

KINGS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022

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 McCutcheon called the regular meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Joseph Freitas

OTHERS PRESENT: Dennis Mills, General Manager
Ray Carlson, Attorney (phone)
Mike Cuttone, Auditor (phone)
Johnny Gailey, Delta View Water Association (phone)

ESTABLISH QUORUM

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR FEBRUARY 10, 2022 MEETING

Manager Mills explained that due to the various efforts currently going on, he was still developing the minutes for the regular February Board meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Manager Mills reported on the following communications:

- Gene Kilgore is leaving Corcoran ID and taking a job with Exeter-Ivanhoe-Stone Corral IDs.
- The District received a payment of seed funding back from the Greater Kaweah GSA.
- The consultant for the Tulare Lake Subbasin requested spring and fall groundwater levels and locations for 2015 in connection with GSP revisions. Those were provided and then they made a request for similar data in 2011 and 2021. Manager Mills conveyed that he planned to ask for the deliverable from the first effort and an explanation of why the other data was needed before providing the requested information. The Board discussed this and agreed with the recommendation.
- Request for support on SB 832 on Open Et.
- DWRs Bulletin 120 estimated a 62% April- July runoff on the Kings River, equating to 750,000 acre-feet.
- Fliers had recently gone out for three local Land IQ workshops where their ET estimates would be more fully explained on March 15, 17 and 25.
- The District recently received the January ET results from Land IQ

- City of Corcoran has sent notice that their Urban Water Management Plan is being revised and they are planning a public hearing.
- Supervisor Verboon conveyed that the County might have access to grant funds and would like to accomplish water projects. He is asking for projects ready for construction.

GENERAL MANAGER

FISCAL YEAR 2021 AUDIT

Manager Mills reviewed that last month the Board had approved the Fiscal Year 2021 Audit by Cuttone & Maestro, but had asked Mike Cuttone to be available at the next Board meeting for any questions that may have arisen. Mr. Cuttone was on the conference line, but the Directors did not have any questions for him. He was thanked for his services and attendance at the meeting before he exited the call.

SGM IMPLEMENTATION GRANT APPLICATION

Manager Mills reported that both the Tulare Lake Subbasin and the Kaweah Subbasin submitted applications for DWR's SGM Implementation Grants. The application in the Tulare Lake Subbasin from the Mid-Kings River GSA included the Griswold Basin development and other basin projects from Kings CWD with a grant funded budget of \$3.0 million. The application in the Kaweah Subbasin from the Greater Kaweah GSA included the Delta View Basin Project from Kings CWD with a grant funded budget of \$1.374 million. There had been no response yet from DWR on the submitted funding plans.

RIVERSIDE 2021 CORPORATION FRANCHISE TAX

Attorney Carlson discussed recent efforts to address recent issues with the California Franchise Tax Board.

INCOMPLETE GSP LETTERS FROM DWR

Manager Mills reported that the Tulare Lake Subbasin planned to contract for consultant services from Geosyntec through the Mid-Kings River GSA on behalf of all the GSA parties. There had been one meeting so far on preliminary thoughts on how to address the issues raised by DWR.

ON-GOING EFFORTS

Manager Mills relayed updates on the Spring 2022 groundwater monitoring effort.

Manager Mills made the Board aware of a few parties that had just missed the most recent deadline for surface water rental deposit payments. He recommended that the late payments be accepted and the renters be allowed to rent this water season. The Board agreed.

Manager Mills relayed information about a recent effort to setup a meeting with the Director of DWR as it seems she has not been receiving input from local agencies for an extended period of time.

EXPENDITURE LIST APPROVAL & FINANCING STATEMENT ACCEPTANCE

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

NOES: None

ABSTAINED:None

ABSENT: Joseph Freitas

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Manager Mills reported that a transfer of \$250,000 from Union Bank General Account to the L.A.I.F. Account was needed. On a motion by Vice-President Dias, with a second by Director Taylor, it was unanimously approved by the Board to transfer \$250,000 from Union Bank General Account to the L.A.I.F. Account. The vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

AYES: Steven P. Dias, Barry McCutcheon, Michael Murray, 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 April 7, 2022 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

Following the Closed Session, President McCutcheon reported that the following action out of Closed Session.

Manager Mills had presented a proposal from Costamagna-Barlow for the District to acquire the area where the District currently holds existing easements for operation of recharge efforts at the Cody Basin, in fee title. The proposal was for the District to purchase 12 acres at \$16,500 per acre for \$200,000. The Board considered the offer and discussed the matter. Vice-President Dias made a motion to reject the offer, and Director Taylor seconded the motion. The vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAINED:None

ABSENT: Joseph Freitas

Manager Mills was given direction by the Board on further negotiations with Tony deGroot relative to a proposal developed by Dan Vink.

Manager Mills presented to the Board the results of recent investigations that had been conducted at the Dutra Ranch. The Board discussed their wishes at this point in the Escrow

process. The Board reaffirmed their wish to purchase the property and ditch stock and directed Manager Mills to release contingencies and proceed with the signing of Loan and Escrow documents pending staff review. The Board also directed staff to develop a draft lease agreement for the Pierce family who has been renting from the Dutra's for roughly 18 years. Vice-President Dias made motion to authorize Manager Mills to proceed with the purchase of the Dutra Ranch and Stock and for staff to develop a draft lease for the Pierce family. Director Taylor seconded the motion and the vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Joseph Freitas

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Mills
MIN03.10.22