



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 12th day of November 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:

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|----------|--------|------|---------------------|
| 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
ERIC LIMAS - Controller

1. BOARD ADMINISTRATION

On motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director MACMILLAN and unanimously approved, the agenda was approved as presented.

The minutes of the October 8, 2002 regular meeting were presented for review. After thorough review and discussion, with minor changes, on motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the minutes of the October 8, 2002 regular meeting were approved and placed on file.

The Board reviewed the Financial Statement for the month of October 2002:

- It was reported that approximately \$210,000 would be transferred to the assessments from the delinquent water accounts.
- LAIF earned an effective yield of 2.487% for October 2002 as compared to 3.785% for October 2001.
- Interest earned during the 3rd quarter of 2002 was not reported.



On motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director BOWMAN-FRIEND and unanimously approved the Board accepted the financial statement for October and ordered it placed on file.

The Board reviewed the actions of the finance committee in the reviewing of the September bills following the October regular meeting. On motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director BOWMAN-FRIEND and unanimously approved the Board ratified the actions of the finance committee in their payment of the September bills. (The finance committee met following the October regular meeting on the 8th day of October 2002. The finance committee will meet again following the November regular meeting to review the October bills.)

2. WATER CONDITIONS

Current water conditions were reviewed. The declaration for the Friant Division remains at 100% Class 1 and 8% Class 2, with a Cross Valley declaration of 75%.

The Board spent considerable time reviewing the draft agreement between the Lower Tule River Irrigation District and the Porterville Irrigation District for the use of surplus Tule River water from Porterville by Lower Tule. After thorough review and discussion on motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director BOWMAN-FRIEND and unanimously approved the Board directed staff to begin the drafting of a formal agreement utilizing District counsel and involving representatives from the Porterville Irrigation District.

General Manager VINK updated the Board on the recent flood releases commencing from the Success Reservoir on the Tule River that were required to accommodate the flood control criteria. The most recent storm activity in the early part of November dumped as much as 20 inches of rain on the upper portions of the watershed. The storage at Success Reservoir rose from approximately 4,000 acre-feet to over 21,000 acre-feet. Flood releases commenced immediately and are expected to continue into mid-December.

After thorough review and discussion on motion by Director BOWMAN-FRIEND, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the Board set the winter water rate at \$25 per acre-foot. Water will be available on a sporadic nature throughout the winter as flood control releases are necessary.



The Board spent considerable time reviewing potential sales of the District's Westside water and Friant water under various terms and conditions for 2003. No action was taken.

3. DISTRICT OPERATIONS

The Board reviewed a variety of construction and maintenance activities within the District.

Staff reported that the well has been installed at the Toledo basin. That well was part of grant project with the California Department of Fish & Game and the Bureau of Reclamation. The total cost for the construction of the well and the plumbing associated with the well was \$92,000. The District received grant money totaling \$86,000.

The Board then reviewed a memorandum of November 5th from General Manager VINK outlining the details associated with the O&M Superintendent position. The Board had spent considerable time discussing that position and the need and timing for that position that its joint board meeting with Pixley Irrigation District in the end of October. After thorough review and discussion on motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director BOWMAN-FRIEND and unanimously approved the Board accepted the recommendation of General Manager VINK in hiring Pixley General Superintendent MIKE BATTLES to be the O & M Superintendent for both Districts as part of the joint operations activities. BATTLES salary and benefit package will be effective the 1st of January.

The District has received a liability risk assessment report from the ACWA-JPIA. The District has received an excellent rating and staff was commended for their work.

General Manager VINK updated the Board on a variety of activities in the District including:

- The construction of the office building in Tipton. The construction schedule is calling for a completion sometime in Mid December;
- The sale of some of the existing office furniture to the school district
- Bids to be received for a new office copier machine to be purchased with the Pixley Irrigation District.

General Manager VINK gave the Board an update on the SunTrust lease package that was entered into to finance the computer system upgrades. There is approximately \$15,000 in remaining funds available from that lease to complete the project. Once completed, the Districts computer system and accounting software will be



converted from the old System 36 to the new AS/400 system including the VAI software package.

The Board spent considerable time reviewing the Taylor Ditch and the transfer of title associated with the Taylor Ditch from the Bayou Vista East Ditch Company to the Lower Tule River Irrigation District. General Manager VINK has been engaged in discussions with the Title Company and Bayou Vista representatives on the proper way to transfer title. No action was taken.

The Board spent considerable time reviewing the MOU, as prepared by counsel and staff, between the Lower Tule River Irrigation District and the Pixley Irrigation District. The MOU outlines the relationship between the two districts including the sharing of the construction and maintenance cost associated with the Districts new office building and the sharing of the General Managers salary. After thorough review and discussion on motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the Board authorized execution of the MOU. The Boards will likely meet sometime in December to execute the agreement.

The Board reviewed the Districts procedure and process associated with collection of delinquent assessments along with the Districts actions relative to terminating right of redemption. Reflecting in particular on recent activities within the Fresno Irrigation District that has called to light some improper activities on the part of the Fresno Irrigation District. After considerable discussion the Board directed staff to review the matter with counsel to insure that the District is following proper Water Code procedures.

District Controller ERIC LIMAS presented the Board with an update on the conversion to the MIS system. That conversion is expected to be completed by the end of year with the live system being on-line sometime in early 2003.

4. CROSS VALLEY CANAL

The Board reviewed a variety of Cross Valley Canal activities including meetings of the Advisory Committee, Prop 13 programs and the potential distribution of surplus revenue.

5. TULE RIVER ASSOCIATION

The Board reviewed the meeting of October 16th Tule River Association meeting. The November meeting will be held on the 13th. The minutes of the TRA Board of Directors have been distributed to the Board and are not repeated here.

General Manager VINK also updated the Board on a variety of Success Power Project and Success Reservoir Enlargement activities. Considerable time has been spent in the Enlargement activities dealing with the PCA and the LPCA and getting those documents executed along with some last minute concerns raised by DWR relative to some obstructions in the bypass channel.

The District has also received notice from Chubb & Son that the Districts claim for damages associated with wicket gate repair from July of 2002 was rejected. The total amount of the claim was \$5,589 and the Districts policy deductible is \$25,000.

6. FRIANT WATER USERS' AUTHORITY

The Board reviewed the activities of the FWUA. At the October 24th regular and the November 7th special meeting. Considerable time at both meetings was spent discussing San Joaquin River settlement discussions. The minutes of the FWUA have been distributed to the Board and are not repeated here.

The District has also received its 2003 1st call for funds from the FWUA in the amount of \$42,603. On motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director BOWMAN-FRIEND and unanimously approved the Board authorized payment of the 2003 1st call for funds.

7. MISCELLANEOUS AUTHORITY/AGENCY

A. Mid-Valley Water Authority. Nothing new to report.

B. Deer Creek & Tule River Authority. The DCTRA will be having its November meeting on the 15th of November. The minutes of the Deer Creek & Tule River Authority have been distributed to the Board and are not repeated here.

8. U.S DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Nothing new to report.

9. MEETINGS, HEARINGS & NOTICES

The ACWA/JPIA is being held the week of the 18th of November. General Manager VINK may attend to represent the District.

10. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

- A. Association of California Water Agencies. The District has received its ACWA dues request. Some questions have been raised associated with the ACWA dues formula and as such any action on that matter was deferred to a subsequent meeting.
- B. Central Valley Project Water Association
- C. California Water Resources Association
- D. National Water Resources Association
- E. California Chamber of Commerce.
- F. Ag Water Committee
- G. Water Education Foundation
- H. California Farm Water Coalition.
- I. Family Water Alliance.

There being no further business to be brought to the Board's attention the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel G. Vink