

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
HELD JANUARY 13, 2015**

Fresno Irrigation District's Board of Directors met in special session at the District office located at 2907 South Maple Avenue – Fresno, California, on January 13, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Board President Ryan Jacobsen.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT

George Porter

STAFF PRESENT

General Manager Gary Serrato
Assistant General Manager Bill Stretch
Chief Engineer – Special Projects Laurence Kimura
Watermaster Jim Irwin
Controller DeAnn Hailey (left at 5:15 p.m.)
Director of Human Resources September Singh
Recording Secretary Lynn B. Rowe

OTHERS PRESENT

Sun World Representative Clifton Lollar

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REORGANIZATION (and appointment of Board Secretary)

Secretary of the Board Gary Serrato assumed the gavel and asked for nominations for the President of the Board. Director Balls nominated Director Jacobsen for President. With no other nominations, the Directors voted unanimously to re-elect Director Jacobsen as President.

M/C/(Balls) That the Board of Directors voted Director Ryan Jacobsen as the continuing Board President by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Prieto; Nays – 0; Absent – Porter; Abstain – 0)

Mr. Serrato returned the gavel to President Ryan Jacobsen.

President Jacobsen opened up nominations for Vice President. Director Beberian nominated Director Prieto and Director Prieto nominated Director Balls as Vice President. A vote of the Board was taken ending with a split vote of two and two for Directors Balls and Prieto.

M/C/(Beberian) That Directors voted Director Prieto for the seat of vice president of the Board by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Prieto; Nays – 0; Absent – Porter; Abstain – Balls, Jacobsen)

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M/C/(Prieto) That Directors voted Director Balls for the seat of vice president of the Board by the following vote. (Ayes – Balls, Jacobsen; Nays – 0; Absent – Porter; Abstain – Beberian, Prieto)

It was decided to postpone the election of the Vice President position until the February meeting when Director Porter returns. Director Balls will remain as Vice President until the February meeting. President Jacobsen stated that nominations for the Vice President position will be re-taken followed by a new vote.

Nominations were called for the position of Secretary of the Board. Director Balls nominated General Manager Gary Serrato as Secretary. With no other nominations, the Board voted Mr. Serrato as Secretary.

M/C/(Balls) That the Board of Directors voted General Manager Gary Serrato as the Board Secretary by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Prieto; Nays – 0; Absent – Porter; Abstain – 0)

REVIEW AGENDA

Mr. Serrato stated there were no changes to the current agenda.

REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The January 20, 2015, regular meeting has been cancelled due to a conflict with the Mid Pacific Water Users Conference in Reno, NV.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None presented.

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 Special Meeting Minutes – December 16, 2014**
- b. **Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes – December 16, 2014**
- c. **December 2014 Check Register**
- d. **December 2014 Payroll Registers**
- e. **December 2014 Unpaid Assessment Report**
- f. **December 2014 Investment Account**

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

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CONTROLLER'S REPORT

Controller DeAnn Hailey reported on the following:

Ms. Hailey stated that Staff is preparing for the auditors to arrive the first week of March to begin their on-site 2014 audit. This is the final year of the current auditor's agreement with Brown Armstrong Accountancy Corporation. Request for proposals will be mailed out to qualified auditors in preparation of hiring a new auditing firm for 2016.

a. Request for Correction of Charges 2015-01

Staff requested the Correction of Charges for parcel 316-022-37. This property was purchased by the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District last year from Gary and Elaine Simonian as part of FMFCD's plan for development of a future basin. Local government agencies have an informal standing agreement not to charge each other for assessments. This will mean a reduction of \$179.72 per year to the roll.

M/S/C/(Prieto/Balls) That the Board of Directors approved the Correction of Charges 2015-01 as presented by Staff by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – Porter; Abstain – 0)

b. 2014 Investment Maturities

The investment report presents the actual 2014 Maturities. Ms. Hailey reported that there were no losses during 2014; and the investment returned \$29,732 in interest for 2014.

WATER REPORT

a. Current Water Conditions Report

Mr. Irwin reported on the current and projected water supply and the routing information. As of January 12, Pine Flat release was 185 cfs with storage at 130,809 acre-feet (FID's portion is 7,853 acre-feet). Pre-Project for the Kings River is 218 cfs with FID's Runoff at 94 cfs. Pine Flat Precipitation currently is 5.62 inches (average is 7.29 inches), making it 77.1% of average to date. Snow levels are at 14.6% of April 1 average. The Kings River Water Shed has yet to see any rain or snowfall during the month of January and none is expected through the end of the month.

Conditions have not been conducive to cloud seeding during the month of January and it appears that it will not be improving anytime soon. Director Beberian mentioned that drones are now being used to perform cloud seeding and suggested discussing this possibility with KRWA.

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CHIEF ENGINEER – SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORT

Chief Engineer – Special Projects report given by Laurence Kimura:

a. Developer Projects 2014-15

The Engineering Department continues to review plans of several projects that will be constructed during the 2014-15 Maintenance Season. There are seven projects in progress at this time and Staff anticipates several other projects to commence this month (four more currently planned). During the last month, Staff responded to 17 Developer Review Notices and one Utility Search Request. Staff informed the developers working on projects they will need to be finished and out of the District's systems by February 15, 2015, in preparation of the water season, subject to change by the Board of Directors on the start of the 2015 Irrigation Season.

b. Agency Projects 2014-15

The Engineering Department continues to review plans of several projects that will be constructed during the 2014-15 Maintenance Season. There is one project in progress at this time (Maupin system at Nees and Willow avenues).

Agency / Utility Crossings

There are numerous utility (cable, fiber optics, storm drains, sewer, etc.) crossings being reviewed for boring or construction under various FID facilities.

i. California High Speed Rail Update (CHSR)

There is not much activity occurring at this time with the High Speed Rail project. An invitation-only groundbreaking ceremony was held on January 6 in downtown Fresno (near Tulare and "G" streets - site of future station).

c. Landowner Initiated Projects Update for 2014-15

There are four landowner projects in progress. Staff is working with three additional landowners who still propose to complete their project during the Maintenance Season (prior to February 15, 2015 – subject to change by the Board).

d. Other Activities

Additional Activities

- Groundwater levels were measured as part of the banking facility monitoring plan;
- Cost estimates are being made for winter maintenance projects;
- Engineering Staff is currently assisting or working on ten maintenance projects; and
- Several surveys were performed for project designs.

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Mr. Kimura provided slides on the following projects:

- Clovis Community Medical Center (at Clovis Canal Headgate at Enterprise Canal) – new turnout structure;
- Gow Canal (at S/E Shields and Fowler) – substitution of 2,600-feet of open channel with 24-inch RGRCP. Pipe is being outfitted with a product called MacWrap which will help to guard against root intrusion;
- Herndon West Basin (N/W Ashlan and Lake) – FID crews constructed a 16-foot tall box structure and raised the sides of the basin. Additional fill was brought in from adjacent properties;
- Maupin Canal (S/W Nees and Willow) – relocation and replacement of 1,200-feet of existing 30-inch CIP with 30-inch RGRCP (upgrading to urban standards);
- Jefferson Canal (S/E Barstow and DeWolf) – substitute 1,200-feet of 48-inch RGRCP for open channel. MacWrap was also used on this project to help guard against root intrusion;
- Thompson Canal (N/W Shields and Jameson) – construction of landowners' bridges;
- Little Sandridge Canal (N/E Dakota and Siskiyou) – pipeline substitution project and box structure construction; and
- Minor-Thornton Canal (S/W Corner Gettysburg and Grantland) – tree removal and clean-up along canal bank performed by Westlake.

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Assistant General Manager Bill Stretch reported on the following:

a. Maintenance and Construction Update

- Heavy Equipment Operators are busy working on the Herndon West Basin project (N/W Ashlan and Plumas avenues) and dredging the Gould Canal;
- District-wide, crews are taking care of pipeline repairs, trash removal, and clean-up of homeless encampments;
- Sloping crews are working in the southwest portion of the District (Tielman, Paragon, and Garfield systems);
- Spray crews are finishing up on the Gould and Enterprise systems, as well as, the southwest portion of the District (right behind the sloping crews);
- Construction crews are dealing with work orders, including the Goodrich Pipeline and also the Herndon West Basin project, among other canal systems in the District; and
- Later in the week crews will be moving on to a pipeline substitution project on the West Lampee;

Mr. Stretch provided slides of the following projects:

- Goodrich Canal (E/O Peach at Muscat alignment) – pipeline substitution project of 500-feet of 27-inch PVC;
- Herndon Canal (Fruit Avenue S/O Ashlan) – crews are working on trash and shopping cart removal;

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- Thompson Canal (S/W Barstow and Jameson) – the District tries to work with landowners in maintaining a right-of-way. Brushing crews were out clearing trees and bushes along the canal banks to keep the right-of-way usable;
- Hawn Canal (S/E Nielsen and Brawley - crews were out sloping this canal, as well as others throughout the District;
- Little Houghton Canal (Belmont and Rolinda) – as part of the continuous upkeep, crews have been taking care of gate repairs and standpipe repairs throughout the District as well as the one shown on the Little Houghton;
- Maintenance crews removed the sediment and pressure-washed the Thompson Extension Repogle Flume, as well as, replaced the water-level staff gauge due to rust and oxidation; and
- During the month of December, crews took care of eighteen homeless camps throughout the District that were cleared-out and cleaned-up (including the Herndon Canal – west of Fruit; east of Hughes; and east of Fowler). Any time crews come across suspected bio-hazard, an outside professional company comes in and takes care of the clean-up.

b. Ag Water Management Plan – Update

An extensive presentation on the Ag Water Management Plan (WMP) and SB X7-7 Supplement Report was given during a special meeting in December. The Board authorized Staff to submit the WMP and the SB X7-7 Supplement Report to the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and to the Department of Water Resources by December 31, 2014. Staff informed the Board the reports to the USBR were submitted on December 22 and also to the DWR on December 29. Staff will provide timely updates once comments have been received from the USBR. Staff does not have any indication when they may hear back from the USBR.

c. Southwest Groundwater Banking Project – Update

Mr. Stretch stated that some progress has been made with the potential purchase of property to be used for the groundwater banking project. Staff has prepared a purchase agreement for the first property and the seller is awaiting a release from its lender before the agreement can be executed. Staff anticipates the seller obtaining the release and entering escrow on the first property sometime in January 2015.

Staff has heard from the attorney representing Denver Church who stated that Mr. Church may be willing to open negotiations on his property.

d. Sunnyside/Shepherd Terminus Park – Update

The City of Clovis held a Council meeting on January 12. It was attended by Adam Claes from FID's Engineering Department who reported that the meeting went well. The exchange property that is in escrow is moving through the approval process and the exchange is expected to be completed by June or July 2015. Mr. Dale Mitchell, who represents a local-area homeowners association, spoke very highly of Fresno Irrigation

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District at the council meeting and at previous planning commission meetings. Mr. Mitchell stated that FID is a very good agency to work with and is a good “neighbor”.

MANAGER’S REPORT

General Manager Gary Serrato reported on the following:

KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION

James and Tranquility Irrigation Districts

James and Tranquility have re-established themselves as members of the KRWA. The KRWA Watermaster (Steve Haugen) has requested that a sub-committee be established to address and review the impacts of the two Districts becoming members of the KRWA. During the most recent KRWA meeting, Mr. Haugen announced the process for setting up the sub-committee and the review of the KRWA Intra-Association Agreement (Blue Book). Examples of topics the sub-committee will address include Exhibit “C” and “D” Flows, Fishery Management Program, Temperature Control Pool, and Channel Losses.

FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY

Strategic Planning

An Executive Committee has been established but the Committee’s role has yet to be defined. Mr. Serrato’s understanding is that the responsibilities of this committee and other committees will be presented at the next Friant Board meeting. The Interim Water Development Committee was also established and its responsibilities are still to be determined. Mr. Serrato believes this committee will focus on major areas of importance such as the Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta, regulations for the Department of Water Resources, Exchange Contractors, and Bureau of Reclamation related items. Mr. Serrato stated he approves of the concept of the committee dealing with higher level topics but was not in favor if these issues came down to the individual irrigation district level.

It was also decided that general managers will no longer be allowed to participate as alternate directors. The general managers are still being encouraged to attend but they will no longer be allowed to attend the Closed Session portion of the meetings. FID will need to assign another FID Board Member as an alternate director to Friant. Also, general managers will no longer be a voting participant on sub-committees. These changes will require a much larger commitment from Friant Directors.

The Executive Committee announced that they will begin a search for a new Friant CEO; Ron Jacobsma continues to be the general manager.

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The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) stated that the Banks Pumping Station is limited to one pump with a capacity of 800 cfs, but the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is pumping five pumps (5,000 cfs). The Cooperative Operational Agreement between DWR and BOR calls for the water to be divided. Friant's first priority is to assure that first water pumped from the Federal pumps areas are slated for the Exchange Contractors.

Mr. Serrato included in the board packet a letter to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation from Friant and the San Joaquin Water Authority regarding 2014/2015 CVP Operations Accounting – Exchange Contract Substitute Water Supply. Mr. Serrato also included an article from the Fresno Bee reporting that the Supreme Court has decided to uphold the lower court's decision on the federal rules protecting the delta smelt.

OTHER

Briggs Canal Operational Agreement (between Consolidated Irrigation District and Fresno Irrigation District)

There have been no updates on the agreement since the last report given at the December Board Meeting.

City of Fresno “Conveyance Agreement”

Mr. Serrato stated he continues to meet with the City to discuss the changes of the Conveyance Agreement. Staff has modeled several water delivery scenarios to the City based in compliance with the Conveyance Agreement.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a. Resolution 2015-01 (Change of Start Time for the Regular Board Meetings of the Fresno Irrigation District)

During the December regular board meeting, the Board instructed Staff to properly notice the proposed change of the start time for the District's regular Board meetings. The notice appeared in the Fresno Bee on January 6 and January 13, 2015, as required by law. The new time of FID's regular board meetings will start at 4:00 p.m. with the February 2015 meeting.

Director Beberian inquired about having the flexibility to adjust the meeting time if it is anticipated that the public may have a special interest on a certain topic. President Jacobsen stated that the Board always has the options of delaying the discussion of a specific item or to schedule special meetings.

M/S/C/(Prieto/Beberian) That the Board of Directors approved Resolution 2015-01 to adjust the start time of the District's regular meetings from 5:00 pm to 4:00 pm starting with the February 2015 regular meeting by the following roll call vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – Porter; Abstain – 0)

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b. Policy 140-534 (New IT Password Policy)

Ms. Singh presented the District's new password policy which was developed in response to the auditor's annual report for 2013 (presented to the Board in April 2014).

Director Beberian thought he remembered that the auditor's suggestion was to update FID's IT policy. Ms. Singh responded that her conversation was to update the password policy. Director Beberian also wanted to know if the District has a disaster recovery program. Staff responded that there is an off-site program in place to recover any lost data due to natural disaster or equipment malfunction.

M/S/C/(Prieto/Balls) That the Board of Directors approved Policy 140-534 as presented by Staff by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – Porter; Abstain – 0)

c. Seminars and Webinars for SDRMA Credit Incentive Program Update

Ms. Singh reviewed the incentive program that FID receives through the SDRMA. The District receives credit toward the workers' compensation premiums when FID Board Members attend eligible seminars/webinars. It was noted that there will be one eligible seminar given this year in Fresno in June (to be held at the FID office) that a Board Member can take and the District will receive a \$1,200 - \$1,500 savings towards its workers' compensation premiums. Director Jacobsen asked the Directors to check their calendars to see if someone would be available to attend the Fresno seminar on June 16. A reminder will be given in March if no one has offered to attend.

d. Request for Three-Night Stay for Three Water System Operators to Attend Cal Poly Irrigation Training (ITRC) in San Luis Obispo, CA on February 17, 18, and 19, 2015

This is the annual ITRC training offered by Cal Poly. The District has been sending WSO employees to this training for many years and has found it to be very beneficial. Staff requested to send three WSO employees to attend the February three-day training course in San Luis Obispo.

M/S/C/(Balls/Prieto) That the Board of Directors approved the overnight stays for three WSO employees to attend the ITRC training by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Balls, Jacobsen, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – Porter; Abstain – 0)

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Director Beberian – none.

Director Balls – none.

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Director Jacobsen – complemented Staff on the Year-End-Event.

Director Porter – absent.

Director Prieto – stated that he had to travel to 8,000 feet elevation to find any snow last weekend and conditions were more like ice than snow.

There was no Closed Session portion of the meeting held.

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 GF Land Company L.P. Properties

Property: APN 035-060-14S

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

ADJOURNMENT

President Jacobsen adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Submitted By,

Gary R. Serrato
Secretary of the Board