

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES May 16, 2023

ATTENDANCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Riley Chaney, President
Micah Combs, Vice-President
Robert Barcellos (Arr.10:06 a.m.)
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

LANDOWNERS / GROWERS

None

PUBLIC / CONSULTANTS

- RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 1606
Gerald W. Kinnunen, President
- WHITE PINE RENEWABLES
Evan Riley, Chief Executive Officer
(Zoom: 10:03-10:22 a.m.)
- McMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
Matt Hurley, General Manager

I. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT ("District") was held Tuesday, May 16, 2023, in the District office located at 8749 Ninth Street, San Joaquin, California. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., by President, Riley Chaney. A quorum was at all times present and acting.

II. OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

B. MEETING DATE CHANGE

It was noted for the record that the May 9, 2023, Regular Meeting was ADJOURNED to this date due to conflict with the ACWA Spring Conference.

C. ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no corrections/additions to the Agenda.

D. 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.

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III. MINUTES

A. REGULAR MEETING: APRIL 11, 2023

B. SPECIAL MEETING: MAY 12, 2023

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

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

ABSENT: 1 (R.Barcellos)

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

A. FINANCIAL REPORTS

1. Interim Warrants: April 12-May 16, 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 / W.CARVALHO), to RATIFY/ APPROVE Interim Warrants totaling \$506,184.82 and AUTHORIZE/APPROVE payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$15,009.26 by the following vote:

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

ABSENT: 1 (R.Barcellos)

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

A listing of payroll checks totaling \$76,705.25 (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 April 30, 2023

It was observed that irrigation sales projections are falling well short as deliveries have been greatly lessened by numerous winter rainstorms. President Chaney questioned whether the 2023-2024 irrigation sales projections should be revised to bring the budget more in line with current conditions. Staff will prepare revised projections & present for discussion next month.

5. Cash Position Report: April 30, 2023

To achieve greater interest earnings, staff was DIRECTED TO TRANSFER \$1.5 MILLION FROM STATE OF CALIFORNIA, LOCAL AGENCY INVESTMENT FUND, GENERAL RESERVES TO CAL/TRUST, GENERAL RESERVES ACCOUNT.

6. Accounts Receivable Activity Report: April 30, 2023

Noted with concern that April, 2023, irrigation sales declined to \$339,897 from \$583,217 in April, 2022, a difference of \$243,320. (Also, see discussion re: Income Statements, above.)

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V. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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

OPERATIONS

- ▶ Water Deliveries: April, 2023 - Water deliveries for the month of April were 2,598 acre-feet which is 1,567 acre-feet less than was delivered during April, 2022. The fiscal year-to-date total deliveries are at 4,217 acre-feet which is 7,320 acre-feet less than was delivered at this time during the last fiscal year.
- ▶ Kings River Water Association
 - KRWA Storage Operations in Pine Flat Reservoir as of May 14, 2023, totaled 3,649 CFS-days.

PROJECTS

- ▶ Solar Project: White Pine Renewables

Evan Riley of White Pine Renewables attended remotely by Zoom to provide the Board with a progress report on the solar installations at K Basin. (Att.4)

 - Project 1
 - Mechanical work is complete; awaiting final inspection by Fresno County. PG&E inspection is expected the first week of June which should take one month and will be followed by testing then activation. Cell will be available for flooding/recharge after PG&E work is completed.
 - Project 2
 - Perimeter fencing and pilings are targeted for installation the first week in June. Permits are in process. Building final is projected for the end of December, to be followed by PG&E inspection with activation targeted by January, 2024.

AGENCIES

- ▶ U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) - Mr. Amorelli has been in contact with the USBR by telephone regarding flood water.
- ▶ James Groundwater Sustainability Agency (James GSA) - Regular Meeting was held May, 20, 2023. Discussed monitoring wells.
- ▶ Westlands Water District held a meet-and-greet to introduce new General Manager, Allison Febbo. Also met with District representatives at the recent ACWA Spring Conference.

ACTIVITIES

- ▶ ACWA Spring Conference, Monterey, CA - Mr. Amorelli attended May 9-12, and had numerous successful contacts with various agencies.

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VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent, Kenneth Mancini, reported District staff has been involved in the following activities:

- ▶Standard maintenance activities
- ▶Managing flood flows and monitoring levee conditions
- ▶Pulling trash at the weirs and the railroad trestle
- ▶Utilizing the 20" booster pump to expedite filling K Basin with Kings flood water.
- ▶Constructed levees at K Basin to border solar installations for flood protection during construction.
- ▶Documenting flood flows/recharge
- ▶Training new Ditchtender, Assistant Superintendent and Office Clerk
- ▶Disking, mowing, grading ditch banks
- ▶Discussed measuring recharge in channel basins

VII. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

None were presented.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. TERRANOVA RANCH PROJECT (05/16/2023)

Mr. Amorelli reported he met with Don Cameron on May 19th to discuss Mr. Cameron's suggestion that James should contribute toward payment of costs to divert Kings River flood flows from the James Bypass into the McMullin On-Farm Flood Capture Project. Mr. Cameron was invited to this meeting but did not appear.

B. AGENCY APPOINTMENTS: JAMES GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (05/16/2023)

Director Micah Combs was reappointed by this Board to serve on the James GSA (Min: 12/13/2022). Since then, Director Carvalho has been serving as the James ID representative to the James GSA in place of Director Combs; however, the record does not reflect the circumstances nor his appointment by this Board. (He previously served as RD1606 representative to the James GSA.) As Mr. Combs no longer wishes to serve on the GSA, M/S/C (R.CHANEY / R.MOTTE) to APPOINT WM. CORY CARVALHO AS JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE JAMES GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY REPLACING MICAH COMBS RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 2023:

AYES: 4 (R.Chaney, R.Motte, M.Combs, W.Carvalho)
ABSTAIN: 1 (W.Carvalho)

C. LOAN: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES BOND LAW/2000 - LATERAL K RECHARGE BASIN (04/11/2023) - As suggested last meeting, discussed retiring loan balance of \$152,970. In view of the trend in declining revenues from water sales and wishing to maintain reserves, NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

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

Mr. Amorelli provided a draft of "Agreement...Fallowed Land Groundwater Recharge Program" for review/comment. The document has been forwarded to counsel for review/comment and will be returned next meeting and presented for approval.

E. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT / RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 1606 JOINT MEETING (05/16/2023)

Discussed setting date for a collaborative meeting on future RD1606 land use. Agreed to schedule a joint meeting on June 13, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. (before the James ID Regular Board Meeting).

IX. REPORT ITEMS

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

Updating the Board on deliveries of flood and excess water to areas outside of the District boundaries, Mr. Amorelli noted the District has been providing flood water to Burford Ranch, Gilmore Ranch and Jeremy Hughes.

ALTHOUGH THE FOLLOWING MATTERS WERE LISTED ON THE AGENDA, MR. AMORELLI INDICATED HE HAD NO INFORMATION NECESSITATING CLOSED SESSION DISCUSSION AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, THE BOARD WAS GIVEN THE OPTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION IF DESIRED. INSTEAD, THE BOARD OPTED TO MOVE TO ADJOURNMENT.

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

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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

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.

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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.

E. TERRANOVA RANCH, INC. (05/16/2023)

Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee
Terranova Ranch, Inc.: Don Cameron

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

F. WHITE PINE RENEWABLES (04/13/2021)

Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee
White Pine Renewables: Evan Riley

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

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

As noted above, the Board did not convene in 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 10:41 a.m., until the next Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, 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: April 12-May 16, 2023, \$506,184.82
2. Accounts Payable: \$15,009.26
3. Payroll Certification: Pay Periods Ending April, 2023, \$76,705325 (net)
4. Construction Report: James Irrigation District Solar Project, WhitePine Renewables, 05/11/2023