

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES April 11, 2023

ATTENDANCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Riley Chaney, President
Robert Barcellos
Wm. Cory Carvalho
Robert Motte

LANDOWNERS / GROWERS

Gerry Gragnani, Gragnani Farms et al
Donny Gragnani, Gragnani Farms et al
Andrew Groppetti, Andrew Groppetti Farms
Oscar Diaz, GLF Farms

EXCUSED

Micah Combs, Vice-President

- RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 1606
Gerald W. Kinnunen, President

ABSENT

None

PUBLIC / CONSULTANTS

- FRESNO-MADERA PRODUCTION CREDIT ASSOCIATION
Jamie Burkhardt
- McMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
Matt Hurley, General Manager

STAFF PRESENT

Manny Amorelli, General Manager
Walter Flores-Barboza, Office Manager
Donna Hanneman, Secretary

LEGAL COUNSEL

- YOUNG WOOLDRIDGE, LLP
Alan F. Doud, Esq. (Zoom)
- BARTKIEWICZ KRONICK & SHANAHAN / CLOSED SESSION
Ryan S. Bezerra, Esq. (Zoom)

I. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT ("District") was held Tuesday, April 11, 2023, in the District office located at 8749 Ninth Street, San Joaquin, California. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m., by President, Riley Chaney. A quorum was at all times present and acting.

II. OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None were offered.

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B. ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no corrections/additions to the Agenda.

C. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST [FPPC §87105]

Directors were given an opportunity to identify potential conflicts-of-interest with items appearing on the Agenda. None were reported.

III. MINUTES

A. REGULAR MEETING: MARCH 14, 2023

B. SPECIAL MEETING: MARCH 20, 2023

C. ANNUAL MEETING: MARCH 30, 2023

M/S/C (R.BARCELLOS / R.MOTTE), to APPROVE as written:

AYES: 4 (R.Barcellos, R.Motte, W.Carvalho, R.Chaney)

EXCUSED: 1 (M.Combs)

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

In accordance with Water Code §24273, Mr. Amorelli presented reports as follows:

A. FINANCIAL REPORTS

1. Interim Warrants: March 15-April 11, 2023 (Att.1)

Interim Warrants (bills paid) and supporting invoices were presented for review.

M/S/C (R.MOTTE / R.BARCELLOS), to RATIFY/APPROVE Interim Warrants totaling \$168,281.64:

AYES: 4 (R.Motte, R.Barcellos, W.Carvalho, R.Chaney)

EXCUSED: 1 (M.Combs)

2. Accounts Payable

None reported.

3. Payroll Certification: Pay Periods Ending March, 2023 (Att.2)

A listing of payroll checks totaling \$75,373.93 (net) issued to employees and Board members was reviewed and certified by the President, General Manager and Office Manager.

4. Income Statements (Budget-to-Actual): Period Ending March 31, 2023

5. Quarterly Report of Financial Investments: March 31, 2023 Gov. Code §53646

6. Cash Position Report: March 31, 2023

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7. Schedule of Long-Term Debt/Notes Payable: March 31, 2023

- ▶ Loan: California Department of Water Resources Bond Law/2000 - Lateral K Recharge Basin - President Chaney suggested the Board consider paying off the K Basin debt (principal \$152,970±) now as the interest rate on the loan is higher than the investment earnings. Requested this matter be placed on the next Agenda.

8. Accounts Receivable Activity Report: March 31 , 2023

V. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Amorelli presented his verbal report encompassing operations, maintenance, projects and other District matters for the month of March, 2023\, as follows:

OPERATIONS

- ▶ Water Deliveries: March, 2023 - Water deliveries for the month of March totaled 684 acre-feet which is 2,542 acre-feet less than was delivered during March, 2022.
- ▶ Kings River Water Association
 - KRWA Storage Operations in Pine Flat Reservoir as of April 2, 2023, totaled 6,657 CFS-days.

AGENCIES

- ▶ Reclamation District No. 1606 Board of Trustees met March 28th.
- ▶ Kings Basin Coordinating Committee met March 17th at the offices of Provost & Pritchard Consulting in Clovis. The Kings Groundwater Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) has been recommended for California Department of Water Resources approval. The Committee is moving forward toward implementation of the GSP.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Amorelli reported District staff has been involved in the following activities:

- ▶ Pulling trash from weirs
- ▶ Irrigation deliveries
- ▶ Filling gopher holes
- ▶ Lateral A drained to remove tumble weeds

VII. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

None were presented.

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VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. RESCHEDULE MAY 9, 2023 , REGULAR MEETING (04/11/2023)

M/S/C (R.MOTTE / R.BARCELLOS), to RESCHEDULE THE MAY 9, 2023, REGULAR MEETING TO TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023, AT 10:00 A.M due to conflict with the ACWA Spring Conference (May 9-11, 2023).

AYES: 4 (R.Motte, R.Barcellos, W.Carvalho, R.Chaney)

EXCUSED: 1 (M.Combs)

B. ANNUAL SALARY REVIEW (03/14/2023)

The ad hoc Salary/Benefit Committee (Barcellos, Carvalho, Amorelli) recently met to provide recommendations to the Board for 2023 wage increases. Considering the current rate of inflation and the quality of District staff they felt were deserving of increases, the Committee recommended the Board consider an aggregate total of 4.5%.

President Riley Chaney expressed his opposition expressing concern there was not enough revenue generated last year to support increases at this rate.

M/S/C (R.MOTTE / R.BARCELLOS), to UNANIMOUSLY APPROVE THE AD HOC SALARY/BENEFIT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION AUTHORIZING MERIT INCREASES NOT TO EXCEED AN AGGREGATE TOTAL OF 4.5% DISTRICT-WIDE EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2022.

AYES: 4 (R.Motte, R.Barcellos, W.Carvalho)

NAYS: 1 (R.Chaney)

EXCUSED: 1 (M.Combs)

C. WATER POLICY: ON-FARM RECHARGE (12/14/2021)

Reviewed/discussed grower applications submitted for participation in the 2023 On-Farm Recharge Program.

M/S/C (R.BARCELLOS / W.CARVALHO), to:

1. AUTHORIZE a total of 1,000 acre-feet be made available for reimbursement under the 2023 On-Farm Recharge Program at \$50.00/acre foot;
2. APPROVE application submitted by ANDREW GROPPETTI (1 location/empty dairy pond) (Att.3)
3. DEFERRED decision on application submitted by CHRIS CHANEY (3 fields) until assessments are brought current.

AYES: 4 (R.Barcellos, W.Carvalho, R.Motte, R.Chaney)

EXCUSED: 1 (M.Combs)

D. FLOOD & EXCESS WATER DELIVERIES (03/14/2023)

Nothing to report at this time.

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E. FISCAL BUDGET: MARCH 1, 2023-FEBRUARY 29, 2024 (01/10/2023)

Anticipating Kings River flood flows may last indefinitely, a full Kings entitlement, full San Joaquin River Riparian/Schedule II and 80% CVP allocations, operation of wells will be minimal and may not be needed until next year.

M/S/C (W.CARVALHO / R.MOTTE), to:

1. ADJUST the 2023-2024 Budget
2. REDUCE the District's irrigation billing rate from \$175.00 to \$140.00/acre-foot retroactive to March 1, 2023:

AYES: 4 (W.Carvalho, R.Motte, R.Barcellos, R.Chaney)

EXCUSED: 1 (M.Combs)

F. RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 1606 (RD1606) / JAMES ID COLLABORATIVE MEETING (04/11/2023)

At their March 28, 2023, Regular Meeting, RD1606 President Gerald Kinnunen indicated the Board of Trustees suggested a joint RD1606-JID Special Meeting be scheduled to discuss long-term leases (currently issued for 5-year terms), water allocations, collaborative land use/planning (recharge, solar, etc.). It was the general consensus that a Special Joint Meeting be scheduled; date to be determined.

IX. REPORT ITEMS

A. A.C.W.A. SPRING CONFERENCE: MAY 9-11, 2023, MONTEREY, CA (04/11/2023)

Mr. Amorelli indicated he will be attending this conference and encouraged Board members attend if interested.

B. CALPOLY IRRIGATION TRAINING & RESEARCH CENTER CLASS (04/11/2023)

Mr. Amorelli will be attending an educational class at CalPoly on pumps from August 2-4, 2023, and invited Board members to attend if interested.

ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 10:48 A.M.

Directors Attending:

Riley Chaney, President

Robert Barcellos, Director

Robert Motte, Director

Wm. Cory Carvalho, Director

Staff Attending

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

Legal Counsel

- Young Wooldridge, LLP

Alan F. Doud, Esq. (Zoom)

- Bartkiewicz Kronick & Shanahan

Ryan S. Bezerra, Esq. (Zoom)

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X. CLOSED SESSION: GOVERNMENT CODE §54956.9 - CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

A. SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OR (3) OF SUBDIVISION (D):

4 CASES

XI. CLOSED SESSION: GOVERNMENT CODE §54956.9 - CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-EXISTING LITIGATION

A. AS DEFENDANT: 2 CASES

1. NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL, ET AL, V HAALAND, ET AL
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California
Case No. 1:5-CV-01207LJO-GSA
2. CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, RESTORE THE DELTA AND PLANNING & CONSERVATION LEAGUE V UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION ET AL (06/08/2021)
United States District Court, Eastern District of California
Case No. 1:20-CV-00706 DAD-EPG

B. AS PLAINTIFF: 4 CASES

1. KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION ET AL V. JAMES VERBOON ET AL
Kings County Superior Court, Case No. 15 C0304
2. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT VS. KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION ET AL
Fresno County Superior Court Case No. 19CECG00769
3. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT V. WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT
Fresno County Superior Court Case No. 20CECG00688
4. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT V. MCMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY -
Fresno County Superior Court Case No. 23CECG00749

C. AS INTERVENOR: 1 CASE

1. CITY OF FRESNO, ET AL V. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
United States Court of Federal Claims, Case No. 1:16-CV-01276-MCW

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XII. CLOSED SESSION: GOVERNMENT CODE §54957 - PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

- A. TITLE: DITCHTENDER / MAINTENANCE (1)

XIII. CLOSED SESSION: GOVERNMENT CODE §54956.8 - CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR

- A. JAMES & TRANQUILLITY NEGOTIATIONS

Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee

Tranquillity Irrigation District: Danny Wade

Kings River Lower River Units: Scott Sills

Under Negotiation: Price, terms & conditions of possible real property and/or water supply transactions

- B. SOUTHWEST GROUNDWATER RECHARGE PROJECT (11/13/2012)

Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee

Fresno Irrigation District: Bill Stretch

Under Negotiation: Price, terms & conditions of possible real property and/or water supply transactions; operations & maintenance

- C. WATER BANKING & TRANSFERS (04/19/2018)

Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee

To Be Determined

Under Negotiation: Price, terms and conditions of possible water supply transactions.

- D. WATER BANKING & TRANSFERS (06/22/2021)

Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee

McMullin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Under Negotiation: Price, terms and conditions of possible water supply transactions.

RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION AT 12:00 P.M.

XIV. REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION Gov. Code 54957.1

No reportable actions were taken during the Closed Session.

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XV. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, M/S/C (R.BARCELLOS / R.MOTTE), to ADJOURN the meeting at 12:01 p.m., until the next Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 16, 2023:

AYES: 4 (R.Barcellos, R.Motte, W.Carvalho, R.Chaney)

EXCUSED: 1 (M.Combs)

RECORDED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Donna Y. Hanneman, Secretary

Riley Chaney, President

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Interim Warrants: March 15-April 11, 2023, \$168,281.64
2. Payroll Certification: Pay Periods Ending March, 2023, \$75,373.93 (net)
3. Fallow-Land Groundwater Recharge Program 2023 Application Form: Andrew Groppetti