

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD FEBRUARY 25, 2009**

Fresno Irrigation District's Board of Directors met in regular session at the District office located at 2907 South Maple Avenue – Fresno, California on February 25, 2009. 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
Ryan Jacobsen
George Porter

DIRECTORS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Landowner Mr. Tom Freitas
Landowner Mr. Jim Mattos

REVIEW AGENDA

No changes

REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS

None

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Mr. Mattos and Mr. Freitas were introduced to the Board of Directors. They indicated to the Board that they were attending to participate in the water report discussion.

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 – February 11, 2009**

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b. Approval of Special Board Meeting Minutes – February 18, 2009

M/S/C/(Balls/Jacobsen) 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 and snow pack information. As of February 24, Pine Flat release was 81 cfs and storage was 275,690 acre-feet. Pine Flat precipitation is 81.4% of normal. Staff prepared and presented two routings reflecting current water conditions. The routings indicates the ability for the District to hold off water deliveries until April 1 or April 15 without filling storage and meeting Temperature Control Pool requirements at the end of the season. Additional storms are expected during the next week. Snow surveys will again take place on or near March 1. After much discussion, it was decided that Staff will continue to monitor the weather conditions and develop additional routings in preparation for the next Board meeting.

b. Reclaim Water

Watermaster Jim Irwin reported that the maintenance work on the Houghton and Dry Creek Systems had been completed and requested to begin deliveries of reclaim water to growers on those respective systems. Historically in years when the District does not start water deliveries on March 1, reclaim water is offered to growers in those systems. Staff recommended to start reclaim water deliveries on or near March 1 at last year's price of \$85.00 per day for 4 cfs. The price incorporates District's costs associated with the delivery of such water.

M/S/C/(Porter/Neely) That Board of Directors approve the start of reclaim water on or near March 1, at \$85.00 per day for 4 cfs by unanimous vote. (Ayes 5; Nays 0; Absent 0; Abstain 0)

c. Annex Areas Water Supply

With the recent Bureau of Reclamation allocations of 25% Class I and 0% Class II, the FID will not be able to provide water to the Annexed Areas of Dog Creek, Round Mountain and Trimmer Springs Water Districts. The Annex Water Districts are only entitled to purchase Friant/Kern water when it is available. Staff will begin to search for any water that could be purchased from other sources that would be allowed to be delivered to the Annex Areas. Board directed Staff to investigate how much interest there is for the water and what this year's costs will be.

CHIEF ENGINEER'S REPORT

Chief Engineer Bill Stretch reported on the following items:

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

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Developer Projects – All projects have been completed.

Agency Projects – The Gunn Pipeline project at Ashlan and Temperance Avenues is expected to be finished within a week.

b. Three-Year Maintenance and Facility Upgrade Project for 2008/09

Mr. Stretch explained that the engineering department is in the planning stages with the City of Fresno on the Bullard Canal near Herndon and Valentine. Other items reviewed were: lining & rodent barriers, regulating structures, basins, brushing, flap gates, long crested weirs, and Langemann gates. (Complete list attached)

Staff gave a quick presentation to Mr. Freitas and Mr. Mattos showing improvements on the canal systems (especially the long crested weirs) which was made possible by the bond money.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT

Assistant General Manager Laurence Kimura reported on the following:

a. Nielsen Site Rubble Pile Update

Mr. Erickson has stopped bringing in new materials. There is quite a bit of processed material on the site. A letter was drafted and mailed to Mr. Erickson and a meeting has been scheduled.

b. Waldron Banking Project Update

The project has been completed and Staff is just waiting to hear from DWR on signing off on the final report.

c. District Office Plan

The two metal buildings are almost complete with only a few punch list items to finalize. The planning of the removal of the annex building is almost complete. Staff is working towards the completion of the plans for the main building.

d. General Maintenance and Equipment Update

Crews are still in winter maintenance mode. Sloper crews and motor graders are back working after being rained out. Crews are busy working to repair pipeline leaks. The trash truck is busy around the City. Maintenance report from January 16 through February 15, 2009, was handed out. Engineering, Maintenance/Construction, and Water Systems Operators (WSO) took part in training provided by Cal Poly. This training was beneficial for both additional knowledge and as a requirement needed by the WSOs for promotions.

MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Gary Serrato reported on the following:

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KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION

Kings River Legislative Committee

Now that the budget has been adopted, the legislative body can now turn towards the bills that have been put on hold. Staff is concerned that new bills that will be introduced this year will require more regulation, measurement and conservation of both surface and groundwater.

The ACWA Groundwater Committee reported that they had developed a “White Paper” that gives ACWA Staff direction when working with the legislators in developing legislation affecting groundwater. Conservation, efficiency, and local control highlight the White Paper.

FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY / FRIANT WATER USERS AUTHORITY

With the passing of the Stimulus Package, the House is expected to consider S. 22 – Omnibus Public Land Management Act within the next few weeks.

The mediation process continues. During the last meeting, Arvin Edison proposed whatever percentage you are being impacted on your water supply, you get the same percentage in benefits (re-circulated water, water recovery account, and Title Three account). Friant continues to meet and discuss.

OTHER ISSUES

Proposition 50 Funding

Mr. Serrato informed the Board that although the State Budget has been adopted, Proposition 50 bonds will need to be sold to provide financing for projects that were selected for construction.

Harlan Ranch Meeting

Any projects that the Harlan Ranch developers were pursuing with the District are now on hold as funds from the developers are not currently available. The District may pursue projects in the Kings County area.

Kings County Water District’s Banking Project

Mr. Serrato met with Mike Nordstrom, attorney for the King County Water District, to discuss what is needed for this project to go through. One issue that will need to be addressed is the ability to leave a greater percentage of groundwater in the ground each year and the operations of the recovery wells as not to have an impact on nearby private wells.

Stimulus Package

Former Assembly Member Nicole Parra has been designated as the appointee from Governor Schwarzenegger’s office to oversee the stimulus package money in the Central Valley. Mr. Serrato and Mr. Kimura will be meeting with Ms. Parra on Friday to discuss the possibility of the District receiving funds for the three-year plan.

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Upper Kings River Agreement

Staff is reviewing the current Upper Kings River Agreement that was negotiated with Alta, Consolidated and Fresno Irrigation Districts as part of the Fisheries Management Program. Staff has indicated that it is now requiring more water from FID to meet the Exhibit "C" flows than has been anticipated. Mr. Serrato will be arranging a meeting with the other Districts to begin the process and believes that it will be beneficial to have one or two of FID's Directors attend the negotiations.

Miscellaneous Matters

ACWA Region 6 & 7 Meeting – On March 13, ACWA will be holding a region meeting in Visalia – Valley legislative representatives will be in attendance to discuss groundwater and Delta issues. Any Director interested in attending should contact Staff to register.

California Farm Water Coalition – A thank you letter was received for The District's continued support.

Alliance annual Conference Schedule – Staff handed out the agenda for the upcoming Alliance Conference to be held in Las Vegas next week.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a. 2008 Arbitrage Interest Calculation

Every year the District is required to do an arbitrage interest calculation. This process is part of the bonding process – the District is not allowed to go over 4.525% in interest with anything over that is payable to the IRS. The overall calculation is based on a five year period.

- b. December 2008 Fund Statements**
- c. December 2008 Treasurer's Report**
- d. December 2008 Cash on Hand**

Staff reviewed the above mentioned financial reports. The excavator is within two months of being paid off. After a short discussion, Staff requested the Board approve the financial reports as presented.

M/S/C/(Balls/Jacobsen) That Board of Directors approve the financial reports as presented by Staff by unanimous vote. (Ayes 5; Nays 0; Absent 0; Abstain 0)

e. Resolution 2009-04 / Honoring Bill Loudermilk for his Years of Service

Staff requested the resolution be passed honoring Mr. Loudermilk for his many years of service with the Department of Fish and Game.

M/S/C/(Jacobsen/Balls) That Board of Directors approve Resolution 2009-04 as presented by Staff by the following roll call vote. (Ayes Neely, Balls, Boswell, Porter, Jacobsen; Nays 0; Absent 0; Abstain 0)

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- f. Resolution 2009-05 / Honoring Dale Mitchell for his Years of Service

Staff requested the resolution be passed honoring Mr. Mitchell for his many years of service with the Department of Fish and Game.

M/S/C/(Jacobsen/Balls) That Board of Directors approve Resolution 2009-05 as presented by Staff by the following roll call vote. (Ayes Neely, Balls, Boswell, Porter, Jacobsen; Nays 0; Absent 0; Abstain 0)

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Director Balls – reported on attending an AMWA meeting.

Director Boswell – reported on attending the Valley Business Conference – Judge Wagner was one of the speakers.

Director Porter – will be attending the CSDA training on *How To Be An Effective Board Member*.

Director Jacobsen – spoke on an article that appeared in several publications and a news brief which appeared on local news as well as a bay area station regarding the current State Drought.

CLOSED SESSION

Staff went into Closed Session at 7:55 p.m.

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)). Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (G.C. §54956.9. Significant Exposure to Litigation pursuant to subdivision (b)): KRWA.

Government Code Section 54956.8 Real Property Transactions.

Negotiators: Laurence Kimura and Ardismae Brooks

Properties: Portion of APN 334-320-05

Terms and Conditions: Update

REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

President Boswell stated that there was no action during Closed Session to report.

Closed Session concluded at 8:06 p.m.

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ADJOURNMENT

President Boswell adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Submitted By,

Gary R. Serrato
Board Secretary