

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD JANUARY 14, 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 January 14, 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

DIRECTORS ABSENT

George Porter

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

BOARD REORGANIZATION

The first item of business was to elect a new President and Vice President of the Board. Mr. Serrato assumed the position as President and called for nominations for the position of Board President. Director Boswell was nominated and hearing no others, the nominations were closed with Director Boswell voted in to a two-year term as President by all Directors present. President Boswell called for nominations for Vice President. Director Neely was nominated as Vice President where he was voted to another two-year term as Vice President by all Directors present.

APPOINTMENT OF BOARD SECRETARY

Mr. Serrato was nominated by Director Neely and elected to another term as Board Secretary by the Directors present

REVIEW AGENDA

Director Jacobsen requests items 4 b., c., and d. be removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion

REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS

None

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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]

None stated

CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. **Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2008**
- b. **Approval of Overnight Stay for HR Director and HR Administrative Assistant to attend ACWA Seminar on February 4, 2009 – Ontario, CA**
- c. **Approval of Overnight Stay for Two Water Systems Operators, One Supervisor, and Two Engineering Department Staff to attend ITRC Short Course Training at Cal Poly – San Luis Obispo, CA February 24-26, 2009**
- d. **Approval of Overnight Stay for Chief Engineer to attend the California Irrigation institute Conference in Sacramento, CA on February 2-4, 2009, with a Theme of “Water Witching – New Supply, Technology and Policy”. Action Request 2009-02**
- e. **December 2008 Check Register**
- f. **December 2008 Payroll Register**
- g. **December 2008 Unpaid Assessment Report**
- h. **December 2008 Unpaid ISIP Assessment Report**
- i. **December 2008 Investment Account**
- j. **December 2008 COP Investment Account**

Director Balls requests that item 9 d. of the December 10, 2008, meeting on Page 157 has the word “generate” and be replaced with the word “transfer”.

M/S/C/(Balls/Neely) That Board of Directors approve the Consent Calendar with the following changes: 1) remove items b., c., and d. from the Consent Calendar for further discussion; and 2) item 4 a. should have the word “generate” changed to “transfer” on page 157 item 9 d. by the following vote. (Ayes 4; Nays 0; Absent Porter; Abstain 0)

Director Jacobsen requested a list at the beginning of each calendar year of seminars and conferences which are attended annually by Directors and Staff.

M/S/C/(Balls/Neely) That Board of Directors approve items b., c., and d. after a short discussion by the following vote. (Ayes 4; Nays 0; Absent Porter; Abstain 0)

380: WATER REPORT

- a. **Current Water Conditions**

Watermaster Jim Irwin reviewed the current and projected water supply. As of January 13, Pine Flat release was 132 cfs and storage was 191,049 acre-feet.

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As of January 13, snow pillow surveys indicate the current snow pack at 65.0 % of average Year-To-Date and 31.7% of April 1st average. The lack of precipitation for the first part of the winter months may delay the start of deliveries. Kings River Water Association is scheduled to perform the first snow surveys during the last week of January. Staff will prepare a routing based on the information acquired from the snow survey.

b. Water Sale from the Waldron Groundwater Banking Facility

FID has been approached by other water districts on the availability of water sales from the Waldron Banking Facility. San Luis Water District is interested in 10,000 acre-feet while Westlands Water District is interested in all available water in the facility. Staff requested direction from the Board on how to proceed. After much discussion, direction was given for Staff to do some additional investigating and bring back the information to the Board at a later date.

CHIEF ENGINEER'S REPORT

Chief Engineer Bill Stretch 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 season. Currently there are no projects in progress and one has been completed since April 1, 2008. The Radin-Kamp Canal project has been delayed due to funding issues.

Staff has been in constant contact with Mr. Caglia by telephone and emails discussing the Orange Avenue crossing and the hiring of Provost and Pritchard. Staff is dealing with Mr. Caglia's engineer on such items as the smaller diameter of pipe which is not acceptable to the District. During discussions, Mr. Caglia has been made well aware of the February 20 deadline for completion of projects.

Agency Projects – Staff is processing approximately ten Agency projects for the 2008/09 season. Three projects were recently completed: 1) Temperance Avenue Bridge replacement; 2) Helm Colonial W. Br. Pipeline replacement; and 3) Basin EM intertie structure in the Herndon Canal. Four projects have been completed since April 1, 2008.

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

Mr. Stretch proceeds with an update on the Maintenance and Facility Upgrade Plan (MFUP) – a detailed list of current projects are attached.

c. Grant Application – Approve Funds to Prepare Application for USBR Water for American – Water Marketing and Efficiency Challenge Grant and Contribute Matching Funds to Briggs Water Banking Facility Project. Resolution No. 2009-01 and Action Request 2009-01

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Staff is proposed for the District to apply for a grant administered by the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) known as the Water for America Grant Program. Available Federal funds are expected to be between \$4,000,000 and \$10,000,000 and are available for award in Fiscal Year 2009. USBR's share of any one proposed project may be up to 50% of the total project cost and generally not exceed \$300,000. USBR is expecting to award between 15-50 projects. Staff is proposing the grant money be applied to a new banking facility on the Briggs Canal system (American and Fowler area). Total cost of the project is estimated at \$1,600,000 (not including any grant funding).

M/S/C/(Balls/Neely) That Board of Directors approve Resolution 2009-01 as presented by the following Roll Call vote. (Ayes Neely, Balls, Boswell, Nays 0; Absent Porter; Abstain Jacobsen)

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT

Assistant General Manager Laurence Kimura reported on the following:

a. Nielsen Site Rubble Pile Update

The processing of the rubble was completed in December. There is a considerable amount of processed materials at the site. Mr. Erickson has been cleaning and grading the property.

Director Neely made the suggestion that Mr. Erickson could lease the property with the condition that he obtains an EIR at his expense which will allow him to remain on-site for an additional two or three years.

b. Waldron Banking Project Update

The Waldron Banking Facility project is almost complete. A meeting and site visit was conducted with a representative from DWR with a draft copy of the report being provided. Only a small issue with PG&E remains before completion.

c. District Office Plan

The two metal buildings are being erected. Work continues on the electrical equipment and Staff is working with PG&E to obtain a new service connection. Staff continues to work with the architect on finalizing the design for the main building which is currently in Plan Check with the County. Staff continues to meet with the architects and landscape architect.

d. General Maintenance and Equipment Update

Winter maintenance and construction activities continue to take place. Heavy equipment operators continue to perform dredging work throughout the District. The sloping crew has moved out east and is working on the Hansen system. Mr. Kimura just returned from the "weed" conference held Sacramento, CA. A large portion of the discussion at the conference centered on mares tail and fleabane.

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MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Gary Serrato reported on the following:

KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION

Fisheries Management Program

Mr. Serrato informed the Board that Fish and Game Regional Director Bill Loudermilk and Assistant Regional Director Dale Mitchel have retired from Fish and Game. Both gentlemen were very instrumental in developing the King River Fisheries Management Program.

KRWA continues to lobby Fish and Game to continue the States annual contributions to the Fisheries Program of \$100,000 for habitat restoration. With the current state budget woes, participation from the State may not happen.

State Propositions – Financial Crisis

The funding for several propositions is being placed on hold including 3, 25, 28, 44, 55, 81, 82, 204, 13, 50, and 84. FID was notified that propositions 13, 50, and 84 grant funds have been frozen because of the state's budget woes. Staff has placed any new projects expected from Proposition 50 on hold, until there is a guarantee of funds.

Congressman Costa Meeting

Mr. Serrato and Mr. Stretch met earlier this week with Vince Roos from Congressman Costa's office and discussed water issues, stimulus package and settlement issues. Congressman Costa joined them for a portion of the meeting.

FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY / FRIANT WATER USERS AUTHORITY

San Joaquin River Settlement

Friant has scheduled it first meeting with the Mediator, Jim Waldo on Monday, January 19. This is expected to be a lengthy and intense process with key areas of discussion to center around four issues: Allocation of water supply impacts, Recovered Water Account, Recaptured / Recirculated Water and Allocation of Title III mitigation fund.

OTHER ISSUES

Kings County Groundwater Banking Facility

Staff reported that review of the Scalemini report has been completed with the Consultants Provost and Pritchard, and Don Mills, general manager of the Kings County Water District. The original meeting scheduled with the Scalemini firm was canceled and rescheduled for January 26. The intent of the meeting is to review and address the issues described in the Report

Miscellaneous Items

Mr. Serrato informs the Board of the upcoming 2009 Valley Business Conference on February 18. Any Director interested in attending should notify Staff for registration and tickets. Several informed and knowledgeable speakers will be present to discuss water impacts state wide.

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ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a. CSDA Board Members Training – February 26-27, 2009, Fresno, CA

CSDA is presenting a seminar on *How To Be An Effective Board Member* which will be held in Fresno, CA on February 26-27, 2008. Director Porter is planning to attend.

b. Mid Pacific Region Water Users Conference

The Mid Pacific Region Water Users Conference will be held January 21-23, 2009, in Reno, NV. Directors Neely and Balls will be attending. Any Director who has not yet sign up and would like to attend, should contact Staff.

- c. November 2008 Fund Statements**
- d. November 2008 Treasurer’s Report**
- e. November 2008 Cash on Hand Report**

Controller DeAnn Hailey presented and reviewed the above reports for the Board.

M/S/C/(Balls/Jacobsen) That Board of Directors approve the financial reports as presented by Staff by the following vote. (Ayes 4; Nays 0; Absent Porter; Abstain 0)

DIRECTORS’ REPORT

Director Boswell – Director Boswell stated he and Gary Serrato appeared on the Alan Autry radio show last week. Mr. Autry was very complementary towards the District.

Director Jacobsen – would like to have Sarge Green (Fresno State University) give his groundwater presentation at one of the District’s upcoming board meetings.

President Boswell assigned the new committee positions to the Directors.

CLOSED SESSION

Staff went into Closed Session at 8:23 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.

REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

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

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Closed Session concluded at 8:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

President Boswell adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Submitted By,

Gary R. Serrato
Board Secretary