



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 13<sup>th</sup> day of April 2004, at 9:00 a.m. at the District office in Tipton, California. The meeting was called to order by President BEN SERAFIN. It was determined the following Directors were in attendance:

Director	Div. 2	2005	BENJAMIN SERAFIN
Director	Div. 3	2007	DONALD MACMILLAN
Director	Div. 4	2007	GARY FERNANDES
Director	Div. 1	2005	TONY SIMONICH
Director	Div. 5	2005	ROBERT F. BOWMAN

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

**1. BOARD ADMINISTRATION**

On motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director MACMILLAN and unanimously approved, the agenda was approved as presented. President SERAFIN welcomed newly appointed Director ROBERT BOWMAN to the meeting.

The minutes of the March 9, 2004 regular meeting were distributed for review. After thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved the minutes of the March 9, 2004 regular meeting were approved and ordered placed on file.

Controller LIMAS presented the financial statements for the month of March 2004. Considerable time was spent reviewing the cash flow and credit reports of the District. After thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved the financial statements for the month of March were ordered placed on file. The financial statements for the month of March are attached as **Exhibit "A"**.

The Board reviewed the actions of the finance committee in payment of the February bills following the March meeting. On motion by Director MACMILLAN,

second by Director BOWMAN and unanimously approved the Board ratified the actions of the finance committee in paying the February bills.

## **2. WATER CONDITIONS**

General Manager VINK updated the Board on the current declaration and water supply. The preliminary forecast for the Friant Kern Canal shows the possibility of a 5% Class 2 supply.

Considerable discussion was given to the 2004 irrigation run and the water rate. It was the consensus of the Board to begin the water run sometime in the later part of May and try to extend the run sometime in the later part of July or the first part of August which will mean interrupting the water run at least once. Discussion was given to the 2004 water rate. No action was taken, although it was the consensus of the Board that the rate will have to be increased from 2003.

The Board considered the 2004 Poplar Ditch allocation. Given the significantly reduced runoff from the Tule River (approximately 50% of average), on motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director MACMILLAN and unanimously approved the Board the set the 2004 Poplar allocation at 20 acre feet per share.

The District has received notice from the Friant Water Users Authority that the Districts share of the O&M charges for 2004 will amount to \$1,277,000 an increase from the 2003 rates of approximately \$125,000.

General Manager VINK updated the Board on a variety of Cross Valley Canal activities including 2004 Cross Valley deliveries and long-term contract renewal issues.

## **3. DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

O & M Superintendent MIKE BATTLES reviewed a variety of operations and, maintenance activities including grading and spraying of District canals and various custom work activity.

The Board reviewed an updated version of the Employee Handbook as distributed at the March meeting. On motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director BOWMAN and unanimously approved the Board adopted the updated Employees Handbook and ordered it placed on file and distributed to all the employees.

General Manager VINK reviewed a variety of administrative activities with the Board including:

- A letter from the Department of Water Resources indicating that the District has officially received its Prop 13 award allocation. The distribution of the money will be contingent upon allocation through the State budget.
- Special Districts Reform Bill; The Board conducted a review of SB1272 which would have significant impact to the District in terms of accounting procedures and remuneration to Directors.
- The Proposal to the Metropolitan Water District regarding the Tule River Intertie and letters from Madera County interest. General Manager VINK reported that a meeting will be held with the Exchange Contractors later in the week to review the proposal.
- 1601 permit; The Board reviewed the ongoing negotiations in the 1601 permit.
- State Board fees; General Manager VINK reported that he continues work with the ACWA Task Force in the development of Assembly Bill 2864 which would more equitably distribute the fees required from the State Board.
- Ag Discharge issue; The District will be working with the Tule River Association to meet the State Water Resources Control Board standards for Ag discharge monitoring and reporting. The District is representing the landowners on the Ag discharge matters.

The Board considered the guidelines for conduct distributed at the March meeting. No action was taken. The matter will be taken up at a subsequent meeting.

The Board also spent time discussing the Strathmore Creek groundwater recharge feasibility study. The Board posed some questions for General Manager VINK and he will review the matter with Provost & Pritchard who are the consulting engineers charged with managing the project.

The Board spent considerable reviewing the long-term fiscal stability of the District and in particular the need for increased revenue to offset water cost. No action was taken but it was decided to hold a landowner meeting in the later part of this month to review the matter in more detail.

#### **4. CROSS VALLEY CANAL**

General Manager VINK updated the Board on a variety of Cross Valley Canal activities. No action was taken.

**5. TULE RIVER ASSOCIATION**

The Board reviewed the March 2004 meeting of the Tule River Association Board of Directors. Considerable time at that meeting was spent discussing SRE activities.

At present the Corp has determined that the re-operations of the dam are necessary in light of seismic concerns and as such has dictated that storage elevations will not exceed elevation 635, which allows for approximately 48,000 acre-feet in storage. The change in operations will have no significant impact for the 2004 water year but could have a significant impact in future years. District staff will be monitoring the matter and working with the Corp of Engineers. Remediation for the seismic issue is expected to take several years.

Work continues through the Tule River Improvement Joint Powers Agreement on the Success Reservoir Enlargement. Concerns over State and Federal funding are dominating discussions at this point.

General Manager VINK and Controller LIMAS updated the Board on the status of the Success Power Project rehabilitation. To date approximately \$350,000 has been spent. It is expected that the plant will be reassembled and operational within the next month.

The minutes of the TRA Board of Directors have been distributed to the Board and are not repeated here.

**6. FRIANT WATER USERS' AUTHORITY**

The Board reviewed a variety of issues related to the FWUA. The minutes of the FWUA Board of Directors have been distributed to the Board and are not repeated here.

The District has received its monthly call for funds from Friant in the amount of \$12,904. On motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director SIMONICH the Board authorized payment of the call for funds for the FWUA.

**7. FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY**

The Board also reviewed activities of the FWA in particular the transition of the relative issues from the Friant Water User Authority to the Friant Water Authority. No action was taken.

**8. MISCELLANEOUS AUTHORITY/AGENCY**

- A. Mid-Valley Water Authority.
- B. Deer Creek & Tule River Authority.

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

Nothing new to report.

**10. MEETINGS, HEARINGS & NOTICES**

General Manager VINK reported on his attendance at the Family Farm Alliance conference in Las Vegas in March and the ACWA spring conference which will be held in Monterey in May.

**11. 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 to the 29<sup>th</sup> of April at 5:30 p.m. Wherein the Board will reconvene to conduct a landowners meeting.



At 5:30 p.m. on April 29<sup>th</sup> President SERAFIN reconvened the adjourned Regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lower Tule River Irrigation District office in Tipton, California. It was determined the following Directors were in attendance:

Director	Div. 2	2005	BENJAMIN SERAFIN
Director	Div. 3	2007	DONALD MACMILLAN
Director	Div. 4	2007	GARY FERNANDES-- <b>ABSENT</b>
Director	Div. 1	2005	TONY SIMONICH
Director	Div. 5	2005	ROBERT F. BOWMAN



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

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

The purpose of the meeting was be to meet with the landowners in the District to discuss District operations and water supply issues. At 6:30 p.m. landowners in the District entered the meeting and the landowner meeting was conducted. General Manager VINK spent considerable time reviewing District operations and financial matters related to the District. No action was taken.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel G. Vink