

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
HELD AUGUST 13, 2008**

Fresno Irrigation District's Board of Directors met in regular session at the District office located at 2907 South Maple Avenue – Fresno, California on August 13, 2008. Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Board President Jeff Boswell.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

President Jeff Boswell  
Vice President Jeff Neely  
Steven Balls  
Tom Steffen

**DIRECTORS ABSENT**

Division 3 Director Position Vacant

**STAFF PRESENT**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT**

District's Legal Representative Gary Sawyers (via conference call)  
Chowchilla Water District Board Representative Kole Upton

**REVIEW AGENDA**

Mr. Kole Upton will address the Board regarding a new committee/organization being developed.

**REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Due to a conflict in schedules, the Special Meeting arranged for August 20, has been rescheduled to August 18, 2008, at 5 p.m.

**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 Board Meeting Minutes – July 23, 2008**
- b. **July 2008 Check Register**
- c. **July 2008 Payroll Registers**
- d. **July 2008 Unpaid Assessment Report**

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**e. July 2008 Unpaid ISIP Assessment Report**

M/S/C/(Steffen/Balls) That Board of Directors approve the Consent Calendar by the following vote. (Ayes 4, Nays 0, Absent Division 3 Seat, Abstain 0)

**380: WATER REPORT**

Watermaster Jim Irwin reviewed the current and projected water supply. As of August 12, 2008, Pine Flat release was 1,799 cfs and storage was 149,107 acre-feet. Class II water finished at the end of July.

Alta Irrigation District completed their water season on August 12. Water deliveries are taking place on the Silvia Ditch for the months of August and September.

**a. Possible Extension of Eastside Delivery**

The KRWA Watermaster has reported the most recent routing indicates that the Temperature Control Pool will remain above 120,000 acre-feet with the additional water entitlement received by recent storms. Staff recommends continuing with deliveries on the east side to the end of the month.

M/S/C/(Neely/Balls) That Board of Directors approve the running of water on the east side until the end of the month by the following vote. (Ayes 4, Nays 0, Absent Division 3 Seat, Abstain 0)

Mr. Serrato commended Jim Irwin on the excellent job he performed during a recent situation that took place on the Fancher Creek Canal.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATION**

Mr. Kole Upton, board member of the Chowchilla Water District, address the Board regarding the developing of a new committee that would better serve the needs of the northern Friant Units.

**CHIEF ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Chief Engineer reported on the following items:

**a. Developer and Agency Project Schedule for 2008/09 Update**

**Developer Projects** – Staff is processing approximately 15 Developer Pipeline projects for the 2008/09 Maintenance Season. One project along the Tracy Canal, located southwest of Clinton and Blythe Avenues, is in progress. Several more projects will start within the next couple of weeks including the Grantland Avenue Bridge replacement.

**Agency Projects** – Staff is processing approximately ten Agency projects for the 2008/09 maintenance season. Several projects will start within the next couple of weeks.

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

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Most of the Water Department is moving over to the Maintenance Department with August 11 as the official start of Maintenance Season. Numerous projects are ready to commence once the canals have been de-watered.

**c. Informational Items:**

**i. DWR Grant Update – Successful in Obtaining Funds for AB 303. Item 2008-43**

In December of 2007, Fresno Irrigation District submitted an application for a grant administered by the Department of Water Resources. FID was awarded \$250,000 from the AB 303 grant. Staff is recommending the grant be applied to measurement improvements at FID ponds, including SCADA and automation improvements.

**ii. USBR Grant Update – Did not get for System Optimization. Item 2008-41**

Unfortunately the District was unsuccessful in obtaining this grant. The USBR awarded only ten projects in the western United States for a total of \$1.8 million (\$3 million was originally planned). District Staff is to meet with USBR staff members for a debriefing to see if it would be worthwhile to resubmit the application at a later date.

**iii. Review FID Pipeline Statistics. Item 2008-44**

**iv. Review List of Prior FID Pipeline Projects with Landowners and FID Replacement Projects. Item 2008-45**

**v. Review List of Proposed Pipeline Projects. Item 2008-46**

Bill Stretch, Gary Serrato, and DeAnn Hailey presented to the Board a history of pipeline projects that the District has helped to finance over the years. Financing came from the sale of certificates (\$2.5 million) and an influx from the General Fund (\$2 million) to the Construction Fund which was created in 1983. Staff explained that the District currently has no funds to assist with any new projects. Staff is also concerned about any new priorities that may arise because of the age of some of the pipes. Should an emergency occur, there may not be funds available to address the problem. Director Neely would like to see a “point” scale to determine the priority of a project. President Boswell suggested the possibility of retiring the “construction fund” and replace it with a “replacement fund”.

**M/S/C/(Neely/Balls)** That Board of Directors directs Staff to come back with a proposed replacement policy, rating system, and budget line item and a method to deal with the construction fund and close down the ISIP with all District participation on hold until the new policy has been created by the following vote. (Ayes 4, Nays 0, Absent Division 3 Seat, Abstain 0)

**vi. Review Revised Pipeline Estimate (42-inch) for Eddie Niederfrank on the Central Waste Canal #33 Located Northeast of American and Blythe Avenues. Item 2008-47**

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Staff recommends 42-inch pipe for this project. There is a concern about going from a 36-inch pipe to a 42-inch pipe, back to a 36-inch pipe. Staff recommends RGRCP where as, due to the cost factor, the landowner would like to put in cast-in-place. If the landowner decides to proceed with the project at his own expense and cast in place is used, the landowner would be responsible for all repairs and upkeep. At this time, the District considers this project to be a low priority.

President Boswell called for a brief recess at 6:44 p.m.

The meeting was called back to order by President Boswell at 7:17 p.m.

**ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT**

Assistant General Manager Laurence Kimura reported on the following:

**a. Nielsen Site Rubble Pile Update**

Work at the site continues. The lack of aggregate at the site is still hindering Mr. Erickson's progress. To date, no response from Mr. Erickson has been received regarding the letter sent to him notifying him of the extension and FID's expectations during the extension. More work still needs to be done. Within the last three weeks, electrical wire has been stolen twice from the pump located at the site.

**b. Waldron Banking Project Update**

The administrative work for closing the Arthur & Orum contract is almost complete. Punchlist items are being addressed. Provost & Pritchard is still working with PG&E on getting electrical power to the new pumps at the Waldron and Lambrecht sites.

**c. District Office Plan**

BMV Construction has submitted shop drawings and submittals. SIM Architects has been reviewing the submittals and working with District Staff on the responses. Staff is also working with SIM on the design of the new office and addressing the site plan comments from the County of Fresno. On the south side of the office property, the fencing has been moved, reflecting the new property boundary. An easement to the fire hydrant was created for Andersen-Clayton.

**d. General Maintenance and Equipment Update**

Personnel continues to transition over to maintenance from water. Heavy equipment operators are hauling dirt from Kearney Basin. Equipment operators have also been busy preparing the ground for the fencing along Kearney Basin. The spray trucks are finishing up on the main canals and working in the southern portion of the District while the tractor sprayer has been on the Wilson, Briggs, Goodrich, and Benefield systems. Miscellaneous structure, pipelines and gate repairs are being made on the Washington Colony and Little Houghton systems. Trash truck is working on the main canal systems throughout the system.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

General Manager Gary Serrato reported on the following:

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**KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION**

**Pumpers Committee**

Mr. Serrato was asked to serve on the Pumpers Committee. Kings River Water Association has done an excellent job of mapping all the pumps that are currently pumping water directly out of the Kings River. Mr. Serrato has made the Committee aware that expenditures that exceed monies in the Britz Fund are not assessed to the Upper River.

**Kings River Water 2008-2009 Assessment**

KRWA has sent out their second installment of the 2008-2009 KRWA assessment. The District's portion is \$81,700.96 and due by October 1, 2008. KRWA has also sent out their second assessment for the 2008-2009 Fishery Management Expense. The District's portion is \$5,034.02 and is also due October 1, 2008.

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

**Rank Island**

Work on Rank Island is scheduled to begin tomorrow. The work is estimated to take only one day. The Bureau of Reclamation has obtained all the necessary permits required to complete the repair.

**OTHER ISSUES**

**Water Bond Support**

A rally took place in Sacramento in support of a water bond. The last date to place an item on the ballot for the November election is Saturday, August 16.

**District Board Election and Appointment**

The deadline for the November election for Division 2 (Balls), Division 4 remainder of the four-year term (Steffen), and Division 5 (Boswell) has passed. Directors Balls and Boswell went unchallenged with Director Steffen running against one opponent.

Two applications for the Division 3 open position were requested with only one application being returned. Interview of the candidate will be held on August 18, at 5 p.m.

**Kings County Water District Groundwater Bank**

Staff has received telephone calls and letters expressing interest in partnering up with Fresno Irrigation District on a water banking projects. Kings County Water District banking agreement continues to be worked through.

**Proposition 50 Grant**

Staff met with the State Water Resources Control Board and Kings River Conservation District on August 1, 2008. The State would like to proceed with the agreement as soon as possible.

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**JPIA Representative**

While on the Board, Director Niederfrank was the representative to JPIA. Director Boswell stated that if any of the Board Members were interested in being the JPIA representative, they should let him know. A decision will be made after the new Director has been seated.

**Liability and Risk Assessment**

The District received a *Liability and Property Risk Assessment* letter from ACWA/JPIA stating three minor recommendations made during their inspection on July 16. The three recommendations are being addressed in a timely fashion.

**Meeting with Congressman Radanovich**

Mr. Serrato attended a lunch meeting hosted by Congressman Radanovich and Friant Water Authority to discuss ag and water issues in the central valley.

**Employee Meetings**

Management Staff has been holding small group meetings to update employees on current district issues.

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

- a. **July 2008 Investment Account**
- b. **July 2008 COP Investment Account**
- c. **June 2008 Fund Activity Summary**
- d. **June 2008 Fund Activity**
- e. **June 2008 Treasurer's Report**
- f. **June 2008 Cash on Hand**

Controller DeAnn Hailey reviewed each of the listed financial reports, including investments, revenues, and expenditures. Staff answered any questions presented by the Board.

**M/S/C/(Balls/Neely)** That Board of Directors approve the listed financial reports as reported by Staff by the following vote. (Ayes 4, Nays 0, Absent Division 3 Seat, Abstain 0)

- g. **Request for Overnight Stay for Controller to Attend Special District and Local Government Finance Seminar on September 4-5, 2008 at Dana Point, CA**

District Controller request to attend a finance seminar in southern California in September.

**M/S/C/(Steffen/Balls)** That Board of Directors approve the overnight stay by the following vote. (Ayes 4, Nays 0, Absent Division 3 Seat, Abstain 0)

- h. **Fresno County Fire Protection District Special Assessment Ballots**

Fresno County Fire Protection is proposing a new tax assessment. Staff will bring this back to the Board at the next meeting for more discussion.

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**DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**Director Steffen** – asked Staff what the penalty was for a water user who cuts a lock and chain. Normally the District will relock the gate, make the water user loose a turn, and write a letter to the offender explaining the situation.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The meeting went into Closed Session at 8:30 pm.

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

**Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(b)).**

The Board will meet in closed session to confer with Counsel on potential litigation arising out of claims by third parties to water rights on the Kings River.

**REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION**

President Boswell reported that there was not action to report during Closed Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Boswell adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary R. Serrato  
Board Secretary