

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES July 11, 2023

ATTENDANCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Riley Chaney, President
Micah Combs, Vice-President
Robert Barcellos
Wm. Cory Carvalho
Robert Motte

EXCUSED

None

ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

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

PUBLIC / CONSULTANTS

- RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 1606
Gerald W. Kinnunen, President
 - LANDOWNERS / GROWERS
Jerry Gragnani, Gragnani Farms et al
Donny Gragnani, Gragnani Farms et al
 - FRESNO-MADERA PRODUCTION CREDIT ASSOCIATION
David Schmidt
 - McMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
Matt Hurley, General Manager
 - WHITEPINE RENEWABLES
Evan Riley, Chief Executive Officer(10:05-10:35 a.m.)
- ##### LEGAL COUNSEL
- YOUNG WOOLDRIDGE, LLP
Brett A. Stroud, 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, July 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.

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES - July 11, 2023

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. SPECIAL JOINT MEETING, JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT-RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 1606: JUNE 13, 2023

B. REGULAR MEETING: JUNE 13, 2023

C. SPECIAL MEETING: JUNE 22, 2023

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

AYES: 5 (R.Barcellos, R.Motte, W.Carvalho, M.Combs, R.Chaney)

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

A. FINANCIAL REPORTS

1. Interim Warrants: June 14-July 11, 2023 (Att.1)

2. Accounts Payable (Att.2)

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

M/S/C(M.COMBS/R.BARCELLOS), to RATIFY/APPROVE Interim Warrants totaling \$226,290.15 and AUTHORIZE/APPROVE payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$59,467.81 by the following vote:

AYES: 5 (M.Combs, R.Barcellos, W.Carvalho, R.Motte, R.Chaney)

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

A listing of payroll checks totaling \$89,472.59 (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 June 30, 2023

5. Quarterly Report of Financial Investments: June 30, 2023 Gov. Code §53646

6. Cash Position Report: June 30, 2023

7. Schedule of Long-Term Debt/Notes Payable: June 30, 2023

8. Accounts Receivable Activity Report: June 30, 2023

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES - July 11, 2023

B. ASSESSMENTS: 2022-2023 (07/11/2023)

Reviewed 2022-2023 delinquencies. M/S/C(R.BARCELLOS/W.CARVALHO) to SETSALEDATEFORWEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2023, AT 10:00 A.M.

AYES: 5 (R.Barcellos, W.Carvalho, M.Combs, R.Motte, R.Chaney)

Notice will be published as prescribed by Water Code §26105.

V. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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

OPERATIONS

- ▶ Water Deliveries: June, 2023 - Water deliveries for the month of June were 8,940 acre-feet which is 2,353 acre-feet less than was delivered during June, 2022. The fiscal year-to-date total deliveries are at 17,795 acre-feet which is 8,886 acre-feet less than was delivered at this time during the last fiscal year.
- ▶ U.S.B.R. / Central Valley Project
 - Mendota Pool - Scheduled dewatering for dam maintenance is in question this year due to continuing Kings River flood releases.
- ▶ Kings River Water Association
 - KRWA Storage Operations in Pine Flat Reservoir as of June 25, 2023, totaled 9,254 CFS-days in Pine Flat Reservoir.

MAINTENANCE

- ▶ James Bypass / Water Hyacinth - Recent teleconference. Infestation has abated thus far as continuing flood releases appear to have flushed vegetation out of the James Bypass/ Mendota Pool.

PROJECTS

- ▶ Main Canal Feasibility Study - The ad hoc Infrastructure Committee met with Dr. Charles Burt on May 5th. Goal is to increase Main Canal capacity/flow to 200 cfs both ways. Restrictions at Lateral C and Colorado Avenue are being studied. Dr. Burt will report his findings.
- ▶ California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Pumping Project - Floodwater has been pumped from Basin 2 into Basin 3 and has been recharging an average of 3-4 inches/day. The Emergency Pump Program ended last week but may restart if funding becomes available.

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES - July 11, 2023

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent, Kenneth Mancini, reported aside from scheduling/monitoring irrigation orders, staff has been working on the following activities:

- ▶ Discing, mowing, grading
- ▶ Trash pickup
- ▶ Control of pond weed/moss
- ▶ Taking water samples
- ▶ Monitoring recharge activities

President Riley Chaney requested the "Report of Water Analysis" (06/14/2023) by Dellavalle Laboratory, Inc., be included with the July newsletter.

VII. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

- ▶ PRESIDENT, RILEY CHANEY commented that the joint meeting with Reclamation District No. 1606 Board of Trustees on June 13th was worthwhile.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

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

Evan Riley appeared before the Board to provide a progress report on solar projects at the K Basin as well as potential opportunities for additional installations as follows:

- ▶ Project #1 is done. PG&E was scheduled to connect on June 20th; however, work has been rescheduled to August 8th. It is anticipated it will take 3 days to connect and then await PG&E approval.
- ▶ Project #2 - Fence is up, pilings are in, trenches dug and ready for wiring. Modules should be installed this month. Estimated to be complete/energized by October, 2023, depending upon PG&E.
- ▶ After PG&E has given their clearance, cells can be flooded for recharge.
- ▶ There is a potential opportunity for 2 MW installation. Facility would require 5-10 acres for Community Solar, projects which are constructed for locals to subscribe to. Line capacity at the PG&E San Joaquin Substation is being investigated.
- ▶ They are working on another project but need more land.
- ▶ Will work with Reclamation District No. 1606 on projects and will share details with James ID.

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

- ▶ Mr. Amorelli reported no new applications have been submitted.
- ▶ A total of 380 acre-feet has been recharged to-date. The 2023 program has been capped at 1,000 acre-feet.
- ▶ Discussion ensued during which it was suggested future programs be clarified to require fallowed land be ponded and continuously flooded (like rice).

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES - July 11, 2023

IX. REPORT ITEMS

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

Mr. Amorelli updated the Board on deliveries of flood and excess water to areas outside of the District boundaries noting Burford Ranch, Gilmore Ranch, Jeremy Hughes, Nirvana Farms and Coyula Farms are continuing to receive excess flood water deliveries.

As it is likely the District will not be able to utilize its CVP allocation, it was the general consensus to make CVP contract water available to outside interests at a higher cost. Do not use wells unless an emergency.

B. CAPITAL EQUIPMENT SALES: DISTRICT PICKUP (07/11/2023)

Mr. Amorelli reported employee, Jose Berber-Solis, submitted the highest bid for the 2015 Chevrolet ½-ton pickup (VIN Z242406) at \$3,300.00.

C. SEXUAL HARASSMENT TRAINING & EDUCATION (06/13/2023)

Board members are required by State law (SB1343) to attend biennial training (2 hours). As most certificates expire this year, a class has been scheduled for August 29, 2023.

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

Directors Attending:

Riley Chaney, President

Micah Combs, Vice-President

Robert Barcellos, Director

Wm. Cory Carvalho, Director

Robert Motte, Director

Staff Attending

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

Legal Counsel

- Young Wooldridge, LLP
Brett A. Stroud, Esq. (Zoom)
- Bartkiewicz Kronick & Shanahan
Ryan S. Bezerra, Esq. (Zoom)

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

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES - July 11, 2023

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

XII. 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

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES - July 11, 2023

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, 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 11:42 A.M.

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

There were no reportable actions taken during the Closed Session.

XIV. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, M/S/C (R.BARCELLOS / M.COMBS), to ADJOURN the meeting at 11:43 a.m., until the next Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 8, 2023.

AYES: 5 (R.Barcellos, M.Combs, W.Carvalho, R.Motte, R.Chaney)

RECORDED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Donna Y. Hanneman, Secretary

Riley Chaney, President

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Interim Warrants: June 14-July 11, 2023, \$226,290.15
2. Accounts Payable: \$59,467.81
3. Payroll Certification: Pay Periods Ending June, 2023, \$89,472.59 (net)