

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD JANUARY 24, 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 January 24, 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

None

STAFF PRESENT

General Manager/Secretary of the Board Gary R. Serrato
Assistant General Manager Laurence Kimura
Watermaster Jim Irwin
Chief Engineer Bill Stretch
Human Resource Director Regina Davis
Controller DeAnn Hailey
Recording Secretary Lynn B. Rowe

OTHERS PRESENT

Legal Counsel Dan Dooley
Granville Homes Representative Christine Lingenfelter
Granville Homes Representative Jeff Roberts
Independent Reporter Don Wright

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Granville Homes made a presentation of a mixed-use project they are developing including a one-mile lake feature. The project is located in Shields/Grantland area. As the project progresses, Granville will update the District's Board.

SWEARING IN OF NEW DIRECTOR

General Manager Gary Serrato, Secretary of the Board, administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Tom Steffen. Mr. Steffen was appointed to the Board on January 16th, to fill a two-year term for Division 4.

ADOPTION AND PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION 2007-05

The Board adopted Resolution 2007-05 to honor Mr. Jacob Andresen for his many years of selfless service.

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M/S/C/(Niederfrank/Balls) That Board of Directors approve the adoption of Resolution 2007-05 by a roll call vote. (Ayes Neely, Balls, Boswell, Steffen, Niederfrank, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

Staff was given direction to pursue the possibility of a luncheon honoring Jacob C. Andresen in the near future.

REVIEW AGENDA

President Boswell announced the Board committee assignments.

REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Staff has requested a meeting with the Building and Grounds Committee to review the future of the main office building. Calendars will be reviewed and a meeting will be set up for the near future.

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]

None stated

CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. **Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes – January 10, 2007**
- b. **Approval of Special Meeting Minutes – January 10, 2007**
- c. **Approval of Special Meeting Minutes – January 16, 2007**

M/S/C/(Balls/Niederfrank) That Board of Directors approve the Consent Calendar by 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 January 23rd, Pine Flat release was 292 cfs. Mr. Irwin reported that the Fig run was started today. CID is diverting the remainder of the “D” Flows. Snow sensors currently are showing that we are 21.9% of April 1st average. Kings River will conduct a snow survey tomorrow.

CHIEF ENGINEER’S REPORT

Chief Engineer Bill Stretch reported on the following items:

- a. **Developer and Agency Project Schedule for 2006/07 – Brief update of on-going projects**

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Developer Projects – FID is currently processing 30 Developer pipeline projects for the 2006-07 maintenance season. There is one project in progress with 13 being completed since April 1, 2006. The one on-going project impacts the following canal: Victoria Colony Canal located southeast of Shields and Valentine.

Agency Projects – FID is currently processing ten Agency bridge/pipeline projects for the 2006-07 maintenance season. Currently there are no Agency projects in progress with eight being completed since April 1, 2006.

b. Running Horse Development & Kearney Basin Project Update

The proposed basin is approximately 58% complete (west cell or FID's side is 90% complete and the east cell or FMFCD's side is 25% complete). The escrow was expected to have closed on December 8th however; it is more likely not to close until the end of January.

c. Award Contract – Pumps and Motors Contract 184-1284-G as part of the Waldron Banking Facility Project. Action Request 2007-01

In December of 2006, the District went out for bid on pumps and motors for the three Waldron sites. Engineers from Provost & Pritchard estimated the project to cost just over \$420,000. Four bids were received with the low bid coming from Steve Dovali Construction. Staff recommends the award of the contract to the low bidder for an estimated cost of \$516,000, including additional bid items.

M/S/C/(Balls/Niederfrank) That Board of Directors approve the adoption of awarding contract 184-1284-G in the amount of \$516,000 to Steve Dovali Construction by an unanimous vote. (Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

d. Capital Project – Construct Regulating Structure and Telemetry on the Herndon Canal #39 at the Gould Extension #151 Spill. Action Request 2007-02

Staff is proposing that FID apply for a grant administered by the United States Bureau of Reclamation known as the Water Conservation Field Service Grant Program. Through the grant program, USBR provides cost-shared funding on a competitive basis for projects that will promote the preparation of written water management/conservation plans, demonstrate new or previously unknown water management technologies and practices. Staff is proposing the grant be applied to the Herndon Canal Regulating Structure located just downstream of the Gould Extension Canal spill. The estimated cost is \$175,000. USBR's share of any one proposed project may be up to 50% of the total project cost and their contribution will range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. Staff recommends that the Board approves this project and that the President, Chief Engineer and Secretary be authorized to sign and accept all agreements, documents and maps pertaining to this project. Staff recommends that all expenditures come from the Construction Fund and that all grant monies be deposited/reimbursed to the same fund.

M/S/C/(Niederfrank/Neely) That Board of Directors approve the project as presented by Staff and to proceed with the application of a grant administered by the United States Bureau of Reclamation for the Herndon Canal Regulating Structure with the money to

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come from the Construction Fund then reimbursed with the grant funds by an unanimous vote. (Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

- e. Grant Application – Approve Preparation of Application for the USBR Water Conservation Field Grant for Herndon Canal Regulating Structure at Gould Extension Spill. Resolution 2007-04**

As required by the United States Bureau of Reclamation, Staff requested that the Board approve Resolution 2007-04 for proceeding with the application process from the Water Conservation Field Service Program.

M/S/C/(Balls/Neely) That Board of Directors approve the adoption of Resolution 2007-04 by a roll call vote. (Ayes Neely, Balls, Boswell, Steffen, Niederfrank, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

ASSISTANT MANAGER’S REPORT

Assistant Manager Laurence Kimura reported on the following:

- a. Nielsen Site Rubble Pile Update**

There has been no significant change in Mr. Erickson’s operation. They continue to sort and crush the materials found in the pile. It also appears that some material with aggregate is being brought onto the site. Progress at the site has been slow, but steady.

- b. Waldron Banking Project Update**

Dawson-Mauldin continues to be busy with the construction work under the structures contract. The majority of the work at the Waldron site has been completed. The installation of conduit has been completed and wires have been pulled. The contractor is currently making the electrical connections to the gate actuators.

There has been no significant change in the financial status of the project since the last meeting.

Staff requested authorization to draw up to \$2 million on the line of credit over the next year to cover the time period of when expenses occur and when they are reimbursed from the Department of Water Resources. As reimbursements are received from the Department of Water Resources, the line of credit will be bought down.

M/S/C/(Neely/Balls) That Board of Directors approve the drawing on the line of credit as needed by unanimous vote. (Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

- c. General Maintenance and Equipment Update**

Maintenance personnel have been busy with winter maintenance projects. Heavy equipment operators are working on the Mill and Dry Creek systems along with work at the Waldron-

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Lambrecht site. The Maintenance Report was presented covering November 16, 2006 through January 15, 2007.

MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Gary Serrato reported on the following:

KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION

Kings River Fishery Management Program (Implementation Agreement)

The final Implementation Agreement has been distributed to all KRWA members for adoption and signatures. Only Clarks Fork is left to sign the Agreement. They are expected to sign the document at their meeting tonight.

Fish and Game Meeting

To date, there has been \$1.5 million dollars spent on the Fisheries Management Program/Habitat Restoration which includes development of gravel spawning beds, boulder placement and channel ripping. Participants in the program are the California Fish & Game, KRWA and KRCD.

FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY / FRIANT WATER USERS AUTHORITY

Senator Feinstein and Congressman Radanovich are working to get S27 and HR24 through to provide the funding needed for the San Joaquin River restoration. Staff continues to track their progress. Discussions still continue on the actual costs of the restoration.

OTHER ISSUES

Mid Pacific Water Users Conference

Mr. Serrato attended the Conference held last week in Visalia, CA. The panel discussion on the San Joaquin River restoration was of most interest.

DWR Proposition 2025 Grant Presentation

The Department of Water Resources will be presenting the District with a \$300,000 check on February 21, 2007 at 9 am. The grant will be used to replace an old flume structure on the Enterprise Canal. Commissioner Robert Johnson will be present.

State Water Rights Fees

A court ruling came out on the State Water Rights Fees. The court found that the fees were not illegal themselves but the way they were being imposed were.

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City of Fresno Meeting

Assistant Manager Laurence Kimura, Chief Engineer Bill Stretch and General Manager Gary Serrato met with the City of Fresno's Staff and Consultants to discuss the draft of the City of Fresno Water Management Plan. The Plan has very good technical information contained in it, yet there is no mention of the 1976 Conveyance Agreement that the City of Fresno has with the Fresno Irrigation District.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Serrato attended a one-day seminar in Sacramento last week and met with several Senators and Assembly Members.

Mr. Kimura attended a Dry Creek Water Association meeting last week. Its sole purpose was to explain to the local residences the CSA (County Special Association) progress.

The 3rd Annual Farm Bureau Water Conference will be held in Madera on February 9th if any of the Board is interested in attending. Mr. Serrato plans on attending.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a. **Revised Policy 508**

Staff is requesting from the Board approval on updating the Audit & Issuance of Checks policy. After a brief discussion the revised policy was adopted.

M/S/C/(Balls/Niederfrank) That Board of Directors approve the revised policy by unanimous vote. (Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

b. **Approval of Overnight Stay for Controller at Government Finance Annual Conference**

Controller DeAnn Hailey is requesting to attend a Government Finance Officers Association Conference in Anaheim during June 10-13, 2007.

M/S/C/(Niederfrank/Neely) That Board of Directors approve Controller DeAnn Hailey attending the finance conference in Anaheim by an unanimous vote. (Ayes Neely, Balls, Boswell, Andresen, Niederfrank, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Director Neely – attended the Mid-Pacific Water Users Conference. He found the conference to have more administrative matter seminars than in the past.

Director Niederfrank – informed the Board that a natural gas line is being installed near Bier Pond at Sumner/Blythe by PG & E. Director Niederfrank inquired about updating the WSO's

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work schedule. Mr. Serrato informed the Board that the Watermaster has been working on updating the current work schedule that occurs during water season. Additional meetings will be scheduled before reporting back to the Board.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no Closed Session discussion that took place. Mr. Dooley gave an update to the Board on the San Joaquin River restoration.

Conference with Legal Counsel–Anticipated Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(b)). The Board met in closed session to confer with counsel on potential litigation arising out of the District’s handling of 39 Certificates of Sale resulting from delinquent charges and assessments. On advice of counsel, the Board has concluded that, based on existing facts and circumstances, there is significant exposure to litigation against the District.

National Resource Defense Council vs. Rodgers (Government Code Section 54956.9). The Board conferred with counsel on pending litigation.

Government Code Section 54957. Personnel Matters.

REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

President Boswell adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary R. Serrato
Board Secretary