

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES April 12, 2022

ATTENDANCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

EXCUSED

None

ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

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

LANDOWNERS / GROWERS

None

PUBLIC / CONSULTANTS

- WILCOX HOKOKIAN BAINS & DILL LLC
Vicki Hokokian, CPA (Zoom)
- WHITEPINE RENEWABLES
Michael Kremer (Zoom)
- RINCON CONSULTANTS, INC.
Annaliese Miller (Zoom)
- WATER WISE
Sarah Woolf (Zoom)
- McMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
Matt Hurley, General Manager (Zoom)
Matt Abercrombie (Zoom)

LEGAL COUNSEL

- YOUNG WOOLDRIDGE, LLP
Alan F. Doud, Esq. (Zoom)

I. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT (“District”) was held Tuesday, April 12, 2022, in the District office located at 8749 Ninth Street, San Joaquin, California. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m., by President, Riley Chaney. A quorum was at all times present and acting.

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES - April 12, 2022

II. RESOLUTION RENEWING USE OF REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS UNDER AB361

The Board considered renewing findings previously made in Resolution 2022-04 (03/08/2022) to enable remote teleconference and/or internet meetings to continue under the Ralph M. Brown Act so long as a state of emergency continues to exist from COVID-19.

M/S/C (M.COMBS / J.HUGHES), to APPROVE RESOLUTION 2022-06 RENEWING USE OF REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS UNDER AB361 (Att.1)

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

III. OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

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.

IV. MINUTES

A. REGULAR MEETING: MARCH 8, 2022

B. ANNUAL MEETING: MARCH 31, 2022

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

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

V. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

A. FINANCIAL REPORTS

1. Interim Warrants: March 9-April 12, 2022 (Att.2)

2. Accounts Payable (Att.3)

Interim Warrants (bills paid) with supporting invoices and Accounts Payable invoices (unpaid bills) were presented for review/approval.

M/S/C (M.COMBS / J.HUGHES), to RATIFY/APPROVE Interim Warrants totaling \$574,265.89 and AUTHORIZE/APPROVE payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$160,564.06 by the following vote:

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

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES - April 12, 2022

3. Payroll Certification: Pay Periods Ending March, 2022 (Att.4)
A listing of payroll checks totaling \$69,604.67 (net) issued to employees and Board members for pay periods ending March, 2022, was reviewed and certified by the President, General Manager and Office Manager.
4. Income Statements (Budget-to-Actual): Period Ending March 31, 2022
5. Quarterly Report of Financial Investments: March 31, 2022 Gov. Code §53646
6. Cash Position Report: March 31, 2022
7. Schedule of Long-Term Debt/Notes Payable: March 31, 2022
8. Accounts Receivable Activity Report: March 31, 2022

VI. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Amorelli presented his verbal report encompassing operations, maintenance, projects and other District matters for the month of March, 2022, as follows:

ANNUAL MEETING

Mr. Amorelli noted the 2022 Annual Meeting was well attended and thanked everyone for their assistance and continuing support.

OPERATIONS

- ▶ Water Deliveries: March, 2022 - Water deliveries for the month of March were 3,227 acre-feet which is 1,046 acre-feet more than was delivered during March, 2021.
- ▶ Weekly TDS Readings: April 11, 2022
- ▶ U.S.B.R. / Central Valley Project
 - Allocations remain at zero to South-of-Delta agricultural contractors.
- ▶ San Joaquin River / Riparian - Water rights are being fulfilled by Friant releases.
- ▶ Kings River Water Association
 - KRWA Storage Operations in Pine Flat Reservoir as of April 3, 2022, storage remained at 2,263 CFS-days, or approximately 4,488 acre-feet in the District's 20,000 acre-feet share of storage space in Pine Flat Reservoir. Due to ongoing drought conditions and Kings River operations, the District has not been able to take any Kings River water to date.
 - Snowpack within the Kings River Watershed was recently measured at 59% of average.
 - KRWA Annual Meeting was held March 15.

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES - April 12, 2022

MAINTENANCE

- ▶ Replacement Wells along the Main Canal north of Lateral H are nearly done.
- ▶ Well Repairs - As previously reported, WellJet hydrojetted Well D-60. Subsequent inspection of the column pipe revealed walls have been thinned by iron-oxidizing bacteria. WellJet recommended sleeving the well or abandoning it altogether. Westside Pump and Longmire Swaging, Inc., were consulted and concurred. The well was drilled in 2008/2009.

PROJECTS

- ▶ Main Canal Feasibility Study has been delayed due to COVID illnesses at Provost & Pritchard. Report is expected next month.

AGENCIES

- ▶ Kings Basin Coordinating Committee will be meeting with California Department of Water Resources representatives on April 13 seeking guidance in resolving "insufficiencies" in Groundwater Sustainability Plans.
- ▶ Valley Water (aka: Santa Clara Valley Water) - Noted recent meeting with representative, Andy Garcia, exploring water banking with MAGSA.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- ▶ Case Backhoe purchased September, 2021, from Sequoia Equipment, Inc., is slated for delivery late this month.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- ▶ Maintenance on basins is nearly done. President Chaney complimented the crew and indicated he was impressed with their work.
- ▶ Well Repairs continue.

VIII. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

None were presented.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. SOLAR PROJECT: WHITE PINE RENEWABLES (03/09/2021)

- ▶ WintePine Renewables
 - Michael Kremer, Head of Strategic Finance, gave a status report as follows:
 - The 4MW array will be the first constructed. It has been fully engineered/designed and purchase orders submitted. The building permit will be submitted to Fresno County next month. Anticipating construction will begin September, 2022 with quarter one 2023 activation.

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES - April 12, 2022

- The 1MW installation is currently being studied by PG&E. Expect to hear from them next month.
 - Both projects are on track.
- ▶ Rincon Consulting, Inc. - CEQA.
- Annaliese Miller, Sr. Environmental Planner/Project Manager, with Rincon Consulting, was introduced. Ms. Miller has been assisting with the CEQA permitting process/Mitigated Negative Declaration.
 - Project #1 is currently under public review/comment period which expires Friday, April 15, at 5:00 p.m.
 - It was the consensus of the Board to schedule a Special Meeting on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 1:00 p.m., to be dedicated to the approval of the final Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration document.

Mr. Kremer and Ms. Miller were thanked for their assistance.

B. AD HOC SALARY/BENEFIT COMMITTEE (04/12/2022)

Considering inflationary pressures, minimum wage increases, the ad hoc Salary/Benefit Committee recommended aggregate total of 4% increase.

M/S/C (J.HUGHES / R.MOTTE), to UNANIMOUSLY APPROVE AD HOC SALARY/BENEFIT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION AUTHORIZING INDIVIDUAL MERIT INCREASES NOT TO EXCEED AN AGGREGATE TOTAL OF 4% DISTRICT-WIDE EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2022.

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

C. SAFETY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (04/12/2022)

Discussed proposed changes to employee safety incentive program.

M/S/C (J.HUGHES / R.MOTTE), to CONCUR WITH RECOMMENDED CHANGES AS FOLLOWS:

▶ Field Staff

- Eliminate semi-annual \$50 gift card awards
- Replace with annual award up to \$250 boot allowance from Red Wing Shoes, Fresno, Staff must go in person and pick boots; District gets billed.

▶ Office Staff

- Continue annual \$50 gift card award (no change).

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

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES - April 12, 2022

D. EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT: GEORGIA LEJEAN "JEAN" NICHOLS (04/12/2022)

Discussed arrangements to honor Mrs. Nichols' 20 years of service as Office Clerk.

M/S/C (J.HUGHES / R.BARCELLOS), to:

1. AUTHORIZE a dinner be held at the Cosmopolitan Tavern & Italian Grill, Fresno, on Thursday, April 28, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.; and
2. AUTHORIZE a gift of \$1,000.00 (net).

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

E. RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR A MAJORITY PROTEST HEARING ON A PROPOSED INCREASE IN THE DISTRICT'S WATER RATE (04/12/2022) - Discussed the process and time line required for landowner vote on a water rate increase.

M/S/C (J.HUGHES / R.BARCELLOS), to:

1. Begin the process required to place a ballot before District landowners by September, 2022; and
2. Set rates at \$165 to a maximum of \$300 per acre-foot.

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

X. REPORT ITEMS

None

ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 10:55 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

Legal Counsel

• Young Wooldridge, LLP

Alan F. Doud, Esq. (Zoom)

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

3 CASES

XII. 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

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES - April 12, 2022

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: 3 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

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

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 and conditions of possible real property and/or water supply transactions/Department of Water Resources Proposition 84 Grant Application

C. 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.

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES - April 12, 2022

RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION AT 11:59 A.M.

XIV. REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION

No reportable actions were taken during the Closed Session.

XV. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was ADJOURNED at 12:00 p.m., until the next Special Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 2022.

RECORDED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Donna Y. Hanneman, Executive Assistant

Riley Chaney, President

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution 2022-06, Renewing Use of Remote Teleconference Meetings Under AB361, Approved April 12, 2022
2. Interim Warrants: March 9-April 12, 2022, \$574,265.89
3. Accounts Payable: \$160,564.06
4. Payroll Certification: Pay Periods Ending March, 2022, \$69,604.67 (net)