



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 April 2003, at 9:00 a.m. at the District office in Tipton, 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 <b>Absent</b>

District Staff Present: DANIEL G. VINK – General Manager  
ERIC LIMAS - Controller  
MIKE BATTLES – O&M Superintendent

**1. BOARD ADMINISTRATION**

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

The minutes of the March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2003 regular meeting and the March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2003 special meeting were presented for review, on motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the minutes of the March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2003 regular meeting were approved as presented. On motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director MACMILLAN and unanimously approved the minutes of the March 25<sup>th</sup> special meeting were approved as presented.

Controller ERIC LIMAS reviewed the financial statements and the various financial interests of the District including presenting the financial statements using the accrual accounting method rather than cash methodology. On motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the financial statements for the month of March 2003 were ordered placed on file.

The Board reviewed the actions of the finance committee in approving the February bills following the March meeting. On motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the Board reviewed the



actions of the finance committee in approving the February bills following the March meeting. The finance committee will meet following the April meeting to review the March bills.

ERIC WHITE, Auditor for the District, entered the meeting to review with the Board the 2002 audited financial statements. After thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the Board accepted the financial statement as presented by ERIC WHITE and ordered it placed on file. A copy is attached as **Exhibit "A"**.

## **2. WATER CONDITIONS**

Current water conditions were reviewed. The declaration for the Friant division remains at 100% Class 1 and 0% Class 2.

The Board reviewed a variety of water supply issues. Considerable time was spent discussing the 2003 summer run and the 2003 summer water rate. The Board reflected on the Districts cash position and the deficits that have accrued for the past 3 years as it relates to water expenses versus water revenue. It was the consensus of the Board that a landowner/grower meeting needed to be held in order to get feed back from the landowners relative to water runs and water rates as well as to brief the landowners on other issues involving District operations.

General Manager VINK presented for review a Section 215 contract for 2003 it does not appear at present as though any 215 water will be made available for 2003. However, there is no cost for the contract and it was recommended to execute the contract for contract continuity (having a 215 contract each year). On motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the Board adopted Resolution 03-4-1 authorizing execution of the 215 contract for 2003. Resolution 03-4-1 attached as **Exhibit "B"**.

District staff spent considerable time presenting a water accounting software and tracking process as proposed by H2O Professional Systems. The H2O System will allow the District to better track water deliveries to the District and to users. After thorough review it was the consensus of the Board to offer a cost sharing with Pixley Irrigation District that would include the water accounting software along with the Districts current accounting package and related hardware. General Manager VINK will present that consideration to the Pixley Board at their meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April.

### **3. DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

O&M Superintendent BATTLES reviewed a number of operational issues with the Board including various liner repairs and grading and spraying operations.

The Board reviewed a variety of administrative matters including a request from various agricultural entities and their subsequent recommendation to endorse Randy Fiorini as a candidate for Vice-President of the Association of California Water Agencies. After thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved the Board approved Resolution 2003-4-3 endorsing RANDY FIORINI for Vice-President of ACWA. A copy of Resolution 2003-4-3 is attached as **Exhibit "C"**.

The Board reviewed a variety of other District related activities including:

- o The final completion schedule on the exterior clean-up of the building
- o An establishment of a District Advisory Panel,
- o A discussion of crop survey methodology for 2003 and;
- o Assembly Bill 450.

No action was taken on any of these matters.

The Board reviewed the status of the Districts self-funded vision insurance policy. The funding status of the vision insurance policy is far ahead of schedule, with the District having accumulated more than \$6,000 in reserves after only one year. Accordingly, staff is recommending a change in the Districts coverage expenses. Typical expenses will be increased by \$10 per event. After thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the Board authorized the change in the vision rates coverage for 2003. Even with the changes to the current rate schedule it is still expected that the District will accumulate a substantial reserve and cost savings as a result of the self-funding of the vision insurance. A copy of the new rate schedule is attached as **Exhibit "D"**.

At 12:20 p.m. District Counsel DAN DOOLEY entered the meeting and President SERAFIN convened the meeting into closed session to discuss various litigation matters. At 1:30 p.m. the meeting was brought out of closed session and it was reported that no action was taken.

**4. CROSS VALLEY CANAL**

The Board reviewed a variety of Cross Valley Canal activities including modifications the 3<sup>rd</sup> party power and wheeling rates.

**5. TULE RIVER ASSOCIATION**

The Board reviewed a variety of activities related to the Tule River Association and the Success Reservoir Enlargement project. The minutes of the TRA Board of Directors have been distributed to the Board and are not repeated here.

General Manager VINK presented for consideration the completed Local Project Agreement as well as Resolution No. 2003-4-2 authorizing signature to the Local Project Cooperation Agreement and the Project Cooperation Agreement. All three of those agreements are necessary in order to finish the final study phases and to begin construction of the enlargement project. After thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved the Board authorized execution of the Local Project Agreement and authorized President SERAFIN to sign the Local Project Cooperation Agreement on behalf of the Tule River Improvement Joint Powers Agreement. Resolution 2003-4-2 is attached as **Exhibit “E”**.

General Manager VINK also presented for review a contract for appraisal services with DENNIS SCHNEIDER. SCHNEIDER will be performing the appraisal on the lands necessary for purchase. After thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved the Board authorized execution of contract for appraisal services with DENNIS SCHNEIDER. A copy is attached as Exhibit “E “.

**6. FRIANT WATER USERS’ AUTHORITY**

The Board reviewed the March 17<sup>th</sup> special Board meeting and the March 27<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the FWUA Board of Directors. Considerable time at both those meetings was spent discussing the future of the FWUA particularly as it is related to personnel issues. General Manager VINK reported that Business Operations Manager RON JACOBSMA has been retained as Interim General Manager for the FWUA. The minutes of the FWUA have been distributed to the Board and are not repeated here.

**7. MISCELLANEOUS AUTHORITY/AGENCY**

- A. Mid-Valley Water Authority. Mid-Valley had a special meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March. Considerable discussion was held at that time relative to the future of Mid-Valley it was determined at that meeting to spend the next several months trying to hone the mission of Mid-Valley and seeing at the end of that period whether Mid-Valley still serves a purpose. The matter will be reviewed again at the regular meeting in December.
- B. Deer Creek & Tule River Authority. DCTRA had its March Board meeting. The minutes of the DCTRA 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 spring conference will be held in Lake Tahoe in the second week of May. 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. 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 Boards attention the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel G. Vink