

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE TULARE IRRIGATION DISTRICT HELD
VIA WEBEX TELECONFERENCE ON THE
14TH DAY OF APRIL 2020 AT THE HOUR OF 9:00 A.M.**

Call to Order and Roll Call:

Mr. Fukuda reported that due to the recent COVID-19 Pandemic, the Tulare Irrigation District Board meeting was being held remotely, with no physical location being provided to the public.

Directors present via WebEx teleconference roll call at the date and time above designated were President David Bixler, Vice President Rick Borges, Dave Martin, Scott Rogers, and Mike Thomas. Staff present remotely via teleconference were Aaron Fukuda, General Manager; Kathi Artis, Controller and Treasurer; Beth Holmes, Senior Administrator and Assessor-Collector; Wayne Fox, O&M Superintendent; Marco Crenshaw, Watermaster; and Jeremy Barroll, Assistant Engineer. Also present on the teleconference were Alex Peltzer, District Attorney; Doug Gosling representing Braun Gosling Law Corporation; Don Wright representing Water Wrights; John Gailey representing Green Acres Ag Consulting; Geoff Vandenheuvel; and Richard Zack, local historian. 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 thereupon was called to order by President Bixler.

Public Comments:

Mr. Wright inquired about how long the Closed Session would last.

Mr. Fukuda announced that Closed Session will take approximately one hour and that those that are in the Public Session can either remain in the WebEx or rejoin at 10:00 A.M.

Having no other Public Comment items, President Bixler moved the meeting to Close Session.

Closed Session:

The Board thereupon entered 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.

At the return to open session, one reportable action was announced by Mr. Fukuda. Upon the motion of Director Rogers, seconded by Director Thomas and unanimously carried by all board members present, the Board of Directors approved the Purchase/Sale Agreement by and between Vivian Lexie Seaborn Dirksen, Ronald L. Hayes and Sylvia A. Hayes, Wood Family Living Trust, Jacqueline L. McDonald Revocable Living Trust, Walter John Seaborn III Revocable Living Trust, as Seller, and Tulare Irrigation District and Consolidated People's Ditch Company, as Purchaser for property located east of Road 222 and on the north side of the St. Johns River near Woodlake, California, to be sent to the Seller.

Approval of Minutes:

Director Bixler then noted that the minutes of the regular meeting of March 10, 2020, had been distributed and asked if there were any errors or omissions noted therein. By the motion of Director Martin and seconded by Director Borges, unanimously carried by all Directors present, the minutes of the March 10, 2020 meeting was thereupon approved.

Watermaster Report:

Lake Kaweah Storage and Operations/Water Supply Outlook - Mr. Crenshaw first reported that due to recent storms inflow at Lake Kaweah and other lakes have come up. Mr. Crenshaw reported that the Lake Kaweah total inflow for the day was 613 CFS and that the storage at Lake Kaweah for the current day was 53,653 AF. He then reported that the daily release from Lake Kaweah was 9 CFS. Lastly, Mr. Crenshaw stated that total diversions into the District for the day was 15 CFS, which was coming from the City of Visalia Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mr. Crenshaw next provided a 2001-2020 Kaweah River Snow Water Content Chart, which showed the watershed was currently at 56% of April 13th average and 52% of April 1st average. He then provided a 1991-2020 San Joaquin River Sensors Snow Water Content Chart, which showed the watershed was currently at 68% as of April 13th average and 62% of April 1st average.

Mr. Crenshaw continued with his report by indicating that the current water supply for the District stood at 13,372 AF. The projected January 2020 to April 2020 cumulative diversions to TID was estimated to be 21,062 AF. Mr. Crenshaw thereupon reported that the District diverted 815 AF in March with 36% recharged in District basins, 2% recharged in District canals, and 60% diverted to farm turnouts.

Mr. Crenshaw provided for comparison and discussion a historical low water supply year chart that showed the number of days ran, Kaweah River supply percentage, CVP Class 1 percentage, and totals for the following years: 2004, 2007, 2012, 2013, 2016, and 2018.

Mr. Crenshaw then reported on rainfall for the area and noted that the accumulated rainfall at the District office was 8.38" compared to the average of 7.82".

Mr. Crenshaw recommended waiting until the next month's meeting to make a final CVP supply decision, stating that new storms and new snow figures would affect CVP Supply.

Management Activities and Issues: - Mr. Fukuda informed the Board that there was no report to be provided this month.

Assessor-Collector Report:

Assessment Report - COVID-19 - Mr. Fukuda reported that due to Governor Newsome's Executive Order N-33-20, which recommends that the public shelter at home and maintain social distancing, the Tulare Irrigation District had closed the administration facility to public access.

Mr. Fukuda brought to the Board's attention that with the Administration Office closed to the public, landowners who often pay their bills in-person will not have that option during this COVID-19 Pandemic. Mr. Fukuda provided a 2nd Installment timeline noting that Second Installment Reminder Notices will be mailed May 1st, landowners will be required to pay their second Installment by Monday, June 22, 2020, if delinquent a 5% penalty would be applied.

Ms. Holmes stated that landowners could check their balance and make timely payments over the telephone with a debit or credit card, and payment with a check or money order could be mailed. There is a 2.65% processor fee when paying by debit or credit card.

Mr. Fukuda provided materials to the board for discussion, which included a draft May 1st Second Installment letter, a copy of Tulare County letter regarding COVID-19 and Property Taxes, and a copy of Tulare County Penalty Cancellation Request form.

Mr. Fukuda and Ms. Holmes thereupon sought Board recommendations from the Board of Directors. After a lengthy discussion, the board recommended a letter both in English and Spanish to be included with the Second Installment Reminder Notice.

Lastly, Mr. Fukuda suggested revisiting the Penalty Cancellation Form after the 2nd Installment delinquent date.

O&M Superintendent Report:

Routine Work, Construction Projects – No Report Provided.

1st Quarter 2020 Quarterly O&M Report – Mr. Fox presented the Board with the 2020 1st Quarter report and highlighted several activities performed by staff. Mr. Fox first noted the safety Program and newly established COVID-19 safety guidelines that had been put in place. Next, Mr. Fox mentioned maintenance operations, the vehicle maintenance program, the herbicide application program, and construction projects. Specific discussions took place on the Cordeniz Basin Project and Modernization Phase II (SCADA) Project. Mr. Fox also highlighted ongoing construction projects, specifically stressing tree trimming on North Branch canal behind Mooney Grove Park, installation of turnouts on the west side on Cordeniz project, fabrication and installation of decking at Cordeniz Basin, grading of embankments on Lemos Ditch, sand dredging operations on Cameron Creek at Avenue 264, the placement of rip-rap for slope stabilization on Cameron Creek at Avenue 248, trenching for SCADA on Phase II grant, the fabrication of a new spray bed, the construction of a new overflow structure at Cordeniz Basin, and water truck work at Cordeniz Basin for dust control.

Mr. Fukuda updated the Board on the construction of the Watte Basin measurement station, noting that the contractor, Phase 1 Construction, had agreed to replace the structure due to the inability to rectify the problems with the currently installed structure.

Treasurer Reports:

Approval of Financial Statements – Ms. Artis presented the financial statements for March 2020 for the Board's review and consideration. She addressed first the revenue and expense statement, indicating that the total revenue for January-March 2020 was \$239,248, which was approximately 2.85% of the revised budget. Ms. Artis next presented the expenses, highlighting several items and reporting expenses from March totaling \$2,129,880, which was approximately 19.78% 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 \$10,615,891. Based on the Statement of Net Assets, Ms. Artis reported that Total Liabilities were at \$13,545,911, and the Total Equity in the District stood at \$35,454,614.

Approval of Bill Payments – Ms. Artis presented the list of bills submitted for ratification and approval by the Board. She noted

payments to Friant Water Authority for San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) O&M for March for \$73,415.35 and Friant-Kern Canal O&M monthly for May \$89,632.00 both totaling \$163,047.35. Also noted was a payment to the US Bureau of Reclamation for March & May 2019 and February & May 2020 Water in the amount of \$93,627.01. Director Martin questioned payment to Zee Medical in the amount of \$331.15 for a battery. Mr. Fukuda explained the Battery was for an automatic heart defibrillator. After further scrutiny of particular bills, the Board, by the motion of Director Martin, seconded by Director Thomas and unanimously carried by all Directors present, accepted the financial statements and, by said motion, check nos. 51782 through 51886 totaling \$609,521.92 were all either ratified or approved as paid, exclusive of any voided or withheld checks.

Engineering Report:

Update on Engineering Activities - Mr. Barroll provided an update on engineering activities within the District. He first reported on the progress at Cordeniz Basin and the Serpa Ditch Realignment project. He stated that District's crews have completed construction of an overflow structure in North Basin adjacent to the Westside Distribution Structure.

Questions concerning Cordeniz Basin and Serpa Ditch fencing costs were brought to the table. Mr. Fukuda stated that the Engineering Department had received three barbed wire fence bids and that the recharge facility fence would be paid with TID cost-share grant dollars. The District crew will put in the fixed corner posts and the fence contractor will install the barbed wire. Mr. Fox stated that they were ready to put water into the overflow structure right now, including going around the facility.

Management Staff Reports:

COVID-19 Response Plan Update - Mr. Fukuda reported to the Board that District Management staff continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation. He then indicated that the District has put into place several provisions to protect and maintain a safe and healthy environment for our employees.

Mr. Fukuda prepared for the board a COVID-19 Response Plan that included: washing hands; social distancing; equipment/trucks equipped with wash stations equipped with soap and sanitizing wipes; keeping staff informed and updated on all recent Executive Orders and COVID-19 legislation; monitoring staff concerns and anxiety; and allowing employees to take sick leave, vacation, or comp time if they have concerns.

Mr. Fukuda provided for discussion a Tulare County COVID-19 Cases Chart that showed March 11th - April 14th data revealing cases of the virus working upward to 350 cases. A Zip-Code Map showed the highest number being presently 134 cases in the City of Visalia. Next, Mr. Fukuda provided a second Tulare County COVID-19 Cases Chart that showed March 11th - April 30th data showing the predicted number of cases escalating towards 900 cases.

Director Bixler stated that the District should avoid shutting down unless it was absolutely necessary to keep people safe. Director Borges suggested rotating work schedules for staff whose duties prevent them from working at home. Mr. Fukuda mentioned that Mr. Fox had been staggering field employees to avoid the congregation of staff during breaks and lunch.

Mr. Fukuda mentioned that he would be meeting with office staff individually and making accommodations so that employees can work remotely from home if desired.

SGMA Matters - Kaweah Subbasin Update. Mr. Fukuda summarized recent activities concerning the Kaweah Subbasin first reporting on the

establishment of a new Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) committee. Mr. Fukuda noted that the RCIS will establish a committee to be responsible for the development of a program for land fallowing that would include incentives given for habitat and land fallowing. He next indicated that a request had been made to provide representatives from the Mid-Kaweah GSA, and upon a discussion with others, Director Martin and Mr. Fukuda were suggested as the two representatives to the RCIS committee.

Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency Update - Mr. Fukuda summarized the recent activities at the Mid-Kaweah GSA, reporting that one comment letter submitted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Next, he indicated that the comment period for the MKGSA GSP had been extended to June 3, 2020. Due to COVID-19 orders, the MKGSA General Manager solicitation has been postponed, and Mr. Fukuda noted that he was coordinating with the District and the MKGSA to be appointed as the Interim General Manager of the MKGSA. Lastly, Mr. Fukuda mentioned that Montgomery and Associated was working with the MKGSA to establish a master services agreement to provide hydrogeologist consulting.

Friant Matters - Mr. Fukuda began his report by summarizing the recent activities on the Friant-Kern Canal Subsidence Fix, noting that the project is still on schedule and a finance workshop was being planned. He continued his report by noting work on including the Friant-Kern Canal Subsidence Fix in any upcoming Federal Infrastructure bill. Mr. Fukuda reported that FWA will hold a special public meeting on April 29th primarily on funding and financing the Friant-Kern Canal Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project. Mr. Borges stated that this is a much-needed meeting to ensure money is in place before signing any construction agreement.

Next, Mr. Fukuda noted that Title Transfer was still being discussed, and the FWA Staff is working on an MOU with the Bureau. He indicated Title Transfer should be put to the FWA Board in April or May for a decision to move forward.

Legislation - No report provided.

Strategic Plan Update - No report provided. Mr. Fukuda mentioned the Strategic Plan draft is close to being finished and will provide it to the Board in the coming weeks

Matters for Consideration of Board Action:

Resolution No. 20-05 - Board acceptance of records preservation safe donated by Fred Lagomarsino in memory of Director Frank Lagomarsino, Resolution No. 20-05 was adopted by the motion of Director Martin, seconded by Director Thomas, and duly put to a vote and unanimously carried by all board members present.

Resolution No. 20-06 - Board acceptance of records preservation safe donated by Richard C. Zack, Resolution No. 20-06 was adopted by the motion of Director Borges, seconded by Director Rogers, and duly put to a vote and unanimously carried by all board members present.

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 mentioned that he had attended the February 26th Friant Water Authority Board Meeting but that Mr. Fukuda had already covered it.

Director Borges reported on attending the Kaweah & St. Johns River

Association Meeting on April 9th, stating that the Association had approved the Kaweah River Power Authority Power Plant Agreement.

Next Director Martin reported attending the Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association Board Meeting held on April 9th, noting membership status has increased by three members, and 27 memberships are in violation due to reasons such property being sold. He also mentioned water kiosk stations in Okieville and Farmersville would be providing replacement water. He also stated Farmersville's requirement was to boiling water for 48 hours and that UV disinfection and carbon filters were installed.

Then Director Martin reported attending the Rayo Water Company Board Meeting held March 18, 2020, mentioning elections of officers, which stayed the same that they received a report on the recap of Wonderful and Sunworld's water.

Director Martin attended the March 10th Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency meeting reporting on the following: a 75-day public review in progress has been extended to June 3rd due to the COVID-19 virus; Provost and Pritchard \$105,000 Contract; and mentioning the Water Account Framework.

Lastly, Director Martin reported attending the Tulare Irrigation Company and Evans Ditch Company Board meetings held on March 18th, commenting on Evans Ditch Company's Operation and Maintenance, Herbicide applications, and a City of Visalia Claim.

Director Thomas announced attending the April 8, 2020, Wutchumna Water Company Board meeting, only mentioning a boundary dispute.

Mr. Fukuda noted that the next Board Meeting would be held on May 12, 2020.

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



Secretary



President