

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE TULARE IRRIGATION DISTRICT HELD
VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE ON THE
13th DAY OF JULY 2021 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 at the District Office (6826 Avenue 240, Tulare, CA 93274) 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, Dave Martin, Scott Rogers, and Mike Thomas. Director Rick Borges was absent. Staff present at the meeting were Aaron Fukuda, General Manager; Kathi Artis, Controller and Treasurer; James Fisher, Water Resources Engineer; Wayne Fox, O&M Superintendent; Marco Crenshaw, Watermaster; and Jeremy Barroll, Assistant Engineer. Also present via Zoom teleconference roll call were Don Wright of Water Wrights and Johnny Gailey with the Delta View Water Association. 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.

Mr. Fukuda dedicated this meeting and the actions taken on this day in memory of Richard "Dick" Schaefer, who passed away on July 1, 2021.

Public Comments:

Mr. Thomas reported on an article in a recent Ag Alert. Mr. Thomas stated noted that 75% of the melons sold are grown in the Imperial Valley.

Approval of Minutes:

Director Bixler then noted that the minutes of the regular meeting of June 8, 2021, were distributed and asked if any errors or omissions were noted therein. By the motion of Director Martin and seconded by Director Thomas, unanimously carried by all Directors present, the minutes of the June 8, 2021 meeting was thereupon approved.

Watermaster Report:

Lake Kaweah Storage and Operations/Water Supply Outlook - Mr. Crenshaw began his report by noting that the reading that was taken the previous Friday shows Lake Kaweah's storage had dropped from 63,655 acre-feet (AF) to 45,106 AF. The Kaweah Lake Inflow was reported to be 21 cubic feet per second (CFS), and the release was 546 CFS.

Thereupon Mr. Crenshaw mentioned that the Millerton Lake did not have quite as drastic of a drop but went from 259,638 AF to 229,310 AF. Thus, the inflow to Millerton Lake was 543 CFS, and release from Millerton Lake was 1,591 CFS.

Mr. Crenshaw stated during the small recharge run we lost 80% of the water from the dam to our boundary to canal seepage.

Management Activities and Issues:

Mr. Fukuda reported that all state reservoirs are very dry and well below 50% of average. Water agencies are finding that the releases that were programmed earlier in the year to meet Delta outflows are not holding up.

Shasta is having to release more water out of the reservoir than initially anticipated. A lot of shortage is believed to be driven by illegal diversions in the Delta. The District 20% is still at risk in Millerton, but Friant is holding strong that we will be able to maintain the 20%

O&M Superintendent Report:

Routine Work - Mr. Fox provided an update on operations and maintenance activities during the past month. Mr. Fox noted ongoing work mentioning the following: Packwood Canal improvements; homeless issues; trash removal, pre-emergent herbicide applications, and cooper sulfate treatments throughout the district. Lastly, Mr. Fox reported three (3) outside employees are working for Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District on the Hannah South Project.

Equipment Purchase - UTV & Trailer - Mr. Fisher reported to the Board that staff had completed a test run of the Ttem system and identified a UTV and trailer best suited for the system. Mr. Fisher described the two items in detail. By a motion of Director Rogers, seconded by Director Thomas and unanimously approved by all Board Members present, the purchase of a Honda Pioneer 700 and a 24' Carson Trailer was approved.

Treasurer Reports:

Approval of Financial Statements - Ms. Artis presented the financial statements for June 2021 for the Board's review and consideration. She addressed first the revenue and expense statement, indicating that the total revenue for June 2021 was \$1,496,005, which was approximately 29.81% of the revised budget. Ms. Artis next presented the expenses, highlighting several items and reporting expenses from July totaling \$3,272,216, which was approximately 41.74% 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 \$11,748,690. Based on the Statement of Net Assets, Ms. Artis reported that Total Liabilities were at \$13,176,168, and the Total Equity in the District stood at \$35,373,593. She lastly cited investment return for the District's several holding accounts, those being 1.590% with the Tulare County Pooled Investment Fund, 0.262% 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. Mr. Fukuda brought up a bill to Olsson Engineering, stating that staff received 95% design plans for Liberty Pipeline replacement under the Union Pacific Railroad. However, Mr. Fukuda also said he is pushing the project off until next year to have a budget to bid it and install it. After scrutiny of particular bills, the Board, by the motion of Director Martin, seconded by Director Rogers and unanimously carried by all Directors present, accepted the financial statements and, by said motion, check nos. 53054 through 53142 totaling \$447,341.56 were all either ratified or approved as paid, exclusive of any voided or withheld checks.

Assessor-Collector Report:

Mr. Fukuda informed the board that the Assessor's Board Report shows a balance of \$15,493.86 to be collected. For the year 2021, the balance owing is \$17,475.10, which is 93% paid. Proceedings for the collection of delinquent assessments are in process, and a letter was mailed out on July 1, 2021 and payments must be received by July 27, 2021. Delinquent Assessments Lists Publication Dates will be August 3, August 10, and August 17, 2021. Current 2021 tax sales liens will record on August 24, 2021.

Engineering Report:

Update on Engineering Activities - Mr. Fisher provided the Board with an update on tTEM system. Mr. Fisher noted that a geophysicist from Stanford University came to Tulare to train District staff on the operation of the

tTEM system.

Management Staff Reports:

COVID-19 District Plan - Update - Mr. Fukuda reported that on June 17, 2021, CalOSHA provided revised workplace regulations. Mr. Fukuda noted that in coordination with the District Human Resources Counsel, the Tulare Irrigation District COVID-19 Response Plan was updated to reflect changes made by CalOSHA and other leave revisions. By a motion of Director Thomas, seconded by Director Rogers and unanimously approved by all Directors present, the Revised Tulare Irrigation District COVID-19 Response Plan was approved.

Kaweah Subbasin Update - Propositions 68 Planning Grant - Mr. Fukuda stated Fresno State University was close to completing the metering report. Next, he reported that contract revisions were completed and submitted to DWR for the Proposition 68 Implementation Grant.

Thereupon, Mr. Fukuda reported on the Kaweah Subbasin MODFLOW Model, the Kaweah Subbasin Water Budget, and the Water Accounting Framework, noting that work was accelerated and ongoing for the MKGSA Groundwater Allocation. Mr. Fukuda gave an update on initial discussions with growers and other SGMA practitioners, stating allocations are focused on water budgets but will be governed by groundwater levels. The Water Accounting Framework will control initial allocations to each, and each GSA can, in turn, determine how to allocate to the landowners.

MKGSA Update - Mr. Fukuda gave an update beginning with noting that the new Chair of the MKGSA is Dave Martin and the new Vice Chair is Steve Nelson. He also stated work would need to be done on the MKGSA Representative Monitoring Network, which Mr. Fisher is preparing to work on and will utilize ESRI ArcGIS. Lastly, Mr. Fukuda reported that Waukena School District has volunteered to allow the District to access a monitoring well on their property.

Closed Session:

Thereupon, Mr. Fukuda noted that the Board of Directors was going into Closed Session and returning to public session in approximately 30 Minutes.

Upon returning from Closed Session, Director Bixler reported that there were no actions taken in Closed Session.

Friant Matters - Mr. Fukuda presented an update on the Friant Matters beginning with a report on the FWA Strategic Planning Workshop which was 1.5 days of intense workshop discussion. Next, Mr. Fukuda reported that the FWA Middle Reach project was proceeding with land acquisitions and beginning to move on Findings of Necessity to take land under eminent domain. The next item Mr. Fukuda reported on was the \$10 million FWA Budget that was approved with a 3% COLA adjustment and 5% materials increase. Lastly, he reported on activities of the FKC Middle Reach project noting that the MOU with Tulare County was signed, ten landowners have agreed to sell property, and contractor proposals (bids) for the project were due on July 14th.

Legislation - Mr. Fukuda provided a report on AB 252 (Rivas & Salas). Department of Conservation to develop and administer the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Incentive Program. The Board and Mr. Fukuda discussed the bill's merits, and the Board indicated their support for the AB 252 with the amendments offer to the authors by Mr. Fukuda and the Friant Water Authority.

Mr. Fukuda next discussed a budget request from Stanford University and River Partners for floodplain restoration. The Board and Mr. Fukuda discussed the request being made and how the money was to be used. The Board indicated their support for the request and directed Mr. Fukuda to

provide support in any fashion that Stanford University or River Partners requests.

General Manager Report:

Mr. Fukuda reported that Joe Mello, District Engineering Technician, had tendered his resignation. Next, Mr. Fukuda indicated that the office well was sucking air and that the District staff was waiting on Soult's Pump to install a new pump and motor approximately 100' deeper than the current depth. Lastly, Mr. Fukuda summarized the San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Program and the new College of the Sequoias agricultural irrigation program.

Matters for Consideration of Board Action

Resolution No. 21-06 Placing Delinquent Assessments on the Tax Roll - Mr. Fukuda presented Resolution No. 21-06 and provided a discussion on the need for the resolution. By a motion of Director Thomas, Seconded by Director Rogers and unanimously approved by all Directors Present, Resolution No. 21-06 was approved.

Stantec Professional Services Agreement - Water Marketing Strategy Document - Mr. Fukuda began by giving an update on the Kaweah Subbasin Water Marketing Strategy. He highlighted that the process is to be facilitated by a consultant. Next, he noted the method utilized to advertise and select a consultant. Mr. Fukuda thereupon shared the Stantec Professional Services Agreement and covered the key components of the Agreement. By a motion of Director Rogers, seconded by Director Thomas, and unanimously approved by all directors present, the Stantec Professional Services Agreement was approved.

Consideration of Water/Salary CPI Adjustment - Mr. Fukuda presented a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) and provided a breakdown of All Urban CPI Changes v. Approved Wage/Salary Adjustments to the board. The Board discussed the various options, and by a motion of Director Martin, seconded by Director Thomas and unanimously approved by all Board members present, a COLA of 4.25% was approved to be implemented on the next paycheck to all employees except Mr. Fukuda.

Board Member Report of Meetings:

Director Thomas reported on the Wutchumna Water Company activities, reporting that the Company was requested to allow the launching of fireworks on the 4th of July from the banks of Bravo Lake. However, the Company denied the request due to the liability.

There being no other items to come before the Board of Directors, the meeting was then adjourned to the Regular TID Board Meeting scheduled for August 10, 2021.


Secretary


President