

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE TULARE IRRIGATION DISTRICT HELD  
VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE ON THE  
19<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2022 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, Rick Borges, Dave Martin, and Mike Thomas. Absent Director Scott Rogers. Staff present at the meeting were Aaron Fukuda, General Manager; Kathi Artis, Controller and Treasurer; Beth Holmes, Senior Administrator and Assessor-Collector; James Fisher, Water Resources Engineer; Marco Crenshaw, Watermaster; Jeremy Barroll, Assistant Engineer; and Anthony Sousa, Intern. Also present or via Zoom teleconference roll call were Maryse Suppiger, Manulife Investment Management; Douglas Jackson; Don Wright, Water Wrights; Johnny Gailey, Green-Acres Ag Consulting; Matt Klinchurch, Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group; and Lora Carpenter, Fieldman, Rolapp & Associates, Inc. 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. 22-06 - 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 April 19, 2022 to May 19, 2022 pursuant to Brown Act provisions. By the motion of Director Martin and seconded by Director Rogers, unanimously carried by all Directors present, Resolution No. 22-06 was thereupon approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes:

Director Bixler then noted that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 8, 2022 were distributed and asked if any errors or omissions were noted therein. By the motion of Director Thomas and seconded by Director Borges, unanimously carried by all Directors present, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 8, 2022 were thereupon approved.

Watermaster Report:

Mr. Crenshaw reported on Lake Kaweah Storage and Operations/Water Supply Outlook - Mr. Crenshaw began his report by noting Terminus Reservoir total inflow for the day was 401 CFS, and the storage at Terminus Reservoir for the previous day was 77,203 AF. He then reported that the daily release from Terminus Reservoir was 36 CFS.

Thereupon, Mr. Crenshaw mentioned that the Millerton Lake total inflow

was 1,408 CFS and the entire storage at Millerton Lake was 347,789 AF. He reported that the total daily release from Millerton was 1,113 CFS.

Mr. Crenshaw reported differences in Kaweah River Snow April 1<sup>st</sup> data: Snow Course Measurement: 41%; Snow Sensor Measurement: 44%. Mr. Crenshaw also reported TID April-July Kaweah Runoff Projection: 36%; and San Joaquin River Runoff Projection: 50%.

Mr. Crenshaw then discussed upcoming weather patterns and presented charts of snowpack data for the Kaweah and San Joaquin watersheds. Crenshaw reported that the snowfall to date in the Kaweah Watershed, was at 25% of the April 18<sup>th</sup> average. Also, Mr. Crenshaw reported San Joaquin River Sensors, Snow Water Content 14% of April 18<sup>th</sup> average.

Mr. Crenshaw presented for discussion the Average SST Anomalies, December 13, 2020 - April 9, 2022.

Next, Mr. Crenshaw presented an October 1, 2021 - April 18, 2022 Daily Precipitation Chart.

Water Supply Outlook - Mr. Crenshaw continued with his report by indicating that the District's current water supply stood at 9,374 AF. The January 2022 to March 2022 cumulated diversions to TID was 20,566 AF. The CVP Supply for the 2022 Contract year totaled: 0.00 AF. Mr. Crenshaw gave a no summer run projection commenting its looking like 2013.

Mr. Crenshaw thereupon reported that the district diverted 920 AF in March. He indicated that 49% of the diversions were delivered to farm turnouts; 40% recharged in district basins; and 11% recharged in district canals.

Spring 2022 Groundwater Report - Mr. Fukuda and Mr. Crenshaw provided a Spring 2022 Depth to Groundwater Report presenting a Depth to Groundwater Contour map for Spring 2022. Mr. Crenshaw reported the average depth to groundwater across the district was 173 feet, which was down 15 feet from the previous year. A 1922-2022 Depth to Groundwater chart showed a downward trend. Mr. Fukuda commented the depth to groundwater chart reached an all-time low, 8 feet below the previous drought low.

Water Management Activities and Issues - Mr. Fukuda first updated the Board on California Reservoir Operations reporting Friant Allocations: 15% Class 1 and 0% Class 2. Next, Mr. Fukuda presented current California Major Water Supply Reservoirs levels emphasizing: Shasta Lake was at 38% Full and Millerton was at 67% Full. Mr. Fukuda thereupon presented for discussion a future precipitation forecast.

#### O&M Superintendent Report:

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2022 Quarterly O&M Report - Mr. Fukuda provided a detailed report on activities that took place during the first quarter of 2022. Mr. Fukuda reported on the following programs: District Safety Program, Maintenance Operations, Vehicle Maintenance Program, and Herbicide Application Program. Then, Mr. Fukuda reported on Routine Work and Construction Activities mentioning the following: Patch pipeline leaks on Area 12; Removing and hauling off brush from Crocker Cut; Replacing corrugated metal pipe crossing with concrete pipe; Removing a down oak tree on Tulare Irrigation Company at Linda Loma Ranch; Paining a new board slots on Main Canal along Paige Avenue; Installing a new turnout on Little Tulare west of Road 100; Fabricate metal deck for opening behind catwalks for operator safety; and Post and haul off Homeless trash and debris with help from the City of Tulare employees.

#### Treasurer Reports:

Approval of Financial Statements - Ms. Artis presented the financial statements for March 2022 for the Board's review and consideration.

She addressed first the revenue and expense statement, indicating that the total revenue for March 2022 was \$557,636, which was approximately 6.42% of the revised budget. She next presented the expenses, highlighting several items and reporting expenses from February totaling \$2,216,468, which was approximately 20.38% 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 \$7,731,031. Based on the Statement of Net Assets, Ms. Artis reported that Total Liabilities were at \$13,242,357, and the Total Equity in the District stood at \$32,064,895. She lastly cited investment return for the district's several holding accounts, those being 1.050% with the Tulare County Pooled Investment Fund, 0.365% with the State LAIF, and 0.100% with Citizen's Money Market Fund.

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 Martin, seconded by Director Borges and unanimously carried by all Directors present, accepted the financial statements and, by said motion, check nos. 53745 through 53858 totaling \$1,039,578 were all either ratified or approved as paid, exclusive of any voided or withheld checks.

Tulare ID Proposition 218 Process. Mr. Fukuda gave the Board a lengthy update on Tulare ID Prop 218 process. Mr. Fukuda reported on the following: (1) Meeting with the Ad-Hoc Committee in March; (2) Friant Water Authority (FWA) Model additional costs revisions mentioning: San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) Power Transmission Line Construction Projects (\$75,000 per year), Delta-Mendota Canal Subsidence Correction Project (\$2 million per year), and inflation revision from 3% to 4.5%; (3) Long-Term Financial Plan Assessment Rates: Worst Case Scenario; Realtime Hydrology Scenario; and Average Scenario; (4) Original Assessment Rate Range \$83-\$125; (5) Revised Assessment Rate Range \$87-\$189 which included one acre or less base assessment rate as yet to be set.

Mr. Fukuda provided for Board discussion a Draft TID Prop 218 Engineer's Report, Procedures for Benefit Assessment, prepared by Provost & Pritchard (P&P) Consulting Group. Then, Mr. Fukuda introduced Lora Carpenter and Matt Klinchuch (P&P) Consultants. Mr. Klinchuch presented a summary of the Draft Engineer's Report highlighting the district intends to restructure and increase its land-based assessments. Highlighting the reasons for the restructure and rate increase are (1) to cover the budget shortfall from the existing land-based assessment, (2) to cover any shortfall in fixed costs associated with District surface water supplies not met from the current water rate to the land-based assessment, and (3) generate capital for new projects and programs for improving water allocation benefit in repose to Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The rate increase would begin with an installment due Month Day, 2022 and Month Day, 2023. The rate increase will ramp-up over a 5-year period. Mr. Klinchuch covered: Purpose of the Report; District Background Information; District Financial Information; Proposal to Increase Charges; Benefit Determination; Implementation Procedures; References; and Prop 218 Timeline.

Mr. Fukuda reaffirmed the district is seeking land-based assessment revenues to fund the following: (1) District Fixed Costs - General and Administration; (2) Water Supply; and (3) Capital Projects.

Mr. Fukuda reported on various ballot Options, and that the mailing and counting will be done by MK Elections (Approx. Cost \$12,000).

Lastly, Mr. Fukuda reported Outreach will include: Individual landowner meetings with larger landowners and Individual division workshops with Board members present.

Assessor-Collector Report:

Ms. Holmes reported that in July 2020 the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) acquired APN: 149-010-020-000, 4.36 Acres. Reporting the parcel is part of the State Route 99 Tulare City Widening Project. The Tulare County Recorder's office is behind making ownership changes due to Covid. Highlighting Caltrans is exempt. The Tulare Irrigation District assessed the parcel in error in 2021 and 2022. Ms. Holmes requested Consideration of Board Action to Cancel, Remove and Set-aside APN: 149-010-020-000 2021 Tax Sale Lien (\$224.43) and 2022 Assessment (\$157.25). My motion of Director Martin, seconded by Director Rogers, and unanimously carried by all Directors present, the Assessor-Collection was granted permission to cancel APN: 149-010-020-000 2021 Tax Sale Lien and 2022 Assessment.

Engineering Report:

Update on Engineering Activities: Mr. Barroll provided an update on engineering activities highlighting several ongoing projects in the district that impacted District facilities. Mr. Barroll reported on the following four projects: 1) Land design Bardsley/West Development; 2) Monterey Estate/Lemos Pipeline Development; 3) Hillman/Martin Pipeline Subdivision; and 4) New Rutherford-Corvina Apartment Project.

Management Staff Report:

Sustainable Groundwater Management ACT (SGMA) Matters - Mr. Fukuda summarized recent activities concerning the Kaweah Subbasin. Mr. Fukuda reported that Governor Newsom on March 28, 2022 signed and issued Executive Order N-7-22 as a response to the ongoing drought conditions and climate change. Mr. Fukuda provided a summary of the elements required under the Executive Order.

Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MKGSA): Mr. Fukuda presented an update on the MKGSA. Mr. Fukuda updated and provided the Board with a draft MKGSA Emergency Ordinance report. The Emergency Ordinance to establish an extraction limitation for the MKGSA service area. The purpose of this Emergency Ordinance is to limit groundwater extractions in the Agency service area to ensure compliance with the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) adopted pursuant to the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

Mr. Fukuda highlighted that the public comment period closed on March 25, 2022 and that the Tulare ID counsel assigned to SGMA matters reviewed the Emergency Ordinance and provided comments and edits, which were accepted by the MKGSA General Counsel. Lastly, Mr. Fukuda noted that the MKGSA Board of Directors would be considering adopting the Emergency Ordinance later that afternoon.

Kaweah Subbasin GSP Modifications: Next, Mr. Fukuda reported on Kaweah Subbasin GSP Modifications reporting that the GSA's consultants and technical folks continue to meet weekly and decisions were being made incrementally.

Friant Matters: Mr. Fukuda provided the Board with an update on Friant Matters. Reporting on the following: (1) continued daily participation in statewide water operations; (2) FWA staff keeping all Friant Contractors updated on weekly Water Operations Calls; (3) Friant Kern Canal (FKC) Middle Reach Project was underway and construction of new canal is beginning soon with some added costs for R/W acquisition; (4) a new contract with Stantec was awarded to investigate full FKC capacity correction and costs; and (5) State funding agreement signed for approximately \$29 million.

McKay Point Reservoir/Seaborn Reservoir - Mr. Fukuda provided the Board with an update on the McKay Point Reservoir/Seaborn Reservoir Project. Mr. Fukuda began his report on the Seaborn Project by

indicating that Santa Fe Aggregates is completed the work required to establish reclamation and that upon completion the California Office of Mining and Reclamation would be notified for inspection.

Thereupon Mr. Fukuda reported on the McKay Point Reservoir indicating the there is continued work on the Environmental Impact Report by SESPE and the County of Tulare.

Legislation - Mr. Fukuda provided a report from Capitol Core requesting direction on funding for projects to support the implementation of SGMA.

General Manager Report:

General Manager, Mr. Fukuda reported he conducted an interview with the Weather Channel regarding the Okieville Recharge Basin and that the interview would air soon.

Next, Mr. Fukuda detailed the Collaborative Action Plan mentioning he is working through some comments on the Phase 1 Report and the plan is to meet in May to work through comments.

Then, Mr. Fukuda provided for Board review and comments a letter addressed to Senator Alex Padilla referencing Congressional Directed Spending Support for the San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Program (CAP). The Board was supportive of the letter.

Next, Mr. Fukuda gave a detailed report on his participation in the International Symposium on Managed Aquifer Recharge. Mr. Fukuda gave a presentation title "Striving for Sustainability in Uncertain Times".

Lastly, Mr. Fukuda in Coordination with the Almond Alliance of CA and Western United Dairies submitted a letter requesting funding for land fallowing to the Department of Water Resources.

Matters for Consideration of Board Action: This item was moved to the beginning of the meeting.

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.

Board members indicated that there were not reports to be given at that time.

President Bixler moved the meeting to Close 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, President Bixler reported that no action was taken in closed session.

There being no other items to come before the Board of Directors, the meeting was then adjourned to May 10, 2022.

  
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Secretary

  
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President