

KINGS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2020

As a result of the COVID-19 emergency, the public was able to participate through a conference call. Directors could choose to meet with Staff in the Board Room or participate through a conference call. President Taylor called the regular meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Steven P. Dias, Barry McCutcheon, Michael Murray (phone), Ernest Taylor

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Joseph Freitas

OTHERS PRESENT: Dennis Mills, General Manager
Ray Carlson, Attorney (phone)
Johnny Gaily, Delta View WA (phone)

ESTABLISH QUORUM

It was determined that a quorum was present at the meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MAY 7 MEETING

President Taylor asked if there was a motion regarding the minutes circulated in this month's Board packets. Vice-President Dias made a motion to approve the regular May 7, 2020 meeting minutes. Director McCutcheon seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the regular May 7, 2020 meeting minutes. The vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

AYES: Steven P. Dias, Michael Murray, Barry McCutcheon, Ernest Taylor

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Joseph Freitas

COMMUNICATIONS

Manager Mills discussed the following communications with the District:

- Kaweah Delta WCD has relayed that they no longer wish to be a CASGEM reporter any longer. The District has had an agreement with KDWCD since 2013 for CASGEM reporting. KDWCD believes that SGMA now makes GSAs the required reporters through GSPs. KDWCD will continue to monitor and share information with partners like the District. KDWCD believes that half of the participants have already agreed to dissolve it, but have asked for the District's view. The Board discussed the issue and concluded they understood KDWCD position.
- Attorney Carlson passed some information on to staff that there has been a lawsuit filed against Westlands WD regarding CVP contract conversions. The issue appears to be focused on NEPA compliance.

- Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District sent the District an invoice for its portion of the County's State Water Project contract expense.
- The District has received several notices related to a LAFCO proceeding where Laguna ID is expanding their service area into what's been called "little Texas". The area is mostly in southern Fresno County, but a small area is in Kings County. The effort is understood to be related to SGMA compliance and associated assessments for project development.
- Manager Mills received a communication from Provost and Pritchard that documents related to revised Apex Ranch monitoring protocols and annual reports are available for review.

GENERAL MANAGER

STAFF

Manager Mills reported that all staff had been healthy in June except for himself. He was sick with a cough and a wheeze for the first two weeks of June, and worked from home during that period.

WATER SUPPLY

Manager Mills reported Kings River losses down to Peoples Weir had recently been projected by KRWA to be 13%, with an additional 13% down to Lemoore Weir. Manager Mills questioned the amounts as it seems historically inconsistent for half of the losses down to Lemoore Weir to occur above Peoples Weir.

Manager Mills reported that on the Peoples system it appeared that the water run for Peoples Main and Settlers would last through the end of August while for Riverside and New Deal it would last through the end of July. He also relayed that the Lakeside IWD 2020 exchange arrangement was agreed to in June.

Related to the recovery wells at Apex Ranch, Manager Mills explained that the plan continues to be for them to run through most of August. He also reported that Bank's starting 2020 balance was 20,189 AF in storage and that 1,796 AF had been recovered in June, leaving a balance of 18,393 AF. He relayed three projections for estimated run scenarios through the remainder of the season.

Manager Mills reported that on the Last Chance system it appeared that the water run would last through the third or fourth week of July.

FACILITIES

Manager Mills reported the District had received a payment check from Southern California Gas Company for the Temporary Construction Easement that had recently been agreed to on the northern portion of the Garner Basin.

Related to the Weidman Basin, Manager Mills reported that staff had been working with the Sherriff's department to get homeless trespassers removed from the property. The District had recently been contacted by the County Building official about the property, as it appears that a local home owner has complained to a County Supervisor about the homeless there. Manager Mills responded back to the official, citing how the Covid-19 emergency had altered plans at the location. He also relayed how the District has continued efforts with the Sherriff's, especially after the resurgence of trespassers after the water run began.

Manager Mills reported that over the last month there had been issues with the community pipeline from Peoples Ditch just south of Houston Avenue. Deliveries through the pipeline were started in June, but then there were complaints about leaks by a home owner, so

the pipeline was shut down. Larry Wilkinson and Adolf Sanchez pleaded with Manager Hemans to continue the pipeline's use. Mr. Wilkinson visited the office and conveyed his frustration. The complaint about leakage came from Jason Hampshire. He moved into a house along the alignment in 2018. Manager Mills spoke with him about it and also discussed the possibility that irrigation from the adjacent field was what was causing his issue. In the end, the District started the pipeline back up again.

Manager Mills reported that for the Esajian Basin the District had received six excavation estimates from G&J Heavy Haul. To date the estimates totaled 380,409 CY of excavation and 13.3 AF of pumped groundwater for dust control. The District had received two checks from G&J totaling \$114,334.55 and they have an outstanding balance of \$107,474. Manager Mills also relayed that over the last two months he worked with consultants to update the project design to address a conflict with the west edge of the basin and the existing power towers, as well as the access road along Peoples Ditch.

Manager Mills reported on the Riverside Culvert efforts with the CA High Speed Rail Authority (HSR). HSR provided the District with a kind of right-of-way (ROW) drawing for the facility. There seems to be an issue with slopes for starting on district facilities and ending behind HSR fences. Also, Manager Mills made other alignment and ROW comments. Another meeting is scheduled for Friday to discuss how HSR wants to address the District comments.

Manager Mills reported that the Riverside Crossing over Last Chance Main Canal has been very difficult to operate this season. It requires staff to run Riverside Ditch high upstream to make deliveries. Staff is trying to do more rotation downstream to address that, but it has been difficult. This facility needs to be on the top of the list to replace at the end of the season.

Manager Mills reported that the Everett Basin turnouts had required some fixes after initial tests related to erosion around the outlets. The efforts had recently been completed. The conceptual design of the facility had cost just over \$80,000, in-field changes from the design had cost roughly \$5,000, and the erosion fixes had cost roughly \$5,000.

SGMA – MID-KINGS RIVER GSA

Manager Mills reported that after a long hiatus, there had been a recent meeting between the Tulare Lake subbasin GSA managers. One thing coming out of the meeting was that the comment letters have been received for the Tulare Lake Subbasin GSP, will be addressed individually by the GSAs.

Manager Mills also reported that he had been made aware that a reporter from Bakersfield had recently written articles about Vidovich and Boswell issues in the Tulare Lake subbasin. Also, recently the Southwest Kings GSA parted ways with their manager, consultant and attorney. The Board then chose GeoSyntech as their consultant and Deanna Jackson as their manager. GeoSyntech already works with the South Fork Kings GSA and Tri-County Water Authority. And Deanna Jackson has been the manager of Tri-County Water Authority since Matt Hurley's departure.

Manager Mills reported that the South Fork Kings GSA had been working on a grant application to fund monitor well sites and they had requested the MKR GSA's top five potential locations. The MKR GSA provided KCWD's Esajian Basin, Griswold property, Everett Basin, Rose Basin, and the Cody Slough as potentials.

Finally, Manager Mills described a situation that had developed related to DWR's view that GSAs were now required to provide spring groundwater level data on Representative Monitoring Sites (RMSs) Requirement July 1. This was not understood by the GSAs and was

being investigated further. It appears that DWR staff is trying to keep a dying CASGEM program viable, and to support that they have linked three different requirements together to develop this requirement. However, there was also a communications issue, with the GSAs not getting the message through the Subbasin Point of Contact. An extension has been requested and the El Rico GSA manager is having further discussions with DWR about what has been conveyed as a requirement.

SGMA – GREATER KAWEAH GSA

Manager Mills reported that the Mid-Kaweah GSA had sent a letter to the El Rico GSA requesting collaboration on GSP matters and copied the District and the Mid-Kings River GSA for awareness.

Manager Mills also reported on the Greater Kaweah GSA’s budget forecast and a letter that had been sent to the District related to continued JPA member support of the GSA.

Manager Mills also reported that Delta View Water Authority staff had contacted him about his view of a potential application for a Watershed Coordinator grant. That group plans to focus on developing projects to offset SGMA impacts in their area.

Manager Mills also reported on an initial Stanford-NASA project meeting relating to efforts to model groundwater levels and subsidence in the Kaweah subbasin. Also he reported on interest from Stanford professors on Apex Ranch pump tests.

ON-GOING EFFORTS

None

EXPENDITURE LIST APPROVAL & FINANCING STATEMENT ACCEPTANCE

Accounting Technician Renee Davis gave the quarterly reports (January, February and March and April, May and June 2020) on the District’s investments.

On a motion by Director McCutcheon, with a second by Director Murray, it was unanimously approved by the Board that the expenditure list and financial statement be accepted as submitted. The vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

AYES: Steven P. Dias, Michael Murray, Barry McCutcheon, Ernest Taylor

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Joseph Freitas

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Manager Mills conveyed that a transfer of \$1,500,000.00 from County Fund to Union Bank General Account was needed then \$1,300,000 from the Union Bank General Account to the District’s LAIF account was required. Director McCutcheon made a motion to approve the transfer and Director Murray seconded the motion. President Taylor called for a vote and the vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

AYES: Steven P. Dias, Michael Murray, Barry McCutcheon, Ernest Taylor

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Joseph Freitas

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS

None.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular Board of Directors meeting was set for August 6, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Mills
MIN07.09.20