

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES May 11, 2021

ATTENDANCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT (5)

Riley Chaney, President
Jeremy Hughes, Vice-President
Robert Motte, Secretary-Treasurer
Robert Barcellos, Assessor
Micah Combs

LANDOWNERS / GROWERS

None

PUBLIC / CONSULTANTS (3)

- McMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
Matt Hurley (Zoom: 10:01-10:31 a.m.)
- WATER WISE
Sarah Woolf (Zoom: 10:01 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)
Kristi Robinson (Zoom: 10:01 a.m.-10:31 a.m.)

EXCUSED

None

ABSENT

None

GENERAL COUNSEL (1)

- YOUNG WOOLDRIDGE, LLP
Alan F. Doud, Esq. (Zoom: 10:01-11:38 a.m.)

STAFF PRESENT (4)

Manny Amorelli, General Manager
Walter Flores, Office Manager
Donna Hanneman, Executive Assistant
Kenneth Mancini, Superintendent

I. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT was held Tuesday, May 11, 2021, in the District office located at 8749 Ninth Street, San Joaquin, California. The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m., by President, Riley Chaney. A quorum was at all times present and acting.

This meeting was conducted in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 and the declared State of Emergency as a result of the threat of COVID-19 virus pandemic. Members of the public were encouraged to access the meeting via internet/Zoom or the call-in number to allow them to fully participate in the meeting without having to be present.

II. OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

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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: APRIL 13, 2021

B. SPECIAL MEETING: MAY 5, 2021

M/S/C (J.HUGHES / M.COMBS), to APPROVE as written by the following vote:

AYES: 5 (J.Hughes, M.Combs, R.Barcellos, R.Motte, R.Chaney)

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

A. FINANCIAL REPORTS

1. Interim Warrants: April 14-May 11, 2021 (Att.1)

2. Accounts Payable (Att.2)

Interim Warrants with supporting invoices paid since the last Regular Meeting and Accounts Payable (unpaid) invoices were presented for review/approval.

M/S/C (M.COMBS / R.BARCELLOS), to RATIFY/APPROVE Interim Warrants totaling \$597,629.72 and APPROVE payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$120,714.33 by the following vote:

AYES: 5 (M.Combs, R.Barcellos, J.Hughes, R.Motte, R.Chaney)

3. Payroll Certification: Pay Periods Ending April, 2021 (Att.3)

A listing of payroll checks totaling \$66,003.60 (net) issued to employees and Board members for pay periods ending April, 2021, was reviewed and certified by the President, General Manager and Office Manager.

4. Income Statements (Budget-to-Actual): Period Ending April 30, 2021

5. Cash Position Report: April 30, 2021

6. Accounts Receivable Activity Report: April 30, 2021

B. FISCAL AUDIT: MARCH 1, 2019-FEBRUARY 28, 2020

Vicki Hokokian, CPA, and her staff are continuing their work on the audit.

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V. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Amorelli presented his verbal report encompassing operations, maintenance, projects and other District matters as follows.

OPERATIONS

The Board was assured that staff is closely monitoring the water situation to ensure District growers will have a sufficient supply of irrigation water this season.

- ▶ Water Deliveries: April, 2021
Water deliveries for the month of April were 5,088 acre-feet which is 2,319 acre-feet more than was delivered during April, 2020. The fiscal year-to-date total deliveries are at 7,269 acre-feet which is 1,416 acre-feet more than was delivered at this time during the last fiscal year.
- ▶ Weekly TDS Readings: May 3, 2021
- ▶ U.S.B.R. / Central Valley Project
 - 2021-22 Contract Allocations
Allocations remain at 5% to South and, now, North-of-Delta contractors but the USBR has notified contractors that their allocation "is not available for delivery until further notice".
 - 2020-2021 Carryover Water totals 2,157 acre-feet.
 - Mendota Pool
Pumping reports (TDS, electroconductivity) for the Mendota Wildlife Area, Delta-Mendota Canal Check#21, and Mendota Pool Degradation through April 30, 2021, were reviewed.
 - San Joaquin River / Riparian
Allocations remain at 75% or 7,500 acre-feet under the Shasta-critical rule.
- ▶ Kings River Water Association
KRWA Storage Operations in Pine Flat Reservoir as of May 2, 2021, totaled approximately 4,556 acre-feet in the District's storage account.

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MAINTENANCE

- ▶ James Bypass / Water Hyacinth
Conference calls were held on April 19th and May 10th with representatives from James ID, Central California Irrigation District and the Mendota Wildlife Area with the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority taking the lead to coordinate efforts. The outlook is promising.
- ▶ Weed Control
 - Simplot - Messrs. Amorelli and Mancini met with a Simplot representative to show areas needing treatment as well as touch-up areas along McMullin Grade. Simplot will be booked until June and will not be available to help.
 - Terra Nova Farms is willing to spray along the Lassen Canal from Manning Avenue south and the eastern bank of the James Bypass from Manning south to Madera Avenue.

PROJECTS

- ▶ White Pine Renewables / K Basin Solar Project
 - The PG&E application has been submitted and is awaiting approval. District staff is working with White Pine representatives to complete the necessary paperwork.
- ▶ Modernization of Delivery System - Charles Burt, PhD, P.E., Cal/Poly Irrigation Training & Research Center, has been contacted and is exploring options for grant funding with limited out-of-pocket expense.

AGENCIES

- ▶ San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA)
 - CVP Allocations - The Bureau has notified North-of-Delta agricultural contractors that their 5% allocation "is not available for delivery until further notice" mirroring restrictions previously imposed upon South-of-Delta contractors.
- ▶ Kings River Water Association (KRWA)
 - Steve Haugen, KRWA Watermaster, was contacted to continue the momentum of our meetings.

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- ▶ Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency
 - The Kings Subbasin Coordinating Committee continues to meet monthly. They are currently in a lull until the California Department of Water Resources reviews the Basin's Groundwater Sustainability Plan and issues their findings expected Spring, 2022.
 - Kings Groundwater Subbasin Annual Report for the period October 2019-September 2020 was submitted on March 31st.

- ▶ McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MAGSA)
 - Spoke with Matt Hurley last week about possible joint projects and recharging groundwater with MAGSA.

- ▶ Power & Water Resources Pooling Authority (PWRPA)
 - There was discussion on how/when PWRPA should be buying power futures for the upcoming busy season.

- ▶ Fresno Irrigation District / Southwest Groundwater Banking Project
 - Attempting to reestablish a working relationship and to finalize the O&M Agreement for the Project.

- ▶ Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)
 - The ACWA Virtual Spring Conference will be held May 12-13, 2021. Directors were advised to contact District staff for assistance if interested in participating.

- ▶ Association of California Water Agencies / Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA/JPIA)
 - Remotely attended the Annual Board of Directors' Meeting during which a new budget was approved.
 - Liability rates are expected to increase because of last year's catastrophic events.
 - Employee Benefits program (health, dental, vision) is very stable.

ACTIVITIES

- ▶ James Groundwater Sustainability Agency
 - Met April 15th; next quarterly meeting is scheduled for July 22nd.
 - The GSA is on track to meet its goals stated in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.
 - Provost & Pritchard will be submitting a proposal for another monitoring well, site to be determined.

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- ▶ Mendota Pool Group (MPG)
 - Maintaining contact with Chase Hurley regarding water quality issues. Mr. Hurley has requested we notify him if/when quality becomes a concern and they may adjust their operations.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- ▶ ad hoc Salary/Benefit Committee met April 20th.
- ▶ Ditchtender / Maintenance
Interviews have been held with two prospective candidates. Another application has been received; applicant will be interviewed this coming week.
- ▶ H2OPro Water Tracking Software
Met with Euan Slidders who would like to upgrade our software from our current stand-alone version to the cloud version which will allow for better integration.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent, Kenneth Mancini, verbally reported as follows:

- ▶ K Basin has been disced
- ▶ Removal of water hyacinth continues.
- ▶ Pond weed, squirrel holes, leaking headgates/pipelines are being addressed.
- ▶ Aquatic weed control being addressed in the Main Canal when flows can be contained.
- ▶ Pump tests are being evaluated to identify those wells needing repair.

VII. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

None were presented.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. ANNUAL SALARY REVIEW (03/09/2021)

M/S/C (J.HUGHES / R.MOTTE), to UNANIMOUSLY APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AD HOC SALARY/BENEFIT COMMITTEE AS FOLLOWS EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2021:

- a. GENERAL MANAGER - \$15,000/year increase from \$130,000/year to \$145,000/year;
- b. SUPERINTENDENT - \$10,000/year increase from \$133,100/year to \$143,100/year; and
- c. INDIVIDUAL MERIT INCREASES for remainder of staff not to exceed an aggregate total of 3% District-wide.

AYES: 5 (J.Hughes, R.Motte, R.Barcellos, M.Combs, R.Chaney)

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IX. REPORT ITEMS

A. CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT CAPITAL REPAYMENT CONTRACT (05/16/2018)

Mr. Amorelli reported for the record that the District's Repayment Contract was validated by the Fresno County Superior Court on February 16, 2021 (Case No. 20CECG03436). (Att.4) This validation converts the Water Service Contract into permanent Repayment Contract No. 14-06-200-700-A-LTR1-P.

ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 10:31 A.M.

Directors Attending:

Riley Chaney, President

Jeremy Hughes, Vice-President

Robert Motte, Secretary-Treasurer

Robert Barcellos, Assessor-Collector

Micah Combs, Director

Staff Attending

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

Consultants:

- Water Wise
Sarah Woolf

- Young Wooldridge, LLP
Alan F. Doud, Esq.

X. CLOSED SESSION: GOVERNMENT CODE §54957 - PERSONNEL MATTERS

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 BERNHARDT, ET AL
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California
Case No. 1:5-CV-01207LJO-GSA

2. MCMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY VS. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT; JAMES GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
Fresno County Superior Court Case No. 20CECG00507

B. AS PLAINTIFF: 3 CASES

1. KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION ET AL V. JAMES VERBOON ET AL
Kings County Superior Court, Case No. 15 C0304

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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

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

DIRECTOR ROBERT MOTTE LEFT THE MEETING DURING CLOSED SESSION AT 10:44 A.M.
AND RETURNED 10:51 A.M. DUE TO A CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST INVOLVING THE FOLLOWING ITEM.

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

A. FRESNO COUNTY APN #030-370-32S (05/11/2021)

Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee
Landowner: The Frank V. Motte Testamentary Trust

Under Negotiation: Price, terms and conditions of possible real property transaction.

RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION AT 11:36 A.M.

XIII. REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION

No reportable actions were taken during the Closed Session.

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XIV. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was ADJOURNED at 11:38 a.m., until the next Special Meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 13, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.

RECORDED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Donna Y. Hanneman, Executive Assistant

Riley Chaney, President

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Interim Warrants: April 14-May 11, 2021, \$597,629.72
2. Accounts Payable: \$120,714.33
3. Payroll Certification: Pay Periods Ending April, 2021, \$66,003.60 (net)
4. Judgment Validating and Confirming Contract and Proceedings, Fresno, County Superior Court Case No. 20CECG03436, February 16, 2021