

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE TULARE IRRIGATION DISTRICT HELD
ZOOM TELECONFERENCE ON THE
12TH DAY OF JANUARY 2021 AT THE HOUR OF 9:00A.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 TID Board members and TID Staff attended this meeting remotely. There was no physical location for this meeting. 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, Scott Rogers, and Mike Thomas. Staff present at the meeting were Aaron Fukuda, General Manager; Kathi Artis, Controller and Treasurer; Wayne Fox, O&M Superintendent; and Marco Crenshaw, Watermaster. Also present were Geoff Vanden Heuvel; Johnny Gailey, Delta View Water Association; Alan Becker, RRG, Don Wright, Water Wrights; and Doug Reynolds, Santa Fe Aggregates. 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, at this time, noted that the meeting was being recorded.

Director Thomas brought to the Board's attention that upon his annual visit to the Pixley Wildlife Preserve, he observed many young almonds planted in the area. He noted that it was not clear what the water supply was for the young trees, but if the only source was groundwater, this could be a problem under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Approval of Minutes:

Director Bixler then noted that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 8, 2020 had been distributed and asked if there were any errors or omissions noted therein. By the motion of Director Borges and seconded by Director Martin, unanimously carried by all Directors present, the minutes of the December 8, 2020 meeting was thereupon approved.

Watermaster Report:

Lake Kaweah Storage and Operations/Water Supply Outlook - Mr. Crenshaw began his report by noting Terminus Reservoir total inflow for the day was 50 CFS, and the storage at Terminus Reservoir for the previous day was 13,348 AF. He then reported that the daily release from Terminus Reservoir was 20 CFS.

Thereupon Mr. Crenshaw mentioned that the Millerton Lake total inflow was 208 CFS and that the entire storage at Millerton Lake was 176,312 AF. He reported that the total daily release from Millerton was 424 CFS.

Mr. Crenshaw thereupon provided a 2001-2020 Kaweah River Snow Water Content Chart, which showed the watershed was currently at 33% of January 11th Average and 15% of April 1st Average. He then provided a 1990-2020 San Joaquin River Sensors Snow Water Content Chart, which showed the watershed was currently at 33% of January 11th Average and 15% of April 1st Average.

Mr. Crenshaw presented for discussion the Average SST Anomalies for

December 13, 2020 - January 9, 2021. He also provided for discussion comparison October, November, and December 2020 past SST Anomalies reports.

Mr. Crenshaw continued with his report by indicating that the District's current water supply stood at 1,487 AF. The projected January 2020 to January 2021 cumulative diversions to TID was estimated to be 49,835 AF. Mr. Crenshaw thereupon reported that the District diverted 939 AF in December with 27% recharged in District basins, 24% recharged in District canals, and 49% diverted to farm turnouts.

Management Activities and Issues - Mr. Fukuda noted that there was nothing to report at this time.

O&M Superintendent Report:

Mr. Fox presented the Board with the 2020 Fourth Quarter O&M Report, which highlighted activities conducted by staff in the field. Mr. Fox highlighted the ongoing programs, including District safety training, maintenance operations, vehicle maintenance, and the herbicide application program.

Next, Mr. Fox reported the District construction crew did not work on any construction projects during October, November, and December due to an attempt to keep staff isolated therefore reducing COVID-19 risks and concentrating on maintenance projects.

Treasurer Reports:

Approval of Financial Statements - Ms. Artis presented the financial statements for December 2020 for the Board's review and consideration. She addressed first the revenue and expense statement, indicating that the total revenue for January-December 2020 was \$4,810,323, which was approximately 61.12% of the revised budget. Ms. Artis next presented the expenses, highlighting several items and reporting expenses from December totaling \$10,357,793, which was approximately 100.63% 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 \$8,569,115.

Based on the Statement of Net Assets, Ms. Artis reported that Total Liabilities were at \$13,029,358, and the Total Equity in the District stood at \$36,709,284. She lastly cited investment return for the District's several holding accounts, those being 2.3300% with the Tulare County Pooled Fund, 0.685% with the state LAIF, and 0.350% with Citizen's Money Market Fund.

Approval of Bill Payments - Ms. Artis presented the list of bills submitted for ratification and approval by the Board. Ms. Artis noted payment to the Sespe Consulting Inc. in the amount of \$71,006.40 for Technical Services McKay Point, commenting TID share of cost 17% (estimated to be \$12,000) and TID would be reimbursed. After further 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. 52492 through 52560 totaling \$405,952.45 were all either ratified or approved as paid, exclusive of any voided or withheld checks.

Engagement Letter with Auditor - Ms. Artis thereupon presented Cuttone & Mastro Certified Public Accounts December 3, 2020 engagement letter for review and consideration by the Board. By the motion of Director Rogers, seconded by Director Martin and unanimously carried by all Directors present, the Auditor Agreement between the District and Cuttone & Mastro Certified Public Accountants was approved.

Assessor-Collector Report:

COVID-19 Assessment Impact and Direction - Mr. Fukuda brought to the Board's attention that it was confirmed that the United States Postal

Service (USPS) under the holiday rush and COVID-19 impacts were significantly delayed in processing mail. He stated that during the collection of the 2021 Assessment, which were due on Monday, December 21, 2020 (Deadline) at 5:00 PM, it was brought to the attention of the Assessor-Collector, Beth Holmes, that approximately 25+ landowners had timely delivered their assessment remittance payments to the USPS, however, the District's received the payments late, the postmarked was after the deadline. By the motion of Director Martin, seconded by Director Thomas and unanimously carried by all Directors present, the Assessor-Collector was authorized by the Board to accept payments on-time and not assess a penalty if the following three conditions are met: (1) there is an ongoing pandemic impacting the United States Postal Service; (2) landowner's payment indicates (the date on the check) that the payment was made to the District on or before the deadline; and (3) The postmark on the envelope is dated before December 31, 2020.

Engineering Report:

Update on Engineering Activities - Mr. Fukuda presented Mr. Barroll's Engineering report in his absence, discussing Serpa Headworks and Liberty Culvert. Mr. Fukuda also gave an update on crossings and parcels reviews.

Management Staff Reports:

COVID-19 District Plan- Update - Mr. Fukuda updated the Board on the COVID-19 District Response Plan. Mr. Fukuda started his report by informing the Board that the District recently quarantined seven staff members after the holiday season due to COVID-19 exposure.

Mr. Fukuda reported the Pandemic continues to surge in COVID-19 cases due to the Holiday Season, highlighting Tulare County's active cases stood at 5,275 as of January 10, 2021. Mr. Fukuda provided for discussion an April 2020 - December 2020 chart documenting Tulare County's positive cases per Day per 100K.

Mr. Fukuda stated experts and the CDC had provided new COVID-19 guidelines. Mr. Fukuda delivered for Board consideration updates to the TID COVID-19 Response Plan. Mr. Fukuda provided a report on the TID COVID-19 Response Plan changes, including the need to extend the plan to June 30, 2021. By a motion by Director Martin, seconded by Director Borges and unanimously carried by all Directors present, the TID COVID-19 Response Plan extension and modifications were approved as presented.

SGMA Matters - Mr. Fukuda summarized recent activities concerning the Kaweah Subbasin. Mr. Fukuda first provided an update on the Proposition 68 Implementation Grant, reporting that Mid-Kaweah Ground Water Sustainability Agency (MKGSA) will be acting as the applicant. He then noted that the application was due on January 8, 2021 and the Greater Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GKGSA) submitted a late project titled Peregrian Basin.

Next, Mr. Fukuda provided a report on the activities of MKGSA. Mr. Fukuda reported receiving twelve applicants for the MKGSA General Manager position, and three applicants were chosen to proceed to the introduction interviews. Mr. Fukuda also provided an update on the December 7th Kaweah Water Foundation Advisory Committee Meeting, the January 7th Kaweah Water Foundation Outreach Meeting, and ongoing work with Montgomery & Associates to establish 2021 priorities.

Friant Matters - Mr. Fukuda provided a summary on the topics covered at the Friant Water Authority (FWA) December board meeting beginning with the appointment of Cliff Loeffler (LSID) as the new Chairman and Edwin Camp (AEWSD) as the new Vice Chair. He then noted that the ETGSA Mitigation Fund Agreement was approved, and FWA had secured \$206 million for the FKC Middle Reach fix through the Bureau of Reclamation.

McKay Point Reservoir Project - Mr. Fukuda reported on the McKay Point Reservoir Project (MPRP), noting that the technical consultants continue to work on various sections of the Environmental Impact Report.

Legislation - No report provided.

Matters for Consideration of Board Action:

2021 Preliminary Budget - Mr. Fukuda reviewed the District 2021 Preliminary Budget report as presented to the board. He stated his numbers were built on a slightly dryer than average year. He cited projected income of \$8.38 million, O&M expenses of \$10.39 million, and capital costs of \$1.53 million, the combination of which should leave the District in the range of \$11.14 million in cash reserves at year's end. By the motion of Director Borges, seconded by Director Rogers and unanimously carried by all board members present, the 2021 Preliminary Budget as presented was approved.

Resolution No. 21-01 - Appointment and Proxies for 2021 - Mr. Fukuda presented the subject resolution and associated listings of appointments, proxies, and representations to be identified among board members and staff. It was agreed that the current slate of such persons was appropriate for the 2021 year. With no changes, Resolution No. 21-01 was adopted with the motion of Director Thomas, seconded by Director Rogers, and duly put to a vote and unanimously carried by all board members present.

Report of Actions Taken In Prior Closed Sessions:

Acquisition of Real Property - Mr. Fukuda publicly reported Board action taken in closed session on May 12, 2020, publicly announcing the approval of the Purchase and Sale Agreement for the APN 113-060-012, 113-070-001, 113-080-001, 113-050-001, and 064-060-016.

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 reported on the Kaweah and St. Johns River Association (KSJRA) Board of Directors meeting held January 7, 2021, mentioning the following: Historical (January 1st record) Reservoir low level; Ongoing problems with three snow sensors located at Wolverton, Panther Meadows, and Farewell Gap; Hot-Spot Ag SCADA System evaluation; Hot-Spot share of cost; SCADA Project Riparian users letter (Reason/Benefit/Price/Share of Cost); GKGSA Proposition 218 Election; and Prop 68 Implementation Grant.

Director Borges also reported attending the Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association (KBWQA) Board of Directors meeting held on January 7, 2021. He reported on the following: Membership (301 Members); Farmersville's water fill station usage is 156 gallons a day; Okieville water fill station dispensed 391 gallons in December; and KBWQA required bottled water delivery noting 12 applicants had applied.

Lastly, Director Borges reported attending the newly formed Kaweah Water Foundation (CV-Salts issue) meeting on January 11, 2021. Commenting on the following: Newly established Bank Account; ILRP Group and Dairy Group upfront Money; Working on a letter/timeline/schedule to get other dischargers to join; ILRP and Dairy are on board but processing plants and cities reluctant to participate due to cost.

Director Martin reported attending various meetings with GSA Managers, City's Managers, and Mr. Fukuda to hire an administrator/Manager for the MKGSA.

Director Thomas mentioned attending the Wutchumna Water Company (WWC) Board meeting on December 9, 2020 reporting that the recent assessment was set at \$400.00 per share.

Director Rogers mentioned attending the newly formed Water Marketing Strategy Committee meeting, reporting items discussed: Introduction; Outline and purpose of the committee; and negotiation with an RFP Water Marketing Consultant.

President Bixler moved the meeting to Closed 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.

Upon returning to Open Session, President Bixler noted that there were no actions taken in Closed Session.

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



Secretary



President