

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
LOWER TULE RIVER IRRIGATION DISTRICT

The Board of Directors of the Lower Tule River Irrigation District met in a regular Meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of January 2002, at 9:00 a.m. at the District office in Woodville, California. The meeting was called to order by President BENJAMIN R. SERAFIN. It was determined the following Directors were in attendance:

Director	Div. 2	2005	BENJAMIN SERAFIN
Director	Div. 3	2003	DONALD MACMILLAN
Director	Div. 4	2003	GARY FERNANDES
Director	Div. 1	2005	TONY SIMONICH
Director	Div. 5	2005	DIANE BOWMAN-FRIEND

District Staff Present: DANIEL G. VINK – General Manager  
FRANCIA MENDOZA-REYES – Controller  
KEVIN FELLOWS – Water Resources Engineer

**1. BOARD ADMINISTRATION**

On motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director BOWMAN-FRIEND and unanimously approved, the agenda was approved as presented.

The minutes of the December 12<sup>th</sup> regular meeting were distributed for review. After thorough review and discussion with one minor change, on motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved the minutes of December 12<sup>th</sup> regular meeting were approved as presented.

The Board reviewed the Financial Statement for the month of December 2001:

- The Local Agency Investment Fund earned an effective yield of 3.261% for December 2001 compared to 6.535% for December 2000.
- LAIF interest earned during the quarter has not yet been reported.
- The Board also spent considerable time reviewing the January 1<sup>st</sup> status of accounts for the District. The District's January 1<sup>st</sup> status of accounts stands at \$4,399,300. That number tracks the trend line of the past few years.

General Manager VINK also presented for review the Creighton Ranch exports by JG Boswell for 2001. For 2001 over 26,000 acre-feet of water was exported out from the Creighton Ranch via wells from the Boswell well field. Net revenue to the District was approximately \$100,000. General Manager Vink is working with Boswell staff on modifications to the agreement.

The Board also spent considerable time reviewing the assessment recap for the 1<sup>st</sup> installment of 2002 which was due at the end of December. The 1<sup>st</sup> installment of the 2002 assessment delinquencies totaled less than 5 ½%.

The Board reviewed the accounts payable for the month. The finance committee met following the December meeting to review the November bills. After thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director BOWMAN-FRIEND, second by Director MACMILLAN and unanimously approved the Board ratified the actions of the finance committee in approving the November bills. A copy of the financial statement is attached as (Exhibit "A").

## **2. WATER CONDITIONS**

Current water conditions were reviewed. The speculative forecast for the Friant Division has the Class 1 declaration at 100% with the Class 2 declaration marginal at best.

The Board spent considerable time discussing the flood release from the Tule River Reservoir that's anticipated to last to the middle part of January. After thorough review and discussion of the water available, as a result of nominal flood releases from the Success Reservoir, on motion by Director FERNANADES, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved the Board set the water rate at \$25 per acre-foot for those water-users able to access flood water through the District's system.

General Manager VINK updated the Board on a variety of other water related activities associated with the District including the approval of the historic transfer and exchanges within the Friant division and the banking of the 2001 SJR pilot program water in the DCTRA facilities.

The Board also reviewed the status of the Poplar share water and the release from Success Reservoir. At present the consensus of the Board was any Poplar water used during the flood release period will go against 2001 make-up water that was to be delivered in a subsequent year.

### **3. DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

Water Resources Engineer KEVIN FELLOWS reviewed with the Board a variety of construction activities in the District including:

- The Westside Inter-tie construction process that is approximately 50% complete. The date of completion for the 1<sup>st</sup> phase is estimated to be sometime in May to June of 2002.
- The Board also spent considerable time reviewing the Seitz Ditch project. The Seitz Ditch project, which involves the pipelining of the neglected portion of the Seitz Ditch, has been under consideration for some time. Considering the current price of PVC pipe, after thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director BOWMAN-FRIEND, second by Director MACMILLAN and unanimously approved the Board authorized the construction of the Seitz Ditch pipeline project including the purchase of any pipe necessary for the project. In addition staff will meet with the affected landowners to determine proper coarse of easements and grower interest.

FRANCIA MENDOZA-REYES reviewed with the Board the Districts vision policy and the proposed increase in rates from the Districts current carrier. The Board spent considerable time reviewing the proposal by staff to transision the vision insurance from an insurance carrier to a self-funded policy. The Board spent considerable time focusing on the cost to benefit ratio and the claim loss percentages. After thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director BOWMAN-FRIEND, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved the Board authorized the canceling of the current vision policy to be effective the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2002 and to initiate the process of self-funding. Staff will follow-up with a report to the Board at the February meeting.

General Manager VINK presented to the Board a salary increase recap for the 2001 calendar year. A total of 10 line and supervisorial staff were given merit and/or promotional increases during 2001 for a total monthly value of \$1912.00.

The Board spent considerable time discussing a proposed agreement with the Department of Fish and Game for the installation of a well at the Toledo Basin site. The installation of the well would be funded by the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in order to propagate the tri-colored blackbird species that is inundating the west end of the Toledo Basin. The landowners in the area have been affected significantly by the tri-colored blackbirds to the extent that farming operations could be in impinged. After thorough review and discussion it was the consensus of the

Board that the District should work cooperatively with the Fish and Wildlife Service for the installation of a well at the site in order to provide water to the Districts Toledo Basin thereby alleviating pressure from the local landowners. Agreements will be forthcoming.

The Board reviewed a variety of other issues in the District including the contract renewal process on the Cross Valley Canal. The District has received notice from the Bureau of Reclamation that absent a long-term contract, an interim contract will be executed. After thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the Board adopted Resolution 2002-1-1 authorizing the filing of a notice of exemption relative to the 1-year interim contract. In addition, after thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the Board authorized Resolution 2002-1-2 approving the form of the interim renewal contract and authorizing signature. Resolution 2002-1-1 and Resolution 2002-1-2 are attached as (Exhibit "B and C").

General Manager VINK reviewed with the Board the salary of Water Resources Engineer KEVIN FELLOWS. Given the performance of FELLOWS, the work expected of him and paralleling engineering salaries for the central valley General Manager VINK recommended an increase in KEVIN FELLOWS' salary to \$4800 per month. After thorough review and discussion on motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved Water Resources Engineer KEVIN FELLOWS was given a salary increase to \$4800 per month effective January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2002. His salary will be reviewed again in two years.

General Manager VINK presented for consideration the removal of a parcel of land particularly described as APN # 196-040-06. The property has been sold to the County of Tulare and thereby needs to be removed from the assessment rolls. After thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director BOWMAN-FRIEND, second by Director MACMILLAN and unanimously approved the Board removed the property described as APN # 196-040-06 from the assessment rolls.

It was reported the Riparianists will be having their annual meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February 2002 at the Lower Tule River Irrigation District office.

General Manager VINK updated the Board on the office construction work being done in conjunction with the Pixley Irrigation District. Considerable work is being done on site related issues including the relocation of the storm water basin and some pipeline work. The process with the architects continues with the development of the plans being central. General Manager VINK will work with staff to prepare an escrow process and financing options for the District.

**4. CROSS VALLEY CANAL**

The Board reviewed the variety of activities related to the Cross Valley Canal, particularly the meetings of the advisory committee and the continual progression of the management agreement with the Kern County Water Agency.

**5. TULE RIVER ASSOCIATION**

The Board reviewed the December 19, 2001 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Tule River Association. The minutes of the Tule River Association have been distributed to the Board and are not repeated here.

It was reported that the Tule River flood releases will result in generation at Success Power Project at approximately 400 KW.

General Manager VINK reviewed with the Board a variety of Success Reservoir Enlargement activities including meetings held between the local participants, the Corp of Engineers and Department of Water Resources, in particular discussing mitigation sites and the preferred alternative on the project.

**6. FRIANT WATER USERS' AUTHORITY**

The Board reviewed the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the FWUA Board of Directors. Considerable time at that meeting was spent discussing Proposition 13 along with river restoration options. The minutes of the FWUA Board of Directors have been distributed to the Board and are not repeated here.

**7. MISCELLANEOUS AUTHORITY/AGENCY**

- A. Mid-Valley Water Authority. Mid-Valley had its annual meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December 2001. The District did not have representation at that meeting given the current in-active state of MVWA.
- B. Deer Creek & Tule River Authority. Deer Creek and Tule River Authority will be having its monthly meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss typical Authority operations.

**8. U.S DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

Nothing new to report.

**9. MEETINGS, HEARINGS & NOTICES**

The Mid Pacific Water Users conference will be held in Reno in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January. General Manager VINK will attend to represent the District.

**10. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

- A. Association of California Water Agencies
- B. Central Valley Project Water Association
- C. California Water Resources Association
- D. National Water Resources Association
- E. State Chamber of Commerce
- F. Ag Water Committee
- G. Water Education Foundation
- H. California Farm Water Coalition.
- I. Family Water Alliance. The District has received a request from the Family Water Alliance for support for 2001. After thorough review and discussion on motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the Board authorized its contribution the Family Water Alliance in the amount of \$100.

There being no further business to brought to the Boards attention the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel G. Vink