuda presented for discussion a Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes chart dated February 20, 2023.

O&M Superintendent Report:

2022 Quarter 4 O&M Report - Mr. Fox presented the Board with the 2022 Fourth Quarter O&M Report, in which he highlighted activities conducted by staff in the field. Mr. Fox reported on the district's ongoing District safety program, maintenance operations, vehicle maintenance, and herbicide application.

Routine Work and Construction Projects: Mr. Fox highlighted with his report the following work: grading District canals and basins for weed removal and wash-ins; mowing canal banks with boom mower; discing basins for weed control; backhoe work around structures and weirs; dredging Miot and V-Line ditch with excavator; hauling in and place dirt for wash-ins on canal banks; hauling and placing rip rap for slope protection; cleaning and inspecting boxes at SCADA stations; install sluice gates for the head of TIC; repair and replace District turnouts as needed; replacement of Evans D.C. culvert pipe at Road 60; installation of new riser on City Pump Ditch above Pratt Street; installation of turnout structure on Cate Ditch for multiple users; removal of homeless debris on District waterways; and landscape maintenance with District crews.

Kaweah River Siphon: Mr. Fukuda and Mr. Fox next reported on the Kaweah River Siphon. Mr. Fukuda brought his concerns to the board reporting on the condition of the siphon. Mr. Fukuda reported that at the end of the Kaweah Flood Release, we discovered a leak in the Main Intake Canal siphon under the Kaweah River. Mr. Fukuda mentioned historically there has always been a very small leak, and this leak looks to be upstream of the existing leak and much larger.

Next, Mr. Fukuda presented for Board discussion various steps to repair the Kaweah River Siphon. Mr. Fukuda mentioned the following: (1) End Tulare ID irrigation run on February 27<sup>th</sup> regardless of flood release and available supplies that we try to fix the leak now rather than risk a larger failure or issue later in the year; (2) Immediately dewater the Kaweah River Siphon; and (3) Provost & Pritchard (P&P) and TID team to inspect the siphon.

TID Staff recommends (1) Working with P&P to begin designs of the siphon replacements; (2) Getting plans and permitting ready will allow for staff to begin searching for funding; (3) Goal would be to have two separate design and permitting packages to seek funding for each siphon; (4) Initial discussion with various funding sources has begun.

Treasurer Reports:

Approval of Financial Statements - Mr. Fukuda presented the financial

statements for January 2023 for the Board's review and consideration. She addressed first the revenue and expense statement, indicating that the total revenue for December 2022 was \$544,104 which was approximately 3.92% of the revised budget. He next presented the expenses, highlighting several items and reporting expenses from December totaling \$472,170 which was approximately 4.35% of the revised budget. He then went on with presenting the statements of cash flows and net assets, stating that the current cash standing was at \$8,342,436. Based on the Statement of Net Assets, Mr. Fukuda reported that Total Liabilities were at \$13,669,917, and the Total Equity in the District stood at \$32,916,912. He thereupon cited investment return for the district's several holding accounts, those being 1.370% with the Tulare County Pooled Investment Fund, 2.007% with the State LAIF, and 0.100% with Citizen's Money Market Fund. Lastly Mr. Fukuda reported that the District has six months of funds to support operations.

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

Approval of Bill Payments - Mr. Fukuda 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 Martin, seconded by Director Borges and unanimously carried by all Directors present, accepted the financial statements and, by said motion, check nos. 54566 through 54685 totaling \$1,257,805.55 were all either ratified or approved as paid, exclusive of any voided or withheld checks.

Engineer Report:

Update on Engineering Activities - Mr. Barroll provided an update on engineering, highlighting several ongoing projects that would impact the district. Mr. Barroll reported on the following projects: Liberty Hill Bardsley/West Street development project and the 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 reporting on the following: Awaiting the determination of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP); and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is coordinating with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in preparation of determinations.

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: Invoicing going on - staff is meeting with individual growers and helping address questions and issues; MKGSA Board supports the Out-Of-District proposal, again confirmed that Tulare ID growers and partners needs are met first; Kaweah Subbasin Model Update and Recalibration contract approved; MKGSA Board supports moving forward with the development of formal Rules and Regulations.

Mr. Fisher provided for board discussion the following: MKGSA Invoice Cover Letter; Invoice Summary; 2022-Tiered Water Rates; Assessed Acreage by Water Source; Revenue by Water Source; and 2022 ET by Crop Results.

Friant Matters - Mr. Fukuda provided the Board with an update on Friant Activities. Mr. Fukuda reported on the following: Friant-Kern Canal (FKC) System-Wide Capacity Correction Plan Formulation Study Work Plan; System-Wide Capacity Correction; Continued Investment in FKC Capacity Study; and Risks on Continued Investment in FKC Capacity Study.

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 the following: Finalized Seaborn Flyer; Working with Valadao staff for a Community Funding Request; Submitting a Community Funding Request to Senator Feinstein; FWA interview at the site with an affiliate of Fox News; and Discussion with SRT for a community center and educational site underway.

Next, Mr. Fukuda reported on McKay Point Reservoir. Mr. Fukuda reported Finalizing EIR and getting final comments on Air Quality Chapter; Beginning to establish public comment period.

Legislation - Mr. Fukuda provided a summary of Executive Order No. N-3-23. Mr. Fukuda reported the following: Allows Governor to override regulations for protection against drought; Requires State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to modify requirements to enhance storage to protect against drought and increase storage; Reiterated Well Permit Requirements; and Agencies are asked to provide Feedback and advice to the Governor by April 28, 2023. Mr. Fukuda requested board approval to send support letter for Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing. Mr. Fukuda will submit a letter of support based on a letter sent last year.

General Manager Report:

General Manager Fukuda reported his focus has been on the following: (1) California Future Farmers of America (FFA) California Water Scholarship. The FFA Water Awareness Scholarship was sponsored by the Tulare ID, Lower Tule ID, Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District, and Lindmore ID. Mr. Fukuda highlighted the event was successful highlighting 80+ FFA Students competed on February 4, 2023; (2) Cal Poly Bio-Resource & Agricultural Engineering (BRAE) Career Fair; and (3) California Department Water Committee (CDWC).

Matters for Consideration of Board Action:

Water Education Foundation Contribution - Mr. Fukuda presented for discussion the Water Education Foundation annual invoice. By the motion of Director Borges, seconded by Director Thomas, and unanimously carried by all Directors present, the General Manager was authorized to contribute \$1,000 to the Water Education Foundation.

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.

Mr. Fukuda suggested acknowledging that all Directors present attended the assigned 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 returning to open session, it was reported that the Board of Directors had approve and exchange agreement with Westside Mutual Water Company.

There being no other items to come before the Board of Directors, the meeting was then adjourned the next regular board meeting was reported to be on March 14, 2023.



Secretary

David G. Baker  
President