

**FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
HELD OCTOBER 22, 2008**

Fresno Irrigation District's Board of Directors met in regular session at the District office located at 2907 South Maple Avenue – Fresno, California on October 22, 2008. Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Board President Jeff Boswell.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

President Jeff Boswell
Vice President Jeff Neely
Steven Balls
Tom Steffen
Ryan Jacobsen

DIRECTORS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

General Manager Gary R. Serrato
Assistant General Manager Laurence Kimura
Chief Engineer Bill Stretch
Watermaster Jim Irwin
Human Resources Director Regina Davis
Controller DeAnn Hailey
Recording Secretary Lynn B. Rowe

OTHERS PRESENT

District's Legal Representative Gary Sawyers

REVIEW AGENDA

No changes

REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Meetings to stay as rescheduled

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

None

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]

CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes – October 8, 2008

M/S/C/(Neely/Balls) That Board of Directors approve the Consent Calendar by unanimous vote. (Ayes 5; Nays 0; Absent 0; Abstain 0)

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380: WATER REPORT

a. Current Water Conditions

Watermaster Jim Irwin reviewed the current and projected water supply. As of October 21, Pine Flat release was 258 cfs and storage was 120,099 acre-feet. An update to the fall forecast is calling for the possibility of warm wet storms. The northern portion of the state may see a wetter winter than the southern half, which is still expected to see drought conditions for the 2008/2009 season.

The District will discontinue diversion of Exhibit "C" water at the end of the week to begin preparations for construction on the East Branch Check on the Fresno Canal. The reclaim water deliveries will end on October 31 to begin maintenance and construction.

b. City of Fresno / City of Clovis Groundwater Recharge Report

Watermaster Jim Irwin reviewed the Cities of Fresno and Clovis Groundwater Recharge Report with the Board. The report also includes deliveries of water to both Surface Water Treatment Plants.

CLOSED SESSION

Staff went into Closed Session at 5:20 p.m.

Natural Resource Defense Council vs. Rodgers (Government Code Section 54956.9). To confer with counsel on pending litigation.

Conference with Legal Counsel–Anticipated Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(b)). Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (G.C. §54956.9. Significant Exposure to Litigation pursuant to subdivision (b)): one potential case.

REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

President Boswell states there was nothing to report from Closed Session.

Closed Session concluded at 6:30 p.m. with Open Session resuming at 6:31 p.m.

Attorney Gary Sawyer left after Closed Session.

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CHIEF ENGINEER'S REPORT

Chief Engineer Bill Stretch reported on the following items:

a. Developer and Agency Project Schedule for 2008/09 Update

Developer Projects – Staff is processing approximately 15 Developer Pipeline projects for the 2008/09 season. No projects are currently in progress and one project has been completed since April 1, 2008. Several projects are expected to start within the next few weeks.

Agency Projects – Staff is processing approximately ten Agency projects for the 2008-09 season. Four projects are in progress that affects the following: 1) Grantland Avenue Bridge replacement on the Herndon Canal located south of Barstow Avenue; 2) Temperance Avenue Bridge replacement on the Gould Canal located south of Ashlan Avenue; 3) Helm Colonial W. Br. Pipeline replacement located southeast of the Herndon and Willow Avenues; and 4) Gunn Pipeline replacement located northeast of Ashlan and Temperance Avenues.

Running Horse – the District's contractor is installing fence around Kearney Basin located southeast of Kearney and Marks Avenue.

b. Three-Year Maintenance Facility Upgrade Project for 2008/09

Mr. Stretch provided the Board an update on the Maintenance and Facility Upgrade Plan (MFUP) – a detailed list of current projects are attached. The Silvia Canal pipeline replacement project will not take place until mid – to end of December 2008.

ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT

Assistant General Manager Laurence Kimura reported on the following:

a. Nielsen Site Rubble Pile Update

The size of the rubble pile continues to shrink but there is still a good deal of work that is left to be done. Staff is working on setting up an on-site meeting with the City and County.

b. Waldron Banking Project Update

Provost & Pritchard (P&P) is working with PG&E on getting electrical power to the new pumps at the Waldron and Lambrecht sites (still another two weeks away).

c. District Office Plan

BMY Construction is currently waiting while SIM Architects works out the plan check items for the two metal buildings. SIM Architects submitted back check items to the County last week. Staff is also working with SIM on finalizing the design for the new administrative office and addressing the site plan comments from the County of Fresno. District Staff is currently reviewing the 95 percent plans for the new building.

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d. General Maintenance and Equipment Update

Winter maintenance and construction activities continue to take place. Heavy equipment operators continue to perform dredging work on the Gould Canal near Fowler Avenue and prepare sites in advance of the construction crews. The spray trucks are working along the Herndon Canal while the tractor sprayer works on the Fanning, Mortenson, and Tielman systems west of town. The trash truck is working on hot spots and work order items. The Maintenance Report from September 16 through October 15, 2008, was distributed.

e. Consideration of Purchase of Spray Tractor and Off-Road Equipment Particulate Filter (walk-in)

Eleven requests for sealed quotations were sent out in late September for the purchase of a 54 HP+/- tractor to replace the 1989 John Deere spray tractor totaled earlier this year. A total of five bids were received and opened on October 20, 2008. Replacement of the tractor was estimated at \$33,000 – low bid came in at \$28,560.75 from Madera Tractor and Implement Company, Inc. (Spreadsheet Attached). Staff’s recommendation is to proceed with the lowest bid.

Staff also request approval to purchase a diesel particulate filter (DPF) for the 2004 John Deere Excavator. The Air Resources Board is offering double credits for the installation of retrofits for the in-use off-road diesel vehicle regulation. Cost of the DPF for the excavator will not exceed \$24,000.

M/S/C/(Steffen/Balls) That Board of Directors approve Staff’s recommendations to purchase a tractor and diesel particulate filter with funds to come from the Power Revenue Account by unanimous vote. (Ayes 5; Nays 0; Absent 0; Abstain 0)

MANAGER’S REPORT

General Manager Gary Serrato reported on the following:

KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION

Currently there are 10 cfs of non-demand flows being released over the Fresno Weir. Exhibit “C” flows require that 45 cfs will be required over the Fresno Weir.

Kings River Weather Modification

The Weather Modification Program has been modified by shifting the timing of the application to begin earlier in the year by 15 days. . The Program is a combination of ground generators and airplane application of silver iodine into potential rain clouds. The start date has been moved ahead to November 15 - customary start dates are the beginning of December. The “cloud seeding program” cost is equally shared by KRWA and KRCD

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City of Kerman

The “Conveyance Agreement” being structured with the City of Kerman is being finalized. District Staff has met with the City of Kerman Public Works Director and the City’s consultant to work out the final details. The District’s Legal Counsel has been involved and will review the agreement prior to Board approval.

KRWA Closed Session – Water Right Fees

After meeting in Closed Session, it was agreed that the KRWA would continue to pay the water right fees under protest and the Watermaster was given authority to move forward with a special assessment to collect the money to pay for the fees. Total fees are approximately \$154,000 with \$30,000 being FID’s portion. Water Right Fees are budgeted under the Water Purchase Fund.

Ag Waiver Discharge

Fees will remain the same for 2009. New invoices will be sent out reflecting the \$0.12 per acre as in the pervious year. The Regional Water Quality Control Board will eventually require groundwater be monitored under the ag waiver.

Proposition 50 Grant

The Kings River Conservation District has reviewed with the State Board the final language in the Contract that will administer the Proposition Grant. Gary Sawyers has reviewed the contract with the State from both the prospective of KRCD and Fresno Irrigation District. KRCD will sign the contract on behalf of Fresno Irrigation District and Alta Irrigation District and develop a subcontract with both agencies.

KRWA External Issues Committee

KRWA is exploring the utilization of and development of flood waters from the Kings River.

FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY / FRIANT WATER USERS AUTHORITY

Friant water matters were discussed during Closed Session.

OTHER ISSUES

Meeting with Tim Bakman

At the request of Mr. Tim Bakman, Mr. Serrato and Ryan Jacobsen met with Fresno Fair Representatives and a number of ag and water interest groups to discuss a water education program/exhibit at the Fresno Fair or another permanent location in the City.

Eggs and Issues Breakfast

Gary Serrato and Laurence Kimura attended the Fresno Chamber of Commerce *Eggs and Issues Breakfast* with Mike Villines. Assembly Member Villines spoke on budget and water issues. Staff found it to be a very informative talk

Lion’s Club Ag Fest - Kerman

Gary Serrato will be participating as a speaker at the Kerman Ag Expo on November 12th. Staff will research the opportunity of greater participation in this event in future years.

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ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a. Proposal to Extend the Contract with the Auditor for Two Years

Staff requested the extension of the Auditing contract with the accounting firm of Sampson and Sampson for an additional two years and provided the following reasons for the extension.

- New accounting software – auditor is already familiar with the District’s newly implemented software
- Will be able to detect errors more readily – will provide stability
- Current auditor has provided excellent service
- Low costs – even in light of new regulations

The Directors agree to extend the contract for an additional two years with the stipulation that the District goes out for bid at the end of the extension.

M/S/C/(Neely/Balls) That Board of Directors approve to retain Sampson and Sampson by unanimous vote. (Ayes 5; Nays 0; Absent 0; Abstain 0)

- b. September 2008 Fund Statement**
- c. September 2008 Treasurer’s Report**
- d. September 2008 Cash on Hand**

Staff reviewed the stated financial reports for September and answered questions from the Board. Letters will be sent out in the next pay period to eligible employees informing them of the District’s buy back of Personal Time Off (PTO) hours.

M/S/C/(Balls/Neely) That Board of Directors approve to accept the Controller’s report by unanimous vote. (Ayes 5; Nays 0; Absent 0; Abstain 0)

e. Watermaster Request to Attend the California Cooperative Snow Surveys Program on November 12, 13, and 14, 2008, at Bass Lake, CA

Staff requests to send the District’s Watermaster Jim Irwin to the Annual Snow Survey Conference which is being held in Bass Lake.

M/S/C/(Neely/Balls) That Board of Directors approve to send the Watermaster for overnight stay to attend the Snow Survey Program by unanimous vote. (Ayes 5; Nays 0; Absent 0; Abstain 0)

DIRECTORS’ REPORT

Director Neely – stated that water sales in 2008 to the westside ranged from \$200-\$300 per acre foot which was in line with what the District received for its sales.

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Director Jacobsen – working on setting up a meeting for the Easton area farmers. Director Jacobsen will look to use the Waterways' January newsletter to promote it.

ADJOURNMENT

President Boswell adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Submitted By,

Gary R. Serrato
Board Secretary