

KINGS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 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 1:00 p.m.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Barry McCutcheon (phone),  
Michael Murray (phone), Ernest Taylor

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Steven P. Dias, Joseph Freitas

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Dennis Mills, General Manager  
Ray Carlson, Attorney (phone)  
Geoff VandenHuevel, Milk Producers Council (phone)  
Johnny Gailey, Delta View WA (phone)  
Shawn Corley, Lakeside IWD (phone)  
Jeb Hedricks (phone)  
Lita Spencer, Westchester Group Investment  
Management, Inc. (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 SEPTEMBER 9, 2021 MEETING**

President McCutcheon asked if there was a motion regarding the minutes circulated in this month's Board packets. Manager Mills noted that Attorney Carlson had provided some minor edits to the draft minutes circulated. Director McCutcheon made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular September 9, 2021 meeting including the edits provided by Attorney Carlson. Director Murray seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the regular September 9, 2021 meeting. The vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

AYES: Barry McCutcheon, Michael Murray, Ernest Taylor

NOES: None

ABSTAINED:None

ABSENT: Steven P. Dias, Joseph Freitas

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Manager Mills reported that:

- Pam Lassley had recently retired from Kings River Water Authority with 60 years of service
- He had responded to Leta Spencer of Westchester Group Investment Management, Inc. related to a meeting request on a potential Recharge Project
- He had some communication with DWR staff related to changing SGM Implementation grant funding targets and associated requirements

## **GENERAL MANAGER**

### **STAFF REPORT**

Manager Mills briefly reported on/that:

- AB 361 as it related to conference call Board meetings and that the District's current practice appears to be consistent with the new law.
- The office portion of the Fiscal Year 2021 District Audit had recently been conducted.
- There had been recent damage to Well 2's electrical panel at Apex Ranch. The copper wire in the panel had been stripped and another nearby well was also vandalized. A police report had been filed and ACWA JPIA had been informed of the situation.
- The District's consultant had updated KCWD's website to include the most recent approved Project List.

### **G&J HEAVY HAUL LICENSE AGREEMENT**

Manager Mills provided a summary of previous efforts as well as a summary of efforts since the last Board meeting. Manager Mills made a recommendation on how to proceed with negotiations on an extension of the license agreement at the Esajian Basin. The Board discussed the recommendation and asked several questions. The Board communicated they supported Manager Mills' recommendation on how to proceed with the negotiations.

### **RAMBOLL BASIN INVESTIGATIONS UPDATE**

Manager Mills reported that the effort appeared to be completed. There was some question about a printed version of the final report, but that was the only remaining issue to address.

### **LAND IQ CROPPING INFORMATION UPDATE**

Manager Mills reported that the August monthly data had been received and that he was still evaluating applied water information from Louis Giacomazzi. Also a summary spreadsheet had been developed by P&P which created a unique ID for each field in the area. Lastly, Karl teVelde had also communicated that he had applied water information that could be used to compare for accuracy.

### **GSA RELATED TOPICS**

Manager Mills reported that he had heard from other GSA managers that DWR has communicated that a letter from DWR on GSP issues was expected within the next 60 days.

#### *Mid-Kings River GSA*

Manager Mills reported on the adjusted SMC values that were loaded by the MKR GSA into the SGMA portal. This last month it was learned that Geosyntech had not made the MKR GSA aware of the communications with DWR and instead unilaterally acquiesced to their

request. The action was a mistake caused by confused communication in the Geosyntech team. Manager Mills relayed that he would have to reach out to DWR on the matter as time allowed.

Manager Mills reported that Kings County had recently developed a website that provided information on groundwater well permits. Using that data Manager Mills had compared permits issued in the critical drought years of 2015 and 2021 to date. The comparison showed that there were significantly fewer well permits issued in 2021 than in 2015. The parcels with 2021 well permits issued were mapped and shown for illustration during the discussion.

Manager Mills reported that the work on developing a GSP consultant list was on-going, as was the plan for Director Murray's Board seat.

#### *Greater Kaweah GSA*

Manager Mills reported he had communicate with Lakeside IWD about their interest in investigating recharge sites through something like the Ramboll Investigation. LIWD had responded that they wished to pursue efforts on their existing facilities at this time.

Manager Mills reported on a letter from the Delta View Water Authority that was sent to the Greater Kaweah GSA regarding representation in the process of developing groundwater management strategies.

Manager Mills reported that he had conducted a Technical Advisory Committee meeting for the Greater Kaweah GSA. At the meeting information related to groundwater elevation change from September 2020 and June 2021 was presented. From the information, it appeared that the average elevation change in the Lakeside/Delta View area was a drop of 7.3 feet during the period.

Finally Manager Mills reported that there were significant efforts in the Greater Kaweah GSA related to the development of a groundwater pumping cap proposal. He reported that a significant amount of his time over the last month had been to consider and evaluate possible management strategies being considered.

#### FACILITIES AND PROJECT UPDATES

Manager Mills briefly reported on a few facilities that continue to be in development. Manager Mills reported that he had contacted Summers Engineering related to the development of a crossing on Peoples Ditch. The concept initially was a railcar bridge, but recent prices for those have gone up significantly. So a simple large diameter culvert design was now being pursued.

#### ON-GOING EFFORTS

##### *Groundwater Measurements*

Manager Mills reported that fall groundwater measurements were underway. He reported on communications with Michael Tharp, regarding R.L. Schafer's passing, and working through 4Creeks Consulting to continue the monitoring services.

##### *KRWA*

Manager Mills reported that he had asked P&P to undertake a survey of control structures between Peoples Weir and Lemoore Weir to evaluate some hydraulic conditions along that portion of the Kings River. He also reported that KRWA had provided the lower river units additional information on river losses to Peoples Weir after questions were raised about their estimates.

**EXPENDITURE LIST APPROVAL & FINANCING STATEMENT ACCEPTANCE**

On a motion by Director Murray, with a second by Director McCutcheon, 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: Barry McCutcheon, Michael Murray, Ernest Taylor

NOES: None

ABSTAINED:None

ABSENT: Steven P. Dias, Joseph Freitas,

**TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

None.

**BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS**

None.

**SET NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next regular Board of Directors meeting was set for November 4, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

**CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE 54956.9 (A) AND 54956.9(D)(1)**

**CLOSED SESSION**

**RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

President McCutcheon reported that there were no reportable actions taken during Closed Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Mills  
MIN10.07.21