

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD AUGUST 14, 2012**

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 14, 2012. Meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Board President Jeff Neely.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

President Jeff Neely
Vice President Ryan Jacobsen
Steven Balls
George Porter
Jerry Rebensdorf

DIRECTORS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

None

REVIEW AGENDA

No changes

REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Since there are no pressing items for the August 28 meeting, it is Staff's recommendation to cancel the Board of Directors Meeting.

M/S/C/(Balls/Porter) That the Board of Directors approved cancelling the August 28, 2012, Board of Directors Meeting by unanimous vote. (Ayes 5; Nays 0; Absent 0; Abstain 0)

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

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

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CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. **Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes – July 24, 2012**
- b. **July 2012 Check Register**
- c. **2012 Payroll Registers**
- d. **July 2012 Unpaid Assessment Report**
- e. **July 2012 Unpaid ISIP Assessment Report**
- f. **July 2012 Investment Account**

M/S/C/(Balls/Porter) That the Board of Directors approved the Consent Calendar by unanimous vote. (Ayes 5; Nays 0; Absent 0; Abstain 0)

CONTROLLER'S REPORT

- a. **June 2012 Fund Statements**
- b. **June 2012 Notes to the Fund Statements**
- c. **June 2012 Treasurer's Report**
- d. **June 2012 Deposits and Investments**

Ms. Hailey reviewed the financial reports for the Directors. The target budget is 50 percent as we enter into the second half of the year. It appears that the line item for aquatic weed application will come in below budget. The budget will be adjusted to reflect that the District will not be receiving the income from the sale of water to Fresno County for CSA 51 since the measure was defeated.

M/S/C/(Balls/Porter) That the Board of Directors approved the June 2012 financial reports as presented by Staff by unanimous vote. (Ayes 5; Nays 0; Absent 0; Abstain 0)

- e. **Disposition of the Limbaugh House (action item)**

Ms. Hailey reviewed the options available on the Limbaugh House, which was partially destroyed by a kitchen fire in August 2011. FID has the option to rebuild the house and retain it as a rental property for future income or the house can be demolished and used for District purposes. It is Staff's recommendation to demolish the house.

M/S/C/(Jacobsen/Rebensdorf) That the Board of Directors approved the demolition of the Limbaugh House and monies received to be deposited into the General Fund with the use to be determined at a later date by unanimous vote. (Ayes 5; Nays 0; Absent 0; Abstain 0)

WATER REPORT

- a. **Current Water Conditions**

Jim Irwin reported on the current and projected water supply information. As of August 13, Pine Flat release was 3,070 cfs with storage at 244,663 acre-feet. Pre-project has

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been holding above 300 cfs this month with the help of thunderstorms occurring in the upper elevations. Due to the hot temperatures, the City of Fresno's Wastewater Treatment Plant's reclamation wells have been shut off since the beginning of the month; the City participates in PG&E's flex alert program. It is anticipated that the wells will come back on-line this Thursday, in time for the reclaim water run. Consolidated Irrigation District is responsible for diverting the Exhibit "C" fish flows at the Fresno Weir.

The City of Fresno has started testing their temporary surface water treatment facility located at the Jefferson and Gunn canals. The City expects to be fully operational in October.

CHIEF ENGINEER'S REPORT

Chief Engineer Bill Stretch reported on the following items:

a. Developer and Agency Project Schedule Update for 2012-2013

Developer Projects – there are no Developer projects going on at this time.

Agency Projects – there are four Agency projects set for the 2012-13 Maintenance Season. The first project is expected to start the week of August 20 located at the Fowler Avenue Bridge near Olive Avenue.

City of Fresno's Temporary SWTF – Improvements to the Jefferson and Gunn Canals

Update report given during the Water Operations Report.

b. FID Projects Update for 2012-13

Basins

Herndon West Basin – Staff has finalized the construction plans and continues to wait for comments from Fresno County. Staff is planning on taking this project out to bid and have construction start in October.

Nordstrom Basin –Staff anticipates awarding the construction bid in late September and start construction in October.

c. High Speed Rail Update (HSR)

There is nothing new to report. It has been approximately two weeks since Staff has spoken to a representative from the HSR.

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- d. Consideration of Adoption of Negative Declaration for the Nordstrom Pond No. 191 Expansion Project Located N/W Lincoln and Fig Avenues. Action Request 2012-15 and Resolution 2012-06**

The summary of the project was outlined in Engineering Action Request 2012-15 which was provided in the meeting's board packet. Staff recommends that the Board approve Resolution 2012-06 which adopts a mitigated negative declaration for the Nordstrom Pond expansion and American Colony intertie project.

M/S/C/(Balls/Jacobsen) That the Board of Directors approved Resolution 2012-06 as described by Staff by the following roll call vote. (Ayes Rebensdorf, Balls, Neely, Porter, Jacobsen; Nays 0; Absent 0; Abstain 0)

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT

Assistant General Manager Laurence Kimura reported on the following:

- a. Nielsen Site Rubble Pile Update**

There is nothing new to report on this item.

- b. District Office Plan**

Staff continues to deal with issues regarding Applegate Johnston, Inc. BMY Construction has almost completed the stucco and concrete work on the outside of the building. The only items that remain are plants and rocks that still need to be placed in the planting beds. The project is expected to be completed the week of August 13.

- c. General Maintenance and Equipment Update**

The Water Department is starting to shut down and crews are preparing to go back into maintenance. Heavy equipment operators continue to haul riprap from the Belmont and Jameson area to the Boswell Basin and the FID yard. Once they have completed that project they will move over to the Oleander Canal North Branch and work on repairs to the canal banks. Last week the backhoe operator was busy with work orders for seepage and gopher holes on the South Branch of the East Branch, the Sylvia Canal, and the Houghton Canal, along with trash removal. The Houghton, Gould, Dry Creek, and Fancher are scheduled for trash removal this week. The spray tractor and truck operators continue to spray throughout the District. Repair crews are taking care of pipeline repairs, a gate repair, culvert cleanout, and vegetation removal. Trash crews are busy with the usual hotspots and trash screens.

Staff continues to work on the issue of replacing the Tier 0 motorgrader engine with a Tier 3 engine. The cost and governmental requirements were detailed along with other options of purchasing a new motorgrader or retrofitting another piece of District equipment to do the same work as a motorgrader.

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MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Gary Serrato reported on the following:

KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION

Mr. Serrato reiterated that the only districts that will be delivering water after tomorrow would be Peoples Ditch Company, Lemoore Irrigation District, and Empire No. 1 and possibly No. 2. They are scheduled to run to the end of August. Pine Flat Reservoir's projected low point is estimated to be 180,000 acre-feet.

High Channel Losses

Mr. Serrato spoke to KRWA Watermaster Steve Haugen about the cause of the high water losses this year. It is Mr. Haugen's opinion that the losses are due to the decrease of the groundwater table, installation of new groundwater pumps located near the river, and the decrease of "Recovery of Gains" within the river. Most, if not all, water that had historically been returned to the river has now been eliminated.

Exhibit "C" Flows

Consolidated Irrigation District is obligated to take the Exhibit "C" Flows this year and has informed KRWA that they will be diverting the water at the Fresno Weir.

Miscellaneous

Consolidated Irrigation District (CID) performed a recount of their Proposition 218 election ballots. The results were that the election failed by over 1,200 votes.

CID has two board seats that up in this year's November election.

Apex Groundwater Banking

Kings County Water District and the landowners have agreed to allow KRWA to administer the monitoring of the wells.

FRIANT

Mr. Serrato will be attending a meeting with Friant and the Bureau of Reclamation regarding the negotiations of the 215 contracts later this week. The original amount of 215 water allocated to FID was 15,000 acre-feet; Mr. Serrato purposed 45,000 acre-feet which was agreed to by the Bureau.

Friant is scheduled to shutdown the Friant-Kern Canal during the upcoming winter season to address the weed infestation of Western Watermilfoil. This aquatic weed has grown so quickly that it has decreased the capacity of the canal by 10%. The logistics are being worked on to minimize the impact to farmers and cities during the shutdown. Friant is targeting November, December, and January to complete the work.

The District will be hosting a meeting in September to review the grant funds in connection with the San Joaquin River Part III Guidelines. There will be about 60 million dollars in funds available to help mitigate the water loss due to river restoration.

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OTHER

SBx 7-7

Mr. Serrato went to Sacramento and met with staff members from Assembly Member Henry T. Perea's office and the Department of Water Resources to discuss the issues that irrigation districts are facing with the implementation of SBx 7-7. The DWR staff was helpful in making suggestions for the development of the "Water Management Plan". Mr. Serrato discussed California Water Code 10608.48 (c) where it states that the measurements are locally cost effective and technically feasible. Staff from DWR will be visiting FID and other irrigation districts on August 30 to tour the area and listen to their concerns.

Miscellaneous

The Southern California Energy Education Center in Tulare will be holding a workshop for the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board on August 21 regarding the Ag Waiver Discharge. The workshop will cover questions relevant to irrigators such as costs, civil engineer requirements, record keeping, continuing education, access to private land, and nutrient planning. Mr. Serrato will be attending and encouraged Board Members to attend.

The Bakman Water District and FID continue to work on developing a groundwater recharge agreement. Staff and FID attorney met with the Bakman staff and their legal counsel to discuss the agreement.

Representatives from California State University, Fresno initiated a discussion on the development of a surface water supply for the school's farm program.

A representative from Table Mountain has also approached FID about the purchase of the remaining 10% of water from the Waldron Banking Facility. The Board of Directors directed Staff not to pursue selling the remaining 10% from Waldron.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a. Claim for Damages – PK Farms

PK Farm experienced flooding when the Lower Dry Creek overflowed and damaged portions of the vegetable field. It is Staff's recommendation to deny this claim and refer it to JPIA. Mr. Mike Serabian of Serabian Farms will be conducting the investigation for JPIA.

M/S/C/(Balls/Porter) That the Board of Directors denied the claim filed by PK Farm and have Staff refer it to JPIA for handling by unanimous vote. (Ayes 5; Nays 0; Absent 0; Abstain 0)

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b. Claim for Damages – Jeremy Hobensack

Mr. Hobensack filed a claim form alleging that lack of water caused the loss of his alfalfa field. It is Staff's recommendation that this claim be denied and referred over to JPIA. Staff feels there is no standing for this claim.

M/S/C/(Balls/Porter) That the Board of Directors denied the claim filed by Jeremy Hobensack and referred it to JPIA for handling by unanimous vote. (Ayes 5; Nays 0; Absent 0; Abstain 0)

c. GFOA-GAAFR Training for the Controller

Ms. Hailey requested a two-night stay in September to attend GFOA-GAAFR training being held in Sacramento, CA.

M/S/C/(Balls/Porter) That the Board of Directors approved the overnight stay for the Controller to attend the GFOA-GAAFR training in Sacramento, CA by unanimous vote. (Ayes 5; Nays 0; Absent 0; Abstain 0)

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Director Rebensdorf – spoke about raisin/grape prices and supplies.

Director Neely – mentioned he has started to harvest almonds on the east side.

Director Porter – stated he will start picking grapes tonight.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board went into Closed Session at 6:25 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)): Nielsen Avenue Property.

Government Code Section 54956.7. Conference with Labor Negotiators Regarding Terms and Conditions of Employment with Represented Bargaining Groups.

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)): Applegate Johnston, Inc.

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CLOSED SESSION ADJOURNMENT

President Neely adjourned Closed Session at 6:57 p.m.

REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

President Neely stated there was nothing to report from Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Open Session adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Submitted By,

Gary R. Serrato
Secretary of the Board