

KINGS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021

As a results 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 McCutcheon called the regular meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Dennis Mills, General Manager
Ray Carlson, Attorney (phone)
Shawn Corley, Lakeside IWD (phone)
Sebastian Silviera, Griswold LaSalle (phone)
Johnny Gailey, 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 FEBRUARY 11, 2021 MEETING

President McCutcheon asked if there was a motion regarding the minutes circulated in this month's Board packets. Director Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular February 11, 2021 meeting. Director Freitas seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved minutes of the regular February 11, 2021 meeting. The vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAINED:None

ABSENT: None

COMMUNICATIONS

Manager Mills reported that:

- G&J contacted the District and communicated they were looking for dirt for a project near the intersection of Highway 198 & Highway 99.

- City of Hanford representatives posed a question about a potential trail/bike path along Peoples Ditch through the city.
- Phil Bartell of Streamline Irrigation provided plans for the crossing installed by the Tos Family across Riverside Ditch.
- District staff had a field meeting with DFJV-CHSRA staff on the effort to develop a culvert where the HSR project crosses Riverside Ditch.

GENERAL MANAGER

ROUND 1 SGM IMPLEMENTATION GRANT APPLICATION

Manager Mills reported that the District's Round 1 SGM Implementation grant application for Recharge efforts was not selected in DWR's draft funding list. The draft list funded five projects out of 15 applications. There was not currently any information on the scoring of the application, but a meeting with DWR staff was being scheduled to learn more.

RIVERSIDE CROSSING AT LAST CHANCE EFFORTS

Manager Mills reported that emergency efforts continue to replace the Riverside Crossing over the Last Chance Main Canal. He updated the Board on how contracting, demolition and construction surveying had progressed and also described how a few design items had been altered due to issues that had come up. Manager Mills recommended that the Board extend the emergency declaration of local emergency associated with the Riverside Crossing over the Last Chance Main Canal. Director Taylor made a motion to extend the previous emergency declaration. Director Freitas seconded the motion and the Board unanimously extended the emergency declaration of local emergency associated with the Riverside Crossing over the Last Chance Main Canal. The vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

Manager Mills reported that the latest DWR Bulletin 120 Water Supply estimate is roughly 35% of average April-July runoff for the Kings River. Local conditions continue to be very dry and ditch companies are considering much shorter than normal water run durations.

WY 2019-2020 CROPPING FROM LAND IQ

Manager Mills briefly reported on District contract efforts with Land IQ.

ON-GOING EFFORTS

Martin Stock Purchase

Manager Mills reported that the District was successful in agreeing to terms with the Martin family on a Last Chance stock purchase. Currently the sales agreement has been signed and the District is awaiting instructions from the family about how to deliver payment.

Ramboll Testing

Manager Mills reported that the effort to conduct non-invasive soil testing on a few existing and potential project locations through Ramboll is still being scheduled.

Weidman Basin

Manager Mills reported on the development of a new barbed wire fence around Weidman Basin and the efforts to burn the removed vegetation consistent with the District's Air Board permit.

MKR GSA

Manager Mills reported that the MKR GSA had received notice that the Grant Administrator for the Round 3 Planning grant was being reassigned to help the California Department of Public Health and his supervisor would be filling in during his reassignment. It also appears that it will be necessary to process a budget adjustment on the Round 3 planning grant. Also, DWR has communicated that the Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) will be required to be uploaded along with the Spring 2021 groundwater monitoring information.

GK GSA

Manager Mills reported on Kings CWD contracted efforts with Land IQ and how they might impact evaluations in the Greater Kaweah GSA. Also a brief update was provided on the Prop 218 Election for that GSA.

EXPENDITURE LIST APPROVAL & FINANCING STATEMENT ACCEPTANCE

On a motion by Director Taylor, with a second by Vice-president Dias, 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, Joseph Freitas, Barry McCutcheon, Michael Murray,
Ernest Taylor

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

No transfer was needed at this time. Manager Mills notified the Board that only \$300,000.00 of the originally approved \$1,200,000.00 was transferred last month from Union Bank General Account to L.A.I.F. account due to the stock purchase from John Martins.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS

None.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular Board of Directors meeting was set for April 15, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS

Government Code Section § 54956.8

Property: Potential Basin Site

Agency negotiator: Dennis Mills, General Manager

Negotiating parties: Property Owner, Kings County Water District

Under negotiation: Parcels, Price and terms of payment

President Taylor directed that the Board move into Closed Session to discuss existing litigation and potential property negotiations. Legal Counsel advised the Board that it has authority to hold a Closed Session under Government Code section 54956.8. All persons other than the Directors, the General Manager and Legal Counsel thereupon retired from the meeting.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Following the Closed Session, President McCutcheon reported that Manager Mills was authorized to investigate the property being considered, but no other reportable action was taken in Closed Session and the meeting was again open to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Mills

MIN03.11.21