

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD SEPTEMBER 12, 2007**

Fresno Irrigation District's Board of Directors met in regular session at the District office located at 2907 South Maple Avenue – Fresno, California on September 12, 2007. Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Board President Jeff Boswell.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

President Jeff Boswell
Vice President Jeff Neely
Eddie Niederfrank
Steven Balls
Tom Steffen

DIRECTORS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

General Manager Gary Serrato
Assistant General Manager Laurence Kimura
Watermaster Jim Irwin
Chief Engineer Bill Stretch
HR Director Regina Davis
Controller DeAnn Hailey
Recording Secretary Lynn B. Rowe
Adriana Munoz
Deborah Nelmes

OTHERS PRESENT

Legal Counsel Dan Dooley
Independent Reporter Don Wright

REVIEW AGENDA

No changes

REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Directors Boswell and Balls will not be attending the next board meeting

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

None

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

(Any Board Member who has a potential conflict of interest may now identify the item and recuse themselves from discussing and voting on the matter.) [FPPC §87105]

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CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. **Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes – August 22, 2007**
- b. **August 2007 Check Register**
- c. **August 2007 Special Check Register**
- d. **August 2007 Payroll Register**
- e. **August 2007 Attorney Fees**
- f. **August 2007 Consultant Fees**
- g. **August 2007 Assessment Collections Report**
- h. **Standard Developer Project – Northside Christian Church will pipeline the Maupin Canal #118 located S/W Nees and Willow Avenues in accordance with Board Policy. Action Request 2007-25**

M/S/C/(Neely/Balls) That Board of Directors approve the Consent Calendar by an unanimous vote. (Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

380: WATER REPORT

- a. **Current Water Conditions**

Watermaster Jim Irwin reviewed the current and projected water supply. As of September 11, Pine Flat release was 292 cfs and storage was 186,969. The Clovis Surface Water Treatment Plant shut down temporarily for a copper treatment of the Enterprise system.

CHIEF ENGINEER'S REPORT

Chief Engineer Bill Stretch reported on the following items:

- a. **Developer and Agency Project Schedule for 2007/08 Update**

Developer Projects – Staff has processed five to six developer projects within the last two weeks including one today for the Gow Canal. Staff anticipates several new projects to start within the next few weeks.

Agency Projects – FID is currently processing approximately ten Agency projects for the 2007-08 Maintenance Season. The current Caltrans 180 project impacts the Mortensen Pipeline.

- b. **Running Horse Development and Kearney Basin Project Update**

The latest offer to purchase the bankrupt project for \$30 million was pulled last week. The judge gave the current owner until September 27 to come up with a new offer. Any new issues will be discussed during Closed Session.

- c. **Three-Year Maintenance Facility Upgrade Project for 2007/08**

Mr. Stretch gave the Board an update on the Maintenance and Facility Upgrade Plan (MFUP). Crews have started one major brushing project, weir retrofits, lining repair and replacement,

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along with several other structure modifications throughout the District. The EOC Contract has been approved and signed. The EOC crew will be working on the Dry Creek Canal along with the District's brushing crew.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT

Assistant Manager Laurence Kimura reported on the following:

a. Nielsen Site Rubble Pile Update

The project continues to slowly progress. The crusher is in place and operating. There is still a significant amount of work to be done.

b. Waldron Banking Project Update

The contract with Steve Dovali Construction for the well equipping work continues. The electrical subcontractors proposed another set of submittals which is being reviewed by the electrical engineer. Arthur & Orum finished constructing the first well but has not initiated work on the second well. The first well has been developed and is being tested. Staff is encouraging the contractor to proceed with the balance of the work as quickly as possible.

c. District Office Plan

S.I.M. Architects provided a revised office floor plan and District department heads are currently reviewing the revised layout. The architects have submitted several options for the exterior of the building, which are being reviewed.

d. General Maintenance and Equipment Update

The majority of the field staff is now in the maintenance season. Several projects are dealing with the three-year plan. Heavy equipment operators are working on rebuilding canal banks on the Houghton Canal. Equipment operators are busy assisting maintenance crews with construction projects. Silt is being removed from the Lower Dry Creek Canal near Marks Avenue.

MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Gary Serrato reported on the following:

KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION

Not much activity taking place on the Kings River; districts are meeting their Exhibit "C" flows. King River Water District is the last to be diverting water with completion expected by the end of October. The meeting scheduled with Timothy Quinn, ACWA's newly appointed CEO, had to be cancelled due to his staying in Sacramento for additional meetings concerning the water bond.

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FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY / FRIANT WATER USERS AUTHORITY

A subcommittee meeting was held to review the legal fees of Dooley Herr & Peltzer for work associated with the NRDC v. Rodgers settlement. The committee agreed to review the fees and requested the FWUA (Friant Water Users Authority) to begin paying for attorney's fees when representing Friant in settlement negotiations. The FWUA dues formula will be utilized to assess all districts.

San Joaquin River Restoration Program

Mr. Serrato attended a "Public Scoping Meeting" last week regarding the San Joaquin River Restoration Program. Agencies involved in the program are the Bureau of Reclamation, National Defense Council, Friant Water Users Authority, and the Department of Water Resources. The meeting was used to gather public comments.

OTHER ISSUES

Running Horse

Mr. Serrato and Staff met with representatives from the City of Fresno to discuss the District's issues and agreements associated with the Running Horse Development.

Discussion with the Cities of Clovis and Fresno

Mr. Serrato informed the Board that the final draft of the agreement for the second groundwater banking facility is almost complete.

Mr. Serrato met with Rene Rameriz with the City of Fresno regarding the Conveyance Agreement which may need to be renegotiated if the Public Utilities Department becomes a Special District. During the meeting, Mr. Serrato expressed that the District feels the Conveyance Agreement is acceptable as is and would like it to remain in tact.

Meeting with Council Member Blong Xiong

Mr. Serrato met with Council Member Blong Xiong to discuss local water issues and explained the District's position on bankside trails.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a. Equipment Committee Meeting Recommendations

Prior to tonight's Board Meeting, Staff met with the equipment committee and reviewed the submitted bids: two-one tone crew cabs (Swanson Fahrney Ford) \$55,264.50; two 33,000 GVWR cab and chassis (Pape' Trucks) \$117,433.61; and 38,000 lbs. crawler/dozer with rippers (Shanahan) \$218,113.94. The crawler is eligible for a \$193,141 grant.

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M/S/C/(Niederfrank/Neely) That Board of Directors approve the purchase of the outlined equipment and directed Staff to use any and all grant funding available in the purchase of equipment by an unanimous vote. (Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain Boswell)

b. ACWA Fall Conference – Indian Wells, November 27-30, 2007

Mr. Serrato requested authorization for senior Staff and Directors to attend the 2007 Fall ACWA Conference.

M/S/C/(Neely/Balls) That Board of Directors approve the over night stay in Indian Wells, CA for Directors Niederfrank and Steffen, and the General and Assistant Managers by an unanimous vote. (Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

c. Approval of overnight stay for Chief Engineer Bill Stretch to attend the USCID’s Conference in Sacramento, CA with a theme of “Role of Irrigation and Drainage in a Sustainable Future”

Staff is requesting authorization for Mr. Bill Stretch to attend the USCID conference to be held in Sacramento, CA on October 3-6, 2007.

M/S/C/(Neely/Niederfrank) That Board of Directors approve the stay of Mr. Stretch and any board member who wishes to attend the USCID conference to be held in Sacramento, CA by an unanimous vote. (Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

DIRECTORS’ REPORT

Director Steffen – was approached by a constituent on squirrel bait used along the canals being safe for other wildlife such as doves and hawks.

Director Niederfrank – inquired on the handling of the November 2008 election for Division 4.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board went into Closed Session at 6:17 pm.

Conference with Legal Counsel–Anticipated Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(b)). Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (G.C. §54956.9. Significant Exposure to Litigation pursuant to subdivision (b)): Waldron Banking Facility.

Natural Resource Defense Council vs. Rodgers (Government Code Section 54956.9). To conferred with counsel on pending litigation.

Conference with Legal Counsel–Anticipated Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(b)). Conference with Legal Counsel on potential litigation. Significant Exposure to Litigation pursuant to subdivision (b)): Van Volkinburg.

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REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session adjourned at 6:50 p.m. with President Boswell stating the Board of Directors had nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT

President Boswell adjourned the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary R. Serrato
Board Secretary