

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD MARCH 20, 2018**

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 20, 2018. Board President Ryan Jacobsen called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

President Ryan Jacobsen
Vice President Jerry Prieto, Jr.
Director George Porter
Director Gregory Beberian
Director Chris Woolf

DIRECTORS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

General Manager Gary R. Serrato
Assistant General Manager Bill Stretch
Chief Engineer Laurence Kimura
Operations Manager Adam Claes
Watermaster Jim Irwin
Construction/Maintenance Superintendent Mike Prestridge
Controller DeAnn Hailey
Human Resources Director September Singh
Legal Counsel Jeff Boswell
Staff Engineer Felix Vaquilar
Staff Engineer Sen Saetern
Staff Engineer Nick Zaninovich
Recording Secretary Lynn B. Rowe

OTHERS PRESENT

Maricopa Orchards Representative
Independent Reporter Don Wright

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Jacobsen opened the meeting at 4:02 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and wished everyone a "Happy Ag Day".

REVIEW AGENDA

President Jacobsen stated there were no changes to the agenda.

REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS

President Jacobsen stated there were no changes to future meetings.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Reporter Don Wright mentioned Friant Water Authority's upcoming Annual Growers Meeting on March 27 – Mr. Wright was invited to attend.

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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 – February 20, 2018**
- b. **February 2018 Check Reports**
- c. **February 2018 Payroll Registers**
- d. **February 2018 Unpaid Assessment Report**
- e. **February 2018 Investment Account**

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

CONTROLLER'S REPORT

- a. **2017 Audited Financial Statements Update**

Ms. Hailey reported the auditors were on-site during the week of February 27. At the request of the general manager, the auditors returned for an additional two days during the following week for more in-depth review/testing. The auditors were pleased with the results and have plans to report their findings to the Directors during April's Board meeting. Mr. Serrato requested the verification that FID's financial documents were in order and transparent before he retires in January 2019.

- b. **February 2018 Deposits and Investments**

Ms. Hailey reviewed the draft copy of the Deposits and Investments report for February 2018. The final report will be brought to the Board after the audit is complete.

- c. **2018-2019 Workers' Compensation Rates**

The District's Workers' Compensation insurance rates decreased in all categories by eight percent and the EMOD rate by nine percent. The savings realized is just over \$34,000. The credit incentive points were not calculated into this savings.

WATERMASTER'S REPORT

- a. **Current Water Conditions Report**

Mr. Claes reported on the current and projected water supply and routing information. As of March 19, Pine Flat release was 283 cfs with storage at 554,852 acre-feet. FID's

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storage was 92,440 acre-feet. Pre-Project for the Kings River was 1,104 cfs – FID entitlement was 709 cfs. Fresno precipitation was at 3.82 inches for Year-To-Date, 42.3% of average (9.04 inches) – Pine Flat precipitation was at 7.59 inches for Year-To-Date, 49.8% of average (15.25 inches). An on-site snow survey will take place during the week of March 26. Contingent on the results of the survey, Class I water allocation could be 50 - 60%. If this is the case, the District could provide a three to four month run. Staff will watch the conditions carefully and if it is determined that the District needs to start earlier (possibly mid-April), Staff will call for a Special Board meeting. The current warm storm is causing the lower elevation snow to melt. Staff's current recommendation is to start the water season on May 1 unless storage issues occur and circumstances dictate the need to start sooner. Director Porter stated his constituents prefer their irrigations later in the season.

b. Discussion / Possible Action on 2018 Annex Area Water and Cost Per Acre-Foot

Due to an increase in the snowpack, Staff is able to secure a water supply for the Annex Area. Staff recommends offering one-acre foot per acre at a cost of \$300 per acre-foot.

M/S/C (Porter/Prieto) That the Board of Directors approved the sale of water to the Annex Area at \$300 per acre-foot by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Woolf, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

CHIEF ENGINEER'S REPORT

Chief Engineer Laurence Kimura reported on the following:

a. Developer Projects Update 2017-18

- Staff reviewed projects for the 2017-18 Maintenance Season
- Nine projects in progress
- Seven projects under review
- Commented on 27 developer review notices and eight utility search requests

b. Agency Projects Update 2017-18

- Staff worked on projects under construction and reviewed projects for the 2017-18 Maintenance Season
- Three projects in progress
- Six projects under review

i. High Speed Rail (HSR)

- FID Staff continues to work on facility agreement negotiations with CHSRA, BNSF, and UPRR
- Construction of 50 feet of culvert at the Dry Creek Canal, near "G" Street and Divisadero was completed for now. Work will resume next year.

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- Construction at the Fresno Colony Canal is in progress and anticipated to finish next month
 - Fill material excavation from Pursell and Ventura ponds is completed
 - Overcrossing at American Avenue is still in progress
- c. Landowner Initiated Projects Update for 2017-18**
- One project in progress
 - No projects under review for the 2017-18 Maintenance Season
- d. Other Activities**
- Groundwater levels were measured as part of the banking facility's monitoring plan and the semi-annual monitoring throughout the District was completed. Once the data has been compiled the website will be updated
 - Plans are being drawn up for future maintenance projects
 - Staff is assisting or working on nine FID maintenance/construction projects (five currently in progress)
 - Several surveys were performed for project design and construction
 - Staff has been very busy locating pipelines and rights-of-ways for crop conversions
 - Over the last month seven construction, structure, or water permits were issued and monitored

Project(s)

- Victoria Colony West Branch (S/W Belmont and Brawley) – pipeline replacement of approximately 400 feet of 20-inch NRCP with 400 feet of 21-inch PVC PIP 100
- Fresno Colony Canal (N/W North and Cedar) – replacement and relocation of existing CIP pipelines with approximately 500 feet of 66-inch RGRCP
- Dry Creek Canal (Divisadero and "G" Street) – HSR three-cell concrete box culvert project
- Dry Creek Canal (Divisadero and "G" Street) – City of Fresno 42-inch steel casing for 30-inch sewer pipeline

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Operations Manager Adam Claes reported on items a. - c. for the Board:

a. Maintenance and Construction Update

- Lower Dry Creek (S/E Jensen and Blythe) – installation of two turnout structures for landowner
- Lower Dry Creek (S/E Jensen and Blythe) – installation of Langemann gate and check structure retrofit
- Thompson Extension (N/W North and Bishop) – installation of Langemann gate and check structure retrofit

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- Victoria East Branch Canal (McKinley and Marks) – the brushing crew trimmed/removed trees/shrubs along canal bank
- Briggs Canal (Butler and Temperance) – crews shaping canal for liner
- Briggs Canal (Butler and Temperance) – concrete liner was installed
- Gould Extension (Dakota and Cedar) – homeless camp clean-up
- Fresno Colony Canal (American and Blythe) – crews reclaimed right-of-way
- Central Waste Canal (at Bryan) – removed sediment
- Dry Creek Canal (at Boswell Banking Facility – Langemann gate) – removing sediment
- Fresno Headgates – City of Fresno project; fencing, cattle guard improvements, and installation of water trough

b. Southwest Groundwater Banking Project Update

Situated at S/E Lincoln and Madera avenues is a 100-acre joint recharge facility project with the James Irrigation District. The pond is essentially complete with the contractor working a few last punch-list items. The pond is equipped with turnout structure, weir, wells, monitors, and fencing.

c. Discussion / Possible Action on Equipment Committee Recommendations (walk in)

Prior to the Board meeting, Staff held an Equipment Committee meeting with Directors Porter and Woolf to discuss the purchase of a new chipper and new computers. Mr. Claes stated due to an engine failure, the 2008 Vermeer 12-inch chipper needs replacing. Since the chipper is slated for replacement by January 2020, due to CARB diesel emissions compliance, it was proposed that a new chipper be purchased as opposed to investing in repairing/replacing the current engine. Staff researched the reliability/longevity, size, and brands of different chippers on the market. Based on the type of work FID crews' perform, it was recommended purchasing a 15-inch chipper. Staff received estimates of \$67,000 - \$77,000.

The Committee also discussed Staff's efforts to continue the scheduled rotation of computers (twelve desktop computers, one laptop, and two monitors). Cost to replace these computers are estimated at \$23,000.

Mr. Claes reviewed the status of the Power Revenue account. The Equipment Committee approved Staff obtaining bids to purchase a new chipper. The Committee also approved the purchase of the new computers.

M/S/C (Porter/Woolf) That the Board of Directors approved the purchase of the computers/monitors (twelve desktops, one laptop, and two monitors) and to solicit bids for a 15-inch chipper by the following vote. (Ayes – Beberian, Woolf, Jacobsen, Porter, Prieto, Jr.; Nays – 0; Absent – 0; Abstain – 0)

Director Beberian inquired if the previously authorized dump truck had been purchased/delivered. Staff stated it had.

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Assistant General Manager Bill Stretch reported on items d. - g. for the Board:

d. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Update

i. North Kings GSA Update

Mr. Stretch reported the North Kings GSA Board next meets on March 22; the Board last met on January 25. The Technical Committee continues to work on completing the GSP within the next eleven months; they are now working on the more complex chapters. The Outreach Committee's efforts are increasing. During the next NKGSA Board meeting, the Committee will present the draft Outreach Plan. Mr. Serrato stated Staff will schedule a meeting to discuss the 2018/2019 Fiscal Budget, which will be brought before the NKGSA Board in May. During the Finance Sub-Committee meeting, Staff will discuss the NKGSA's expense reimbursement to FID.

ii. Kings Subbasin GSA Update

The preliminary over-draft numbers and boundary flows for the seven GSAs were made available to the group. The subbasin group continues to work on an agreement for dispute resolution and choice of mediator; two names are under consideration. The Kings Subbasin was awarded a \$1.5 million dollar grant by the DWR. The group agreed to split the grant among the seven GSAs (\$214,000 per GSA). Mr. Serrato stated the grant funds will not be available until December. The group is now meeting twice a month due to the fast approaching deadline for the development of the plan (GSP).

iii. Miscellaneous – County/DWR/SWB

The County met with area agencies on March 1. No new developments came out of the meeting.

e. Friant Water Authority – Update

Mr. Stretch stated at FWA's February Board meeting, FID was warmly welcomed back as a member of the FWA; the next Board meeting is scheduled for March 22. A letter to FWA concerning the allocation of expenses when dealing with the Friant-Kern Canal (FKC) subsidence issues was included with the signed membership agreement and resolution. FID's position is the costs should be borne by the entities that are responsible for the situation. Mr. Stretch noted that FWA has hired a consultant to develop a plan to improve the subsidence issues on the FKC; several options are under discussion.

FWA is in the process of updating their bylaws. FID's attorney has reviewed them and provided edits.

f. FID Water Resource Strategic Plan Element Update

The Strategic Plan draft continues to be developed and should be ready in April.

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g. Trails Along FID Canals – Master Trails Agreement with the City of Fresno Update

The City has yet to respond to the latest edits on the trail agreement provided by FID. The next meeting between staff from the city manager's office and FID Staff is in April. An article published by the Fresno Bee inquired as to why the walking / riding pathway through the City of Fresno has been slow to materialize. The article did say that both sides are very optimistic about finalizing the agreement but no date has been set for the start of work.

Mr. Stretch reminded the Board of the upcoming Landowner's Meetings in Easton, Clovis, and Kerman. The McMullin GSA will give a short presentation during the Kerman meeting.

Director Beberian and Bill Stretch attended the ACWA Legislative Days in Sacramento. Mr. Stretch found it interesting, including attending a panel discussion on SB 623 (water rights legislation). ACWA is in support of this legislation. Mr. Stretch also stopped in at a few local legislators and/or their staff offices (Vidak, Patterson, Arambula, and Bigalow) at the Capitol.

MANAGER'S REPORT

KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION

a. Kings River Water Association Update

The KRWA budget of \$2.3 million was passed at the March 20 Board meeting. Staff will be monitoring allocations from the Britz Fund, which has been utilized to pay for the costs of litigation. Two positions were filled, an assistant watermaster and a water resource analysis. The budget includes an \$800,000 line item for a water rights defense fund for the protection of KRWA's water rights.

b. Friant Operations Update

No further update.

c. Miscellaneous Updates

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Presentations

Mr. Serrato gave a presentation to the staff of the State Water Resources Control Board; the presentation was well received. Mr. Serrato also spoke to the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley group in Merced. Mr. Serrato explained that waters that are tributary to the each County must remain in the area to meet the new SGMA requirements.

Mr. Serrato invited the Board Members to the Clovis Mayor's Breakfast being held on May 10. Anyone interested in attending should inform Staff.

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ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a. Board Room Monitor Update

Ms. Hailey reported the power and file server connection to the new monitor will be run from the existing electrical outlet and CAT5/6 port located on the same wall as the monitor, instead of installing a new electrical outlet and CAT5/6 port behind the monitor. Installing the outlet and port is cost prohibitive. Delivery of the monitor is expected in the next two weeks.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Director Beberian – none.

Director Woolf – none.

Director Jacobsen – reminded everyone that today is National Ag Day and also National Ag Week.

Director Porter – none.

Director Prieto – attended a meeting in Sacramento for the Fresno County Farm Bureau. During the meeting, it was mentioned that in San Luis Obispo County an environmental group is bringing legislation to call for all groundwater to become part of the public trust.

Open Session concluded at 6:07 p.m. with the Directors and some Staff going into Closed Session at 6:20 p.m. No District business was discussed during the break.

CLOSED SESSION

Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation Government Code 54956.9(d)(2). Meet in closed session to confer with counsel on potential litigation arising out of claims by third parties to water rights on the Kings River. On advice of counsel, the staff has concluded that, based on existing facts and circumstances, there is significant exposure to litigation by or against the KRWA.

Government Code Section 54956.8 Real Property Transactions.

Negotiators: William Stretch – FID, Gary Serrato – FID; and William H. Wagner and William H. Wagner as Trustee

Properties: APN 512-021-03 and 512-020-09

Terms and Conditions: Negotiations of Purchase of Real Property Resolution 2017-14

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Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation Government Code 54956.9(d)(2). Meet in closed session to confer with counsel on potential litigation arising out of claim by third party: Hardeep Kalket and Amandeep Kalket - Engineering Action Request 2018-03 (CS-1)

CLOSED SESSION ADJOURNMENT

President Jacobsen adjourned Closed Session at 7:25 p.m.

REPORT IN OPEN SESSION OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

President Jacobsen stated there was no reportable action from Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, President Jacobsen adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Submitted By,



Gary R. Serrato
Secretary of the Board