

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
HELD JANUARY 30, 2008**

Fresno Irrigation District's Board of Directors met in special session at the District office located at 2907 South Maple Avenue – Fresno, California on January 30, 2008. 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 Gary Serrato  
Watermaster Jim Irwin  
Chief Engineer Bill Stretch  
Human Resources Director Regina Davis  
Controller DeAnn Hailey  
Recording Secretary Lynn B. Rowe

**OTHERS PRESENT**

None

**REVIEW AGENDA**

Mr. Boswell requested the removal of item 4 d. from the Consent Calendar due to a conflict of interest.

**M/S/C/(Balls/Neely)** That Board of Directors approve the removal of item 4 d. from the Consent Calendar for discussion during the Chief Engineer's Report by unanimous vote. (Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

**REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

General Manager notified the Board that all requirements to modify the regular meetings of the District have been met and the Posting of Public Notice has been completed – this item is listed on the Agenda as item 9 b. The regular meetings of the District will now be held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATION**

None

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**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]**

Director Niederfrank noticed the Board of a conflict of interest with independent contractor Van Erickson Construction

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- a. **Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2008**
- b. **December 2007 Investment Account**
- c. **December 2007 COP Investment Account**

**M/S/C/(Neely/Balls)** 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 29, Pine Flat release was 58 cfs and storage was 265,647 acre feet. Snow pillow readings were delayed due to weather conditions. KRWA will resume surveying as soon as conditions permit.

Mr. Irwin presented two forecasts of 80% and 100% runoff. These projections are based on normal spring temperatures and runoffs.

**CHIEF ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Chief Engineer reported on the following items:

**Consent Calendar item 4 d.:**

- d. **Standard Developer Project – Charest will Pipeline the Gow Canal #99 located S/W Shields and Armstrong Avenues in Accordance with Board Policy. Action Request 2008-05**

This item was voted upon during the Chief Engineer's Report as it was removed from the Consent Calendar due to a conflict of interest for Director Boswell. Vice President Neely presided over the vote while President Boswell exited the Board Room while the vote took place.

**M/S/C/(Niederfrank/Balls)** That Board of Directors approve item 4 d. by the following vote. (Ayes Neely, Balls, Steffen, Niederfrank, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain Boswell)

President Boswell returned to resume his duties.

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

**Developer Projects** – Staff has processed 25 Developer pipeline projects for the 2007-08 Maintenance Season. Currently there is one project in progress. The one current project impacts the Central Canal located northeast of Church and Peach Avenues. Nine projects have been completed since April 1, 2007. Several additional projects are expected to start within the next few weeks. All projects are required to be completed by February 22 in preparation of a March 1 irrigation start date.

**Agency Projects** – FID is currently processing approximately ten Agency projects for the 2007-08 Maintenance Season with four projects being completed since April 2007. There is one project in progress which impacts the Mortenson Pipeline as part of the Caltrans 180 West project where several sections of the pipeline are being replaced near Valentine and Brawley Avenues. All projects are required to be completed by February 22 for the start of the irrigation season.

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

Mr. Stretch provided the Board an update on the Maintenance and Facility Upgrade Plan (MFUP). A slide presentation shows the progress of current projects.

The Board asked Staff to follow-up on a driveway issue involving an apartment complex owned by Sam Pallesi

**c. Approval of Common Use of Easements Agreement with the City of Fresno and the RDA for Landscaping Improvements along the Mill Canal #36 located S/W McKinley and Clovis Avenues. Action Request 2008-06**

Unknown to the District during the fall of 2007, the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Fresno (RDA) commenced with their airport beautification project along McKinley Avenue adjacent to the Mill Canal between Clovis and Peach Avenues. District Staff immediately called a halt to any further activity to the District's easement. Staff has met several times with the City of Fresno to review plans and different proposals within the District's current maintenance road which varies in width from 13 to 25 feet. The City is proposing planting some low bushes and plants no closer than 15 feet from the inside edge of the bank. Staff recommends that the District enter a Common Use of Easements Agreement with the City of this purpose. If both agencies can not agree to the language in the agreement, the District will not allow any improvements within the District's easement.

**M/S/C/(Neely/Balls)** That Board of Directors approve entering into a Common Use of Easement Agreement on the condition the agreement provides for the District's concerns and needs by unanimous vote. (Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

**ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT**

General Manager Gary Serrato and Chief Engineer Bill Stretch reported on the following for the absent Assistant Manager:

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**a. Nielsen Site Rubble Pile Update**

A lot of equipment is on site, with work continuing on a slow but steady basis.

**b. Waldron Banking Project Update**

The contract with Steve Dovali Construction for the well equipping work continues. Dovali Construction and their electrical subcontractor are essentially finished with the punch list items except for the lighting work that will not occur until the parts are received and installed later this month.

Arthur & Orum well drilling work is almost complete. The last well was developed and tested and found a significant amount of sand was being pumped. Provost & Pritchard Engineering is working with Ken Schmidt to resolve the sand problem.

**c. District Office Plan**

Staff is currently working with SIM Architects on finalizing the site plan and storage buildings. Documents are being prepared for the submittal of the site plan. Staff is also working with Anderson-Clayton Corporation for the purchase of a strip of land to the south of the proposed office site.

**d. General Maintenance and Equipment Update**

Maintenance personnel are busy performing maintenance and assisting on project. The trash truck is proceeding along Herndon. The Maintenance Report for December 16, 2007 through January 25, 2008 was passed out.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

General Manager Gary Serrato reported on the following:

**KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION**

**Upper Kings River Water Forum**

The District's project was chosen to be included in the application for funding under the second round of Proposition 50. Alta Irrigation District project was also selected for consideration. It is the District's belief that the selection process by the Steering Committee for the grant funding was not handled in a professional or impartial way. During the presentation to the Steering Committee it was very clear that Alta's project was not ready for submittal. Even after several extensions, Alta was not able to provide a completed proposal. This District feels this lack of preparation may have a negative effect on the overall application and hurt the District's chances of future funds. A letter will be mailed to the appropriate parties stating the District's concerns and displeasure at how this process was handled.

**Fishery Management Program**

Fish tagging and boulder placement are being performed at this time.

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**KRWA Annual Dinner**

The KRWA annual dinner will be held on March 21 in Riverdale. The North Fork Units will be hosting this year's event.

**FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY / FRIANT WATER USERS AUTHORITY**

Nominations were taken for the Board of Directors of both the FWUA and the FWA. Kole Upton has removed his name from the nominations as president.

**OTHER ISSUES**

**Groundwater Banking Facility / City of Clovis**

District Staff and legal counsel and City of Clovis Staff and their attorney are continuing to work on an agreement. Parties are still far apart on several issues.

**Fencing**

Mr. Serrato met with Mr. Zuniga and Mr. Castro to discuss fencing of the canal across from Manchester Mall (Blackstone and Shields). Mr. Serrato suggested a meeting with the Fresno City Council (Councilman Henry T. Perea) as the city may have some funding available.

**California Water Supply Crisis Workshop**

Mr. Serrato will be attending this workshop at the Fresno Convention Center on February 1. Any Director interested in attending this workshop should see Staff for details.

**LAFCo**

A public notice has been posted announcing a public hearing on the adoption of a Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update for County Service Area No. 35. The meeting will take place on February 6, 2008, at 1:30 pm.

The District joined the Valley Ag Water Coalition group last year. KRWA is now considering joining as a group. Although this is a very worthwhile organization, if KRWA does decide to join, the District will not join as an individual but participate as part of the KRWA group.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The meeting went into Closed Session at 6:37 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))

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

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**Government Code Section 54956.8 Real Property Transactions.**

Negotiators: Laurence Kimura and Queensland Cotton/Anderson Clayton Corp.

Properties: Portion of APN 487-042-19S (.2 acres)

Terms and Conditions: Update

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:05 pm following a short recess and covered the following items:

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**a. Resolution 2008-04 County Sale of Tax Defaulted Properties**

Staff reviewed the process that the county takes regarding tax defaulted properties. A list was attached to the Resolution indicating the properties in question.

**M/S/C/(Neely/Balls)** That Board of Directors approve Resolution 2008-04 as presented by Staff by roll call vote. (Ayes Neely, Balls, Boswell, Steffen, Niederfrank Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

**b. Proof of Publication of Public Notice for Change of Dates of Board Meeting**

This item was discussed during the Future Meeting portion of the meeting. Staff presented the Public Notice that was placed in the Fresno Bee on January 16 and 23, 2008, as instructed by Water Code Section 21378 and thereby officially moving the regular Board Meetings of the Fresno Irrigation District to the second and fourth Wednesday of each month starting at 5 p.m. commencing with the February 2008 meeting.

**c. Tyler Technologies Software Update**

Controller DeAnn Hailey updated the Board on the progress of the new accounting software. Overall, the conversion and training it is going very well.

**d. Damage Claim – Farmers Insurance**

Staff recommends that the Board deny the claim and refer the matter to JPIA.

**M/S/C/(Niederfrank/Neely)** That Board of Directors approve sending the claim to JPIA by unanimous vote. (Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

**e. Approval of Employee Handbook**

In order for the District to receive discounts on premiums for the workers' compensation program, the Board of Directors must approve the company's handbook.

**M/S/C/(Niederfrank/Neely)** That Board of Directors approve the Employees Handbook as presented by Staff by unanimous vote. (Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

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- f. **Approval of Overnight Stay for Engineers Felix Vaquilar and Jen Williams to Attend a Training Seminar on March 12-14 for Pumps I and II at the Irrigation Training and Research Center in San Luis Obispo, CA. Action Request 2008-04**

Staff recommends the Board approve the overnight stay for three days of training for two engineers.

M/S/C/(Steffen/Balls) That Board of Directors approve the overnight stay of two engineers by unanimous vote. (Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

- g. **Approval of Overnight Stay for GIS Specialist/Surveyor Oscar Carreon to Attend a Training Seminar on February 19-20 for SCADA I at the Irrigation Training and Research Center in San Luis Obispo, CA Action Request 2008-03**

Staff recommends the Board approve the overnight stay of the District's GIS Specialist/Surveyor to attend a two-day training course in San Luis Obispo.

M/S/C/(Steffen/Balls) That Board of Directors approve the overnight stay of GIS Specialist/Surveyor by unanimous vote. (Ayes 5, Nays 0, Absent 0, Abstain 0)

**DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**Director Neely** – attended the Mid Pacific Water Users Conference. He found the conference to be very informative and relayed many facts he learned regarding the California levee systems and the invasion of the Zebra mussels into the California waterways and lakes.

**Director Steffen** – also attended the Mid Pacific Water Conference and agreed with Director Neely about the quality of the conference. Directors Neely and Steffen had an opportunity to tour the district including the Waldron Banking Facility and the Easton area. He found the tour to be quite educational.

**REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION**

President Boswell stated there was nothing new to report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Boswell adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary R. Serrato  
Board Secretary