

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE TULARE IRRIGATION DISTRICT HELD
VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE ON THE
8th DAY OF MARCH, 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; Wayne Fox, O&M Superintendent; Marco Crenshaw, Watermaster; Jeremy Barroll, Assistant Engineer; Alex Peltzer, District Counsel, and Anthony Sousa, Intern. Also present via Zoom teleconference roll call were Don Wright, Water Wrights; Johnny Gailey, Delta View 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.

Mr. Fukuda commented the meeting would move into close session at the beginning of the board meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

Director Bixler then noted that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 15, 2022 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 February 15, 2022 were thereupon approved.

President Bixler 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 return to open session, President Bixler reported that no action was taken in closed session.

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 204 CFS, and the storage at Terminus Reservoir for the previous day was 41,460 AF. He then reported that the daily release from Terminus Reservoir was 3 CFS.

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

was 1,613 CFS and the entire storage at Millerton Lake was 274,208 AF. He reported that the total daily release from Millerton was 700 CFS.

Mr. Crenshaw reported differences in Kaweah River Snow March 1st data: Snow Course Measurement: 71%; Snow Sensor Measurements: 77%. Mr. Crenshaw also reported TID April-July Kaweah Runoff Projection: 54%; and San Joaquin River Runoff Projection: 73%.

Mr. Crenshaw then discussed upcoming weather patterns and presented charts of snowpack data for the Kaweah and San Joaquin watersheds. Mr. Crenshaw reported that the snowfall to date in the Kaweah Watershed was at 80% of the March 7th average and 75% of the April 1st average. Mr. Crenshaw reported San Joaquin River Sensors, Snow Content 69% of March 7th average, and 67% of April 1st average.

Mr. Crenshaw presented for discussion the Average SST Anomalies, December 13, 2020 - March 5, 2022.

Water Supply Outlook - Mr. Crenshaw continued with his report by indicating that the district's current water supply stood at 2,975 AF. The January 2022 to February 2022 cumulated diversions to TID was 19,646 AF. CVP Supply 2022 Contract totaled: 0.00 AF.

Mr. Crenshaw thereupon reported that the district diverted 735 AF in February. He indicated that 47% of the diversions were delivered to farm turnouts; 47% recharged in district basins; and 6% recharged in district canals.

Water Management Activities and Issues -

Mr. Fukuda gave an update on issues facing the district. He reported on California Reservoir Operations reporting the following: Friant Allocation: 15% Class 1 and 0% Class 2; Sacramento River: 0% to North of Delta, Health and Safety needs for M&I; American River and In-Delta: 25% of historical use; and South Delta: 0% Allocation, M&I 25% of historical use, and Exchange Contractors- Critical Year.

Mr. Fukuda thereupon reported on State-Wide issues reporting on the following: COA Debt: State Water Project (SWP) owes Central Valley Project (CVP) 300,000 AF; Still waiting for judgement on the Interim Operation Plan Highlighting Water Agencies are in opposition; Friant Water Authority (FWA) March Board meeting the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) will give an update on the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP); and Future Precipitation Forecast.

O&M Superintendent Report:

Mr. Fox thereupon reported on the maintenance activities undertaken during the past month in the delivery system and within the upstream diversion channels. He highlighted City Pump/Area 10/Area 18/Area 12 pipeline leaks, meter repairs, pipeline replacements, stockpiling material at Creamline Basin, safety hand-rail installations, and City of Tulare debris/weed removal.

Treasurer Reports:

Approval of Financial Statements - Ms. Artis presented the financial statements for February 2022 for the Board's review and consideration. She addressed first the revenue and expense statement, indicating that the total revenue for February 2022 was \$476,925, which was approximately 5.49% of the revised budget. She next presented the expenses, highlighting several items and reporting expenses from February totaling \$1,611,634, which was approximately 14.82% 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 \$8,338,122. Based on the Statement of Net Assets, Ms. Artis reported that Total Liabilities were at \$13,177,252, and the Total Equity in the District stood at \$32,585,967. She lastly cited investment return for the district's several holding accounts, those

being 1.130% with the Tulare County Pooled Investment Fund, 0.234% 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 Borges, seconded by Director Martin and unanimously carried by all Directors present, accepted the financial statements and, by said motion, check nos. 53690 through #53744 totaling \$947,125.96 were all either ratified or approved as paid, exclusive of any voided or withheld checks.

Ratification of Investment Strategy. Mr. Fukuda thereupon presented the Tulare Irrigation District Statement of Investment Strategy reporting no changes. Upon the motion of Director Borges, seconded by Director Thomas and unanimously carried by all Directors present, the Ratification of Investment Strategy was approved as presented.

Next, Mr. Fukuda gave the Board an update on Tulare ID Prop 218 process. Mr. Fukuda reported that the Ad Hoc Committee consisting of David Bixler and Dave Martin, met on March 7, 2022 to discuss various elements of the Prop 218 process. Mr. Fukuda explained that the Prop 218 process was a one vote per acre type of election. He highlighted the Prop 218 goal is to make sure the Capital Improvement Plan and any financing is stable in the future.

Mr. Fukuda explained in detail the differences in the property Ad Valorem assessment and a Benefit (Fee and Charge Rate) Assessment. Recommended Board consideration moving to Benefit Assessment and move from the Ad Valorem Assessment - Soil Classification valuation rate.

Mr. Fukuda addressed the need to hold two types of meetings: TID's Top 10 Growers (one-on-one) meeting with grower and division Board Member present; and TID 5 Divisions' (One division-at-a-time) with that Division Board member present. Mr. Fukuda reported Alex Peltzer (District attorney) and Matt Klinchuch of Provost & Pritchard will help guide the 218 Process.

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 six projects: 1) Self Help Enterprises Affordable Housing Project located at West and Olema; 2) Big Bardsley and West Project - Storm Drain; (3) New Monterey Estate Plan - Northside of Bardsley development; (4) Small Project - Covina Avenue and Hillman pipeline; (5) Tulare City multi-use commercial and residential development - Cartmill Crossings & Highway 99; and (6) Serpa Miot Ditch Pipeline.

Mr. Barroll updated and brought to the Board's attention that George Serpa overpaid in 2019 for 1,260 feet of 30" pipe purchased for the Miot Ditch pipeline and would be receiving a refund in the amount of \$8,495.36 from the District.

Management Staff Report:

Sustainable Groundwater Management ACT (SGMA) Matters - Mr. Fukuda summarized recent activities concerning the Kaweah Subbasin. Mr. Fukuda reported on the Department of Water Resources (DWR) 2022 SGMA Grant mentioning: 14 Projects with a total monetary need of \$15 Million; \$6.6 Million for SGMA projects such as groundwater recharge; MKGSA \$2 Million for City of Visalia's Cameron Creek Linear Project; MKGSA \$200,000 for Water Quality Study for shallow injections wells;

and \$1 Million for Planning.

Mr. Fukuda updated the Board of Kaweah Subbasin response to DWR Determination Letter mentioning the following: GSAs met to discuss the initial reaction and prepare for DWR Meeting; Met with DWR on February 25th; GSAs met after the DWR Meeting to start strategizing; Consultants have started to work on the issues; GSAs have agreed to have consultants (Montgomery & Associates and Provost & Pritchard) work together on the technical work. Mr. Fukuda mentioned consultants will have separate contracts with GSAs to modify the GSPs.

Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MKGSA): Mr. Fukuda presented an update on the MKGSA. Mr. Fukuda updated the Board on MKGSA Emergency Ordinance reporting the following: Newsletters have gone out; Workshops and Office Hours; Comment letter; Land IQ Evapotranspiration three Workshops: March 16th, 17th, and 25th; and Water Dashboard Workshops set for late April or early May.

McKay Point Reservoir/Seaborn Reservoir - Mr. Fukuda provided the Board with an update on the McKay Point Reservoir/Seaborn Reservoir Project. First reporting on Seaborn Reservoir mentioning the following: Meeting with Santa Fe Aggregates and Tulare County to review Reclamation Plan; Santa Fe Aggregates needs to finish site grading; California Division of Mine Reclamation; and discussing an extension of lease highlighting the lease expires on April 1st.

Then, Mr. Fukuda reported on McKay Point Reservoir. Mr. Fukuda reported the following: County continues to make good progress on their administrative review and consultant is making revisions based upon the review; Met with partners to discuss public availability of EIR; and will be developing a schedule for workshops and public meetings.

Mr. Fisher, TID's Water Resource Engineer, updated the Board on LandIQ Priorities for 2022 providing detailed information on the following Tasks: Task 1: ET Data Requests; Task 2: ET by Crop Type; and Task 3: ET by APN. Provided for discussion (Raw Data) July 2021 Evapotranspiration Acres.

Mr. Fisher commented he was not working alone. Anthony Souza and Juan Pantoja have both contributed to the project.

Mr. Fisher covered in detail: The Water Dashboard; ET by APN; Water Dashboard and future ET data requests; Provide sub-field ET trends on an APN (disking, cover crops, soil type changes, etc.); Compare volunteered pump records; 2022 Spring Survey; 2022 Field Crop Report; Parcel Fabric - a field application to digitize crop surveys in the future; and Integrated workflow into Water Dashboard - completion anticipated May 1st.

Then, Mr. Fisher reported DWR's Technical Support Services (TSS) offers Field Activities such as: Monitoring Well Installation; Geophysical Logging; Geologic Logging; Groundwater Level Monitoring Training; Borehole Video Logging; Other Field Activities; and Modeling/Mapping Training and Support.

Lastly, Mr. Fisher provided for discussion Installing DWR-funded doubled nested monitoring wells calendar: February 2022: Approval of amendment to move sites; March 2022 Site visit and approval of relocated sites; Summer 2022 CEQA documentation & permitting; and November 2022 Anticipated completion date.

Legislation - No report provided.

General Manager Report - Mr. Fukuda reported giving two presentations: 1) Presentation to ACWA Agricultural Committee on MKGSA SGMA Compliance; and 2) Presentation to California Department of Food and Agriculture both presenting TID's ongoing implementation plan to comply with SGMA.

Then, Mr. Fukuda reported attending the first California DWR Water Plan 2023 Advisory Committee meeting.

Mr. Fukuda presented for Board discussion Tulare Lake Alignment for a canal that is being proposed by the Water Blueprint. The alignment will feed State water from the Delta to the areas west of the District that do not have surface water.

Next, Mr. Fukuda gave a lengthy detailed report on the NRCS New Pilot Groundwater Recharge Program.

Matters for Consideration of Board Action:

Capitol Core 2022 Proposed Scope of Work - Mr. Fukuda recommends and presented Capitol Core 2022 Proposed Scope of Work. Thereupon Mr. Fukuda updated the Board on Capitol Core 2022 Scope of Work for 2022. Thereupon Mr. Fukuda mentioned budget concerns, funding, and a 6-month assignment. By motion of Director Borges, seconded by Director Martin, and unanimously carried by all Directors present, Capitol Core 2022 Proposed Scope of Work was approved for Project Assignment No. 3 as presented.

Consider and Adopt California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Okieville Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) - Mr. Fukuda and Mr. Fisher recommended and presented CEQA compliance paperwork for the Okieville IS/MND reporting no immediate issues. Thereupon Mr. Fisher presented for Board discussion: Response to Public Comments Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (State Clearinghouse Number 2022010547) Dated March 2022 prepared by Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group; Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Comment and Recommendation letter dated February 28, 2022; San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Comment and Recommendation letter dated February 28, 2022; and Notice of Determination. By motion of Director Martin, seconded by Director Thomas, and unanimously carried by all Directors present, the CEQA for Okieville IS/MND Notice of Determination was approved as presented.

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.

Director Martin reported attending the Kaweah & St. Johns River Association (KSJRA) Board meeting and Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association (KBWQA) Board meeting on March 3, 2022.

Director Borges reported attending the KSJRA Board meeting and KBWQA Board remotely on March 3, 2022.

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 April 19, 2022.



Secretary

David G. Senter
President