

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD MARCH 26, 2013**

Fresno Irrigation District's Board of Directors met in regular session at the District office located at 2907 South Maple Avenue – Fresno, California, on March 26, 2013. Meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Board President Ryan Jacobsen.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

President Ryan Jacobsen
Vice President Steven Balls
Jeff Neely
George Porter
Gregory Beberian

DIRECTORS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Landowner Earl Giacolini (arrived 5:30 pm)
District's Legal Counsel Mark Creede (arrived 6:20 pm)

REVIEW AGENDA

Mr. Serrato stated that FID's legal counsel Mark Creede will be arriving at 6:30 pm to participate in Closed Session. Mr. Serrato also stated that item 11 a. will follow the Controller's Report.

Mr. Stretch stated that Mr. Earl Giacolini may attend the meeting. Should Mr. Giacolini arrive, the Board will hear him under Public Presentations.

REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS

No changes.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Earl Giacolini spoke on the history of the Nordstrom Pond. He also complimented FID's staff and crews on the work that was done to improve the regulation and recharge of water at Nordstrom Pond. Mr. Giacolini stated everyone was very good to work with. Mr. Giacolini asked that the pond be maintained – especially with weeds and rodents.

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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]

None stated.

CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2013

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

Ms. Hailey reported that the auditors are now preparing the audited financial statements which will include the *Controller's Management Discussion and Analysis Report*. The auditors will present the audited financial statements to the Board after their completion.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a. Engineering Computer Replacement

Ms. Hailey stated that two computers were experiencing difficulties in running programs needed by the Engineering Department. The two identified computers are scheduled to be rotated out at the end of the year. Staff requested to have the selected computers changed-out now instead of waiting until the end of the year. President Jacobsen suggested upgrading to an i7 instead of the i5. The Board approved the purchase of either the i7 or the i5.

M/S/C/(Balls/Porter) That the Board of Directors approved the purchase of two computers for the Engineering Department with a possible upgrade as presented by Staff by unanimous vote. (Ayes – 5; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

WATER REPORT

a. Current Water Conditions

Watermaster Jim Irwin reported on the current and projected water supply information. As of March 25, Pine Flat release was 364 cfs with storage at 354,670 acre-feet. Pine Flat precipitation is at 61.5% of seasonal average. Mr. Irwin reviewed the new routings based on the Bulletin 120 forecast which reflects a 95,000-110,000 acre-feet decrease from the previous forecast. The CVP allocation has been reduced from 25% to 20% south of Delta; Friant will be reducing their allocation from 65% to 55% allocation. A storm is predicted for the weekend with other possible storms following in April. The lower snowpack has already started to melt due to the warmer than normal spring temperatures. Directors Jacobsen and Porter discussed the implications of starting the

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Dry Creek and Fancher systems April 16 or delaying until May 1. The Board directed Staff to meet with Directors Jacobsen and Porter early next week to discuss and possibly delay the start-up date for the Dry Creek and Fancher systems.

b. Potential Banked Water Sales

Mr. Serrato has received inquiries from Madera Irrigation District and westside districts on the purchase of water. Staff is looking for direction to sell up to 15,000 acre-feet. The Board directs Staff to arrange the sale of banked water up to 15,000 acre-feet.

ASSISTANT MANAGER OF OPERATIONS REPORT (formerly known as the Chief Engineer's Report)

Assistant General Manager of Operations Bill Stretch reported on the following items:

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

Developer Projects – There is one on-going project at Nees and Peach avenues on the Helm Colonial Canal where the old pipe is being removed. All other projects have been completed. Currently there is one project in progress and three projects have been completed since April 1, 2012.

Agency Projects – Staff is processing approximately six Agency projects for the 2012-2013 Maintenance Season. Currently there are no projects in progress and five projects have been completed since April 1, 2012.

- Staff briefly discussed a potential City of Fresno road widening project along Santa Fe Boulevard which would impact the Bullard Canal and the BNSF RR. Staff requested authorization to proceed with negotiating with the City of Fresno and the FMFCD which will include a proposed cost share from both FID and FMFCD approximated at \$11,500 to jointly fund substituting 33 feet of open channel with 42-inch RGRCP on the west (downstream) side of the BNSF RR. The Board of Directors approved the project and the potential cost share in general terms, but asked staff to place it on the April 16 agenda for formal approval.

b. California High Speed Rail Update (HSR)

There is nothing significant to report on this project – Staff continues to stay in contact with various consultants from the HSR.

c. Landowner Initiated Projects Update for 2012-13

There is no update - all projects have been completed.

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d. FID Projects Update for 2012-13

Basins

Nordstrom Basin – the project has been completed as the contractor finished excavating the basin, constructing the outfall structure, fence, and gate.

Waldron Recovery Well #104 – the contractor should have the well drilling portion of the project wrapped up by early April. A pre-bid meeting at the site for the well equipping portion of the meeting will take place on Thursday of this week. Bids should be received in the next couple of weeks. The entire project should be operational by late July.

Canal Improvements

Adams Waste LCW and Pipeline N/W Adams and Cornelia – this project is almost complete.

Open Channel Projects, Regulating Structures, Measuring Stations, etc.

Miscellaneous

Limbaugh Property – Staff continues to work on the abandonment of the old well.

Slide Presentation

Mr. Stretch gave a presentation on the 2012-13 maintenance and construction projects that FID crews have accomplish during the year. Following are some highlights of projects that were accomplished:

Construction:

- Ventura No. 13 wrapping up (WalMart);
- Nordstrom Pond;
- Waldron banking facility – well drilling;
- Waldron banking reclamation wells – fencing/gate;
- American Colony LCW; and
- Adams Wasteway Avenue LCW.

Maintenance Performed:

- Open Channel – 320 miles;
- Pipelines – 360 miles;
- Basins 35 basins (610 acres owned/maintained by FID);
- Structures/Weirs
 - measuring structures & devices;
 - gate valves;
 - lift pumps;

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- SCADA; and
- metal fabrication.

Routine Maintenance:

- Trash pick-up;
- Aquatic weed control/removal;
- Bank re-building (repair); and
- Homeless Camp issues (continuous).

Upcoming Maintenance:

- Thompson Canal (build up of bank);
- Oleander Canal;
- Briggs Canal;
- Dry Creek – trashrack;
- Long-crested weirs;
- Dredge mainlines;
- Dredge laterals;
- Channel work;
- Grading;
- Brushing;
- Sloping; and
- Canal lining.

Mr. Stretch explained to the Directors the procedures on how projects are placed and ranked on the construction/maintenance “to-do” list. Staff is assembling a long list of projects for the next maintenance season. The list will not be completed until the amount funds that are available has been determined.

ASSISTANT MANAGER’S REPORT

Assistant General Manager Laurence Kimura is on vacation but his report is available for review.

- a. **Nielsen Site Rubble Pile**
- b. **District Office Plan**

This item will be discussed during Closed Session.

- c. **General Maintenance and Equipment Update**

MANAGER’S REPORT

General Manager Gary Serrato reported on the following:

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KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION

Pre-1914 Water Rights

KRWA Watermaster Steve Haugen and consultant Kevin Johansen will be meeting with the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Rights staff later this week to discuss the study and what KRWA is expecting the State Board's staff to provide from their analysis. Critical is the quantification of the volume of water designated as Pre-1914.

Pine Flat Reservoir

The KRWA staff reported that the Army Corp of Engineers' contractors has stopped work on the slide stabilization project until they can arrange for their experts to inspect their current work. There is some concern about seepage that is appearing at the site.

KRWA Annual Meeting

KRWA held its annual meeting and adopted a budget of \$1.586 million for the 2013-2014 year. State Water Resources Control Board fees were excluded from the general fund budget and will be invoiced separately. The fee for KRWA is anticipated to be \$260,000; FID's share is approximately \$50,000.

FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION ALLOCATION

The Bureau of Reclamation continues to hold at its initial allocation of 60% Class I water. An announcement is expected at the next meeting that the allocation will drop.

Friant Kern Canal Maintenance

The Friant Water Authority has refilled the Friant-Kern Canal and is now able to meet the demands of the Friant Contractors.

San Joaquin River Restoration Program

The Bureau of Reclamation has been allocated \$10 million to assist with development of projects that would help with the recapture and recirculation of water utilized in the river restoration program.

OTHER

ACWA Regions 6 & 7 Water Forum

ACWA Regions 6 & 7 co-hosted a forum on March 15, and reviewed a number of issues that will be affecting the area from irrigated lands to subsidence on the westside. Of particular interest was the presentation that Chris White presented that highlighted the serious issue of subsidence that has been occurring in the Los Banos area and in and around the Mendota Pool. Subsidence in the area has been occurring at the rate of two-feet per year. Mr. White will be making the same presentation at KRWA on April 9, at 11:00 a.m. at KRWA office for anyone who may be interested.

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Pamela Creedon, CEO of the Regional Water Resources Control Board, reiterated that the Board will be implementing their new regulation for irrigated lands in the Tulare Hydrological Basin. She encouraged growers to join a coalition.

Aquatic Pesticide Permit

The State Water Resources Control Board has developed and implemented a new Aquatic Pesticide Permit that will require monitoring and reporting. The District will need to comply since it uses copper sulfate and Magnacide.

Fresno County Board of Supervisors

Mr. Serrato participated in a “Water 101 Workshop” with Gary Sawyers and Dave Orth. The workshop was an overview of the water supplies (both surface and groundwater) in Fresno County. Supervisor Phil Larson complimented FID for its efforts in developing the groundwater banking facilities and commented that lands within FID are valued higher because of the available water supply.

Growers Meetings

Two growers meetings were held during the third week of March. The first meeting was held in Easton with the second one being held in Kerman. Both meetings went very well.

An impromptu meeting was also held in Sanger with Mr. Serrato answering questions and giving an irrigated lands regulations update to approximately 10 local growers.

Thompson Canal Update

Staff met with Dennis Haupt and Gary Christensen to work through the issues of their private bridges, widening of the canal, and the water levels within the Thompson Canal this season. FID has agreed to maintain the normal water operating levels for the 2013 irrigation season, while FID and the landowners continue to explore other alternatives, in addition to FID narrowing the canal and placing rip-rap on the side-slope of the right (west) bank. Mr. Christian and Mr. Haupt have recently contacted the same contractor that performed the repairs on Mrs. Malloy’s and Mr. Bien’s bridges, for a revised estimate.

Austin Property Purchase

The Austin property, along with the majority of the old Running Horse property was purchased by Granville Homes. Granville intends to level the property and plant an almond orchard. FID will be working with Granville to explore the exchange of property for the Austin property.

DIRECTORS’ REPORT

Director Beberian – Shared a letter he received relating to water meters.

Director Balls – explained he participated in two recent webinars given by CSDA.

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Director Jacobsen – attended the Easton area growers meeting. He felt it went well.

Director Porter – attended both growers meetings (Easton and Kerman). He felt most growers understand the current dry year situation.

ADJOURNMENT

Open Session adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board went into Closed Session at 6:45 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.

Conference with Legal Counsel-Anticipated Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(b)). Conference with Legal Counsel – Pending Litigation (G.C. §54956.9(a)); Applegate Johnston, Inc. vs. Fresno Irrigation District.

CLOSED SESSION ADJOURNMENT

President Jacobsen adjourned Closed Session at 8:50 p.m.

REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

Open Session adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Submitted By,

Gary R. Serrato
Secretary of the Board