

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
HELD MAY 13, 2014**

Fresno Irrigation District's Board of Directors met in special session at the District office located at 2907 South Maple Avenue – Fresno, California, on May 13, 2014. Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Board President Ryan Jacobsen.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

President Ryan Jacobsen
Vice President Steven Balls
George Porter
Gregory Beberian
Jerry Prieto, Jr.

DIRECTORS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Landowner Dave Singh and Father

REVIEW AGENDA

Mr. Serrato stated there are no changes to the agenda.

REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS

President Jacobsen stated that since a special meeting is being held one week prior to the regular board meeting, the meeting scheduled for May 20 will be cancelled. President Jacobsen also reminded the Directors that the Board of Equalization will meet in June. Mr. Serrato explained to Director Prieto, and others, the purpose of the Board of Equalization and what takes place during the meetings.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None scheduled.

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.

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
HELD MAY 13, 2014**

CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. **Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes – April 15, 2014**
- b. **Approval of Personnel Committee Minutes – April 30, 2014**
- c. **April 2014 Check Register**
- d. **April 2014 Payroll Registers**
- e. **April 2014 Unpaid Assessment Report**
- f. **April 2014 Investment Account**
- g. **Developer Pipeline Project – Wilson Homes Tract 6058 Will Pipeline the Jefferson Canal No. 112 Located Southeast of Barstow and DeWolf Avenues in Accordance with Board Policy. Action Request 2014-05**

M/S/C/(Balls/Porter) That the Board of Directors approved the Consent Calendar by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

CONTROLLER’S REPORT

Controller DeAnn Hailey reviewed the following financial reports:

- a. **March 2014 Fund Statements**
- b. **March 2014 Notes to the Fund Statements**
- c. **January to March 2014 Treasurer’s Report**
- d. **January to March 2014 Deposits and Investments**

Ms. Hailey presented the January through March Fund Statements. It was reported that the District was within budget. Ms. Hailey stated the reclaim and hardship water reflected in the “Water Purchase Fund” was high because it was not originally scheduled and the budget will be adjusted to reflect the change. Fresno County sent the District its first check for the collection of assessments for the 2014 year.

M/S/C/(Balls/Porter) That the Board of Directors approved the financial reports as presented by Staff by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

WATER REPORT

- a. **Current Water Conditions Report**

Mr. Irwin reported on the current and projected water supply information. As of May 12, Pine Flat release was 271 cfs with storage at 357,160 acre-feet. The pre-project for the Kings River is at 2,003 cfs. FID’s entitlement of the pre-project is 1,266 cfs. The Gould is diverting 60 cfs into the Enterprise Canal for the Surface Water Treatment Facility. Precipitation is at 47.6% of normal. The upper most snow sensors have stopped reporting due to lack of snow. Temperatures are expected to reach the low 100’s by the end of the week with some cooling after that. 2014 is now the 3rd driest year on record for the Kings River Water Shed.

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
HELD MAY 13, 2014**

b. Decision on the Start of the 2014 Water Season

Mr. Irwin presented three different options based on the most current information and Bulletin 118 - Department of Water Recourses forecast for the Kings River. Staff reviewed all three options with the Board which included a) two-month run to the entire District; b) one-month run to the entire District and deliveries to parts of the District for an additional month; and c) six-week run to the entire District.

Staff recommended option "c" and to begin the irrigation season on June 1. After much discussion, the Board directed Staff to start the delivery on June 1 and to run the entire District for six weeks.

Mr. Dave Singh, who was sitting in the audience, came to the podium and asked how much water his 20 acre property would be receiving this year. Mr. Irwin and President Jacobsen provided Mr. Singh with an answer.

Mr. Serrato recapped the discussion stating that he has direction from the Board to look for additional TCP water in trying to make a full two-month run for the entire District. Staff is to report back to the Board during the June Board meeting.

Mr. Serrato stated that Consolidated Irrigation District will be running their water to their ponding basins for recharge purposes – they will not be delivering any water to farmers.

M/S/C/(Prieto/Beberian) That the Board of Directors approved running the 2014 Irrigation Season from June 1 to July 15 (for six weeks) with reassessment of the water conditions during the June 17 Board Meeting by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

c. Water Supply for Annex Areas

A letter was sent to the Annex Area landowners informing them that Class II water is not available this year. Mr. Serrato is, however, able to secure water at a cost of \$500 to \$800 per acre-foot. This water will be provided by the Bureau of Reclamation. There has been a request of up to 300 acre-feet of water from a landowner willing to pay \$650 per acre-foot. This water would be delivered throughout the growing season.

Staff recommends providing water, at cost, from the Bureau of Reclamation to the Annex Areas landowners. President Jacobsen believes that administrative costs of \$25 should be included in the cost of the water.

M/S/C/(Porter/Prieto) That the Board of Directors approved delivering water to the Annex Areas at a cost of \$650 per acre-foot plus administrative fees, as recommended by Staff, by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
HELD MAY 13, 2014**

d. Reclaim Wells – Banking Facilities

Staff recommends turning on the reclamation wells immediately and running through the month of September. Costs would remain the same as the previous two years; \$100 @ 4 cfs and \$50 @ 2 cfs.

M/S/C/(Porter/Balls) That the Board of Directors approved the immediate start of the Reclamation Wells until September 2014 at the same costs as the previous two years as presented by Staff by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

Break

A break was taken from 6:12 – 6:30 p.m. - during which time no District business was discussed.

CHIEF ENGINEERS and SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORTS

Chief Engineer – Special Projects Laurence Kimura reported on the following items:

a. Developer and Agency Project Schedule Update for 2014-2015

Developer Projects – The Engineering Department is reviewing plans of several projects that will be constructed during the 2014-15 Maintenance Season. There are no Developer projects occurring at this time.

Agency Projects – The Engineering Department is reviewing plans of several projects that will be constructed during the 2014-15 Maintenance Season. Currently there are two projects in progress which are: 1) FMFCD’s construction of the Dry Creek Extension Basin located northwest of Annadale and Brawley avenues, which includes improving 700 feet of the Fanning Canal by replacing 600 feet of open channel and old Cast-in-Place Concrete Pipe (CIPCP) with 36-inch Rubber Gasketed Reinforced Concrete Pipe (RGRCP). FMFCD’s contractor commenced with the pipeline construction in late April and is planning to complete the project in late May; 2) City of Clovis Terminus Park – (S/W Shepherd and Sunnyside avenues) crews are currently putting up fences and placing gravel. Mr. John Wright will be creating a history of FID and the Enterprise Canal to be placed on a kiosk at the Shepherd and Sunnyside location. Staff does not anticipate any other projects to commence prior to the 2014 Irrigation Season.

Utility Crossings

There are numerous utilities crossing (cable, fiber optics, storm drains, sewer, etc.) boring under various District facilities.

California High Speed Rail Update (CHSR)

It was reported that last week the HSR approved the EIR for the portion of the project from Fresno to Bakersfield. Legal battles are continuing and Staff has been trying to work with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) on the jurisdiction of Herndon Canal. FID strongly objects to the CDFW’s jurisdictional claim over the Herndon. FID’s attorney and the attorney for the HSR are working to resolve this issue.

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
HELD MAY 13, 2014**

b. Landowner Initiated Projects Update for 2014-15

- **Fresno Canal** – N/W Belmont and Academy – A contractor is installing a lift pump for a landowner to help lift water from the 30' deep canal.

c. FID Projects Update for 2014-15

This will be discussed during the Assistant General Manager's Report.

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Assistant General Manager's Report was given by Bill Stretch:

a. Operations and Maintenance

- Crews worked on removing debris (tires, clay pigeons, etc.) on the District's ponds such as the Little Pine Flat Pond;
- Discing is taking place throughout the District – to date, 14 ponds have been completed, including Hopps, Chestnut, and Little Pine Flat;
- Trash crews have been removing aquatic weeds, debris, and algae throughout the District prior to the start of water season;
- Five homeless camp locations were cleaned-up within the last week; including the Herndon Canal at Ashlan/Fruit and the Gould Extension at Shields/Millbrook. Staff stores unclaimed items for 90 days – to date, no one has ever claimed any of the stored items;
- Structure repairs have taken place throughout the District such as on the G-17;
- Pipeline repairs on the Central Canal, Washington Colony South Branch, Little Houghton, and Siskiyou Pipeline are a few of the pipelines that were repaired throughout the District;
- Staff has been working with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to approve the District's SIP exception. The SWRCB is expected to hear the application on May 20;
- Herbicide weed applications took place on the Lower Gould, Enterprise, Houghton and Dry Creek canals;
- Spraying has been occurring intermittently due to windy conditions; and
- Grading has taken place along the Vogel and other canals in the rural areas within the District.

CHIEF ENGINEER'S REPORT CONTINUED – Given by Assistant General Manager Bill Stretch:

c. FID Projects Update for 2013-14

- **Waldron Recovery Well #104: Equipping** – Staff received the results from the pump test from a third party contractor who confirmed the well is performing per the design.

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
HELD MAY 13, 2014**

Capital Improvement Projects

- **Pursell Pond Expansion** – Crews are in the final stages of the project. The Washington Colony North Branch Canal is being realigned and replaced with 30-inch PVC pipe at S/W Jefferson and Cedar avenues. Earthwork crews are lowering the pond in the Southwest corner and building berms utilizing FID and rentals equipment (paddlewheel scrapers / compactors). The Southwest portion of the basin is being lowered a few feet to the sandier soils which will improve the groundwater recharge. Compaction tests occur daily;
- **Carter Canal** – 1,430 feet of existing 20-inch concrete pipeline is being replaced with 21-inch PVC Pipe at N/W Barstow and Floyd. Crews installed a pre-casted box structure. This structure was built offsite and brought to the location for installation. This new box structure method is being compared with currently used methods. The project is approximately two-thirds completed; and
- **Oleander North Branch** – Crews are constructing two long-crested weirs located near S/W Clayton and Chestnut. The new weir is approximately five to six times larger than the original weir.

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT CONTINUED

b. Aquatic Pesticides

Staff anticipates that the District's SIP application will be going before the State Water Resources Control Board on May 20. Staff explained in more detail what chemicals the District uses and the weeds/algae they eliminate.

c. Equipment

Staff is making arrangements to dispose of a 2001 Chevrolet C1500 pickup with 178,554 miles on it. The pickup is experiencing transmission slippage and fuel gauge problems. The cost of replacing the transmission (\$1,800 rebuilt) and fuel gauge is not expensive but when you factor in the labor cost of the shop (\$400), the age of the vehicle, and the mileage, Staff recommends sending it to auction. The Board directed Staff to take the vehicle to auction.

d. Sunnyside/Shepherd Terminus Park Update

This update was given during the Chief Engineer's report.

e. Southwest Groundwater Banking Project Update

FID plans on building a 60 acre groundwater banking facility that will use the District's Lower Dry Creek system. In April 2013, Phase 1 of the project was included in the Upper Kings Proposition 84 IRWM grant application to DWR. The Upper Kings grant application was ranked #1 in the state by DWR and received the maximum grant funds. Total FID cost for Phase 1 is \$4,562,000; total FID grant funding requested was \$3,402,000. In January 2014, FID submitted two USBR WaterSMART grant applications to be used as cost share component of the DWR grant. One grant is for \$300,000 and

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
HELD MAY 13, 2014**

the second is for \$1,000,000; Staff is waiting for USBR to announce the awarding of the grants. DWR sent the Upper Kings a conditional commitment letter in February 2014 for the DWR grant award. FID will enter into a sub-grantee agreement with the Upper Kings. Staff is working on purchasing land for the recharge basins and discussing a partnership in the facility with James Irrigation District. Mr. Serrato explained in general terms how this facility will be used as a recharge facility.

MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Gary Serrato reported on the following:

KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION

The water conditions report and the start of water season were discussed during the Water Operations report.

KRWA Coordination Meeting

The Kings River Watermaster has scheduled a meeting for Thursday, May 15 to coordinate the 2014 water run. All the districts are looking to run during the months of June and July. Exhibit "C" Flows and the start of the KRCD Power Plant will also be discussed.

FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY

Bureau of Reclamation

While attending the 2014 Spring ACWA Conference, Staff attended several good meetings with the Bureau of Reclamation, Friant, and the Exchange Contractors. The Bureau announced in a news release that the Exchange Contractors will be receiving 75% of their contracts for the first time since the Friant Dam has been built. The contractors will receive water from the San Joaquin River to supplement the amount of water that the Bureau of Reclamation is not able to deliver through the Delta. Water releases from Friant are scheduled to begin on Thursday, May 15, 2014. Friant Water Authority responded with a press release that stated they are highly disappointed and they feel that there is still water in Shasta that could be used to meet the demands of the Exchange Contractors.

Staff was approached by the Bureau of Reclamation to see if FID would consider helping with moving water to the Mendota Pool to assist in meeting the demands of the Exchange Contractors by utilizing FID's system and delivering the water through the District (Biola Spillway). Director Jacobsen stated that if we can have the District's costs covered and if Friant is agreeable, then he directs Staff to pursue the Bureau's proposal. He asked that Staff report back the outcome at the next meeting.

Friant Water Authority H.R. 3964 and S. 2198

At the Friant Water Authority Board Meeting, the Board decided to develop a letter that addresses both H.R. 3964 (Valadao) and S. 2198 (Feinstein) bills. Friant has taken the position of "Support if Amended" on the two bills. The Board requested that Friant members support the one letter and not develop individual district letters.

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
HELD MAY 13, 2014**

The Board and Staff discussed the differences between the Lower Tule River Irrigation District and Friant Water Authority letters. Director Beberian made a motion to support the Friant and Lower Tule River letters. The motion died for lack of second.

After additional discussion the Board decided on the following motion.

M/S/C/(Beberian/Porter) That the Board of Directors approved Congressional action on S. 2198 and H.R. 3964 in order that a final House-Senate measure can be negotiated and enacted into law as soon as possible. The motion was approved by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

OTHER

Kings Basin Water Authority

Mr. Serrato requested that Bill Stretch and Laurence Kimura be added as second alternates to the committee assignments.

Henry T. Perea Letter of Support

Mr. Serrato stated that Assembly Member Perea requested FID prepare a letter of support for his water bond legislation (AB 2686). Director Prieto requested that Staff furnish the Board with additional information on Assembly Member Perea's bill. The Board would also like a comprehensive list of the nine water bond measures being considered. The letter of support request will be brought back to the next meeting for further discussion and possible action.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a. New Committee Assignments

President Jacobsen, with the help of Mr. Serrato, updated the new assignments to the 2014 FID Committees. The list required updating due to Past Director Neely leaving office in March and Director Prieto joining the Board in April. Mr. Stretch and Mr. Kimura will also be added as second alternates to the Upper Kings Water Forum.

b. Resolution 2014-05

Ms. Singh explained the 457 Retirement Plan has been reviewed and updated. The technical updates are in compliance with IRS regulations. The 401K Plan is the District's primary retirement plan. The 457 Plan is another option for District employees to save for retirement.

M/S/C/(Porter/Balls) That the Board of Directors approved the updates to the District's 457 Plan by way of Resolution 2014-05 by the following roll call vote. (Ayes – Balls, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – Beberian; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
HELD MAY 13, 2014**

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Director Beberian – attended a CSDA/SDRMA seminar. The seminar dealt with what roles Special Districts play in the state of California and the benefits they provide to citizens.

Director Balls – reminded the Board and Staff that he will not be at the first two Board of Equalization meetings in June.

Director Jacobsen – ask Directors and Staff to remind growers that there is only one week left for enrollment into the coalition. Reminder letters have been sent out.

Director Porter – attended the JPIA portion of the ACWA Conference. A new type of voting machine was available for use at the conference. Director Porter also stated he completed his sexual harassment prevention requirement while at the conference. It was reported that JPIA purchased a new software system at a cost of approximately \$230,000 plus a monthly service charge.

Director Prieto – attended a coffee shop talk at the Blossom Trail Cafe with Congressmen Patterson, Supervisor Case, Sheriff Mims, Mr. Serrato, and other in attendance. It was a good meeting. Director Jacobsen mentioned there will be a similar meeting in Kerman on June 4. Director Prieto mentioned how important it is for Sacramento to understand as part of our water conservation efforts and groundwater issues the importance of maintaining a certain amount of surface water irrigation instead of solely relying on micro-sprinkler / drip irrigation systems.

Mr. Serrato stated that a news release will be going out on Wednesday, May 14 to announce the start of the 2014 Irrigation Season. It will also be placed on the District's Facebook page and the District's website.

Open Session concluded at 8:29 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

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

Government Code Section 54956.8 Real Property Transactions.

Negotiators: Gary R. Serrato-FID, Bill Stretch-FID, and the City of Clovis

Properties: APN 560-031-11 & 557-031-05, 39

Terms and Conditions: Negotiations of Purchase and Sale of Real Property.

Conference with Legal Counsel-Anticipated Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(b)). Conference with Legal Counsel – Potential Litigation (G.C.

§54956.9(a)): Jeremy Hobensack vs. Fresno Irrigation District.

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

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
HELD MAY 13, 2014**

CLOSED SESSION ADJOURNMENT

President Jacobsen adjourned Closed Session at 9:15 p.m.

REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

President Jacobsen reported that the Board voted to approve the new OE3 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the represented hourly employees. The Board also approved to apply the MOU to the non-represented hourly employees.

ADJOURNMENT

President Jacobsen adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

Submitted By,

Gary R. Serrato
Secretary of the Board