

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES July 16, 2024

ATTENDANCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Riley Chaney, President
Robert Motte, Vice-President
Robert Barcellos
Wm. Cory Carvalho
Andrew Groppetti

LANDOWNERS / GROWERS

Sal Parra, Jr.
Taylor Schmiederer, Ariana Farms

PUBLIC

Seraphina Bedoyan, Water Wise

EXCUSED

None

ABSENT

None

CONSULTANTS

- SUMMERS ENGINEERING, INC.
James C. "Chris" Linneman, PE

STAFF PRESENT

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

LEGAL COUNSEL

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Adjourned Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT ("District") was held Tuesday, July 16, 2024, 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.

2. ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no corrections/additions to the Agenda.

3. 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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4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public were given an opportunity to directly address the Board on any item of interest before or during consideration of the item.

- ▶ Sal Parra, Jr., commented that this year is very difficult for growers. He encouraged the Board to revisit water costs, noting rates in other districts are lower.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

a. MEETING DATE CHANGE

It was NOTED FOR THE RECORD that the July 9, 2024, Regular Meeting was ADJOURNED to this date due to scheduling conflicts and notice posted in the lobby of the District Office as well as on the District's website.

b. MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was observed to honor the passing of:

- i. HENRY JAMES "JIM" RUSCONI (1939-2024), former resident/business owner; and
- ii. FLOYD V. BASTIANI (1930-2024), landowner, former resident.

6. MINUTES

a. REGULAR MEETING: JUNE 11, 2024

M/S/C (A.GROPPETTI / R.BARCELLOS), to APPROVE as presented by the following vote:

AYES: 5 (A.Groppetti, R.Barcellos, W.Carvalho, R.Motte, R.Chaney)

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS

a. Interim Warrants: June 12-July 16, 2024 (Att.1)

b. 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 (R.MOTTE / W.CARVALHO), to RATIFY/APPROVE Interim Warrants totaling \$399,092.36 and AUTHORIZE/APPROVE payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$234,755.45 by the following vote:

AYES: 5 (R.Motte, W.Carvalho, R.Barcellos, A.Groppetti, R.Chaney)

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- c. Payroll Certification: Pay Periods Ending June, 2024 (Att.3)
A listing of payroll checks totaling \$82,555.87 (net) issued to employees and members of the Board was reviewed and certified by the President, General Manager and Office Manager.
- d. Income Statements (Budget-to-Actual): Period Ending June 30, 2024
- e. Quarterly Report of Financial Investments: June 30, 2024 Gov. Code §53646
- f. Cash Position Report: June 30, 2024
- g. Schedule of Long-Term Debt/Notes Payable: June 30, 2024
- h. Accounts Receivable Activity Report: June 30, 2024
- i. Assessments
The sale date for delinquent parcels has been set for Wednesday, September 4, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Notice will be published in *The San Joaquin-Tranquillity West Side Advance*. (Water Code §26105)
Landowners/growers have been contacted and notified that all services have been terminated until delinquencies have been corrected.

8. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Amorelli presented his verbal report encompassing operations, maintenance, projects and other District matters for the month of June, 2024, as follows:

OPERATIONS

- ▶ Water Deliveries: June, 2024 - Water deliveries for the month of June were 9,977 acre-feet which is 1,036 acre-feet more than was delivered during June, 2023. The fiscal year-to-date total deliveries are at 21,063 acre-feet which is 3,268 acre-feet more than was delivered at this time during the last fiscal year.
- ▶ Weekly TDS Readings: July 15, 2024
- ▶ U.S.B.R. / Central Valley Project
 - Allocations were recently increased from 40% to 50% to South-of-Delta agricultural contractors.
- ▶ Kings River Water Association (KRWA)
 - KRWA Storage Operations in Pine Flat Reservoir as of June 30, 2024, totaled 10,949 CFS-days.

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AGENCIES

- ▶ Reclamation District No. 1606 - Matthew Carvalho was appointed to the Board of Trustees to complete the unexpired term of Andrew Groppetti, who resigned to serve on the James ID Board of Directors.
- ▶ McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MAGSA) meeting of July 10th was well attended by several parties. The Aquaterra Water Bank Project was pulled from the Agenda and deferred to August.
- ▶ Raisin City Water District (RCWD) Board Meeting attended on July 3rd. Annexation efforts are moving forward.
- ▶ Alta Irrigation District - Met with and introduced ourselves to the Board at their June 13th meeting.
- ▶ Mendota Pool Group (MPG) - Noted Pool pumpers are trying to maintain water quality at good levels.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent, Kenneth Mancini, reported on the following activities.

- ▶ Normal summer maintenance including spraying, repairing squirrel holes in laterals.
- ▶ Securing services to disc weeds at the Lateral K Dual-Use Recharge/Solar Complex as well as the Rathmann On-Farm Project.

10. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Directors were given an opportunity to inform the Board of meetings and/or conferences attended on behalf of the District. None were reported.

11. ACTION ITEMS

a. MAIN CANAL PROJECT (10/26/2021)

Chris Linneman with Summers Engineering, Inc., Hanford, presented their proposal for services in conjunction with the Main Canal Improvement and Lateral C Canal Upgrade projects based upon information provided by Dr. Charles Burt. He reviewed the project phases, noting their estimates are time-and-material and are based on "worst-case" scenarios. Much of the work will involve raising the height of the levee for the entire length of the Main Canal to increase capacity to at least 200 CFS. Following a period of discussion/inquiry, M/S/C (W.CARVALHO / A.GROPPETTI) to PROCEED WITH THE PROJECTS PER SUMMERS' PROPOSAL. (Att.4)

AYES: 5 (W.Carvalho, A.Groppetti, R.Barcellos, R.Motte, R.Chaney)

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b. CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST CODE REVIEW (07/16/2024)

Upon recommendation of the General Manager, M/S/C (R.MOTTE / W.CARVALHO) to RE-APPROVE THE DISTRICT'S CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST CODE AS INITIALLY ADOPTED AUGUST 14, 2018, UNDER RESOLUTION 2018-04 AND LAST REVIEWED/RE-APPROVED JULY 12, 2022 (no changes). The District's Local Agency Biennial Notice will be forwarded to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors reflecting this action. (Gov.Code §87306.5) (Att.5)

AYES: 5 (R.Motte, W.Carvalho, R.Barcellos, A.Groppetti, R.Chaney)

12. REPORT ITEMS

a. DISTRICT ELECTIONS (06/11/2024)

Directors whose terms expire 2024 (Carvalho, Chaney, Groppetti) and wishing to run for re-election were advised they must file Declaration of Candidacy forms with the District Secretary between July 15-August 9. The deadline extends to August 14 if incumbents do not file.

ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 10:40 A.M.

Directors Attending:

Riley Chaney, President
Robert Motte, Vice-President
Robert Barcellos, Director
Wm. Cory Carvalho, Director
Andrew Groppetti, Director

Staff Attending

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

Legal Counsel

- Young Wooldridge, LLP
Alan F. Doud, Esq. (Zoom)

13. 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

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

AS DEFENDANT: 2 CASES

a. 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

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- b. 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

AS PLAINTIFF: 2 CASES

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

- d. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT V. MCMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
Santa Clara County Superior Court, Case No. 23CV417565

AS INTERVENOR: 1 CASE

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

15. 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: MCMULLIN AREA GSA (06/22/2021)

Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee

McMullin GSA: Matthew Hurley, General Manager

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

RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION AT 11:38 A.M.

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

General Manager, Manny Amorelli, stated there were no reportable actions taken during the Closed Session.

17. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was ADJOURNED at 11:39 a.m. until the next Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 13, 2024.

RECORDED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Donna Y. Hanneman, Secretary

Riley Chaney, President

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Interim Warrants: June 12-July 16, 2024, \$399,092.36
2. Accounts Payable: \$234,755.45
3. Payroll Certification: Pay Periods Ending June, 2024, \$82,555.87 (net)
4. Engineering Services for Main & Lateral C Canal Upgrades, Summers Engineering, Inc., by Scott Jacobson, May 30, 2024
5. Local Agency Biennial Notice, July 16, 2024