



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 10th day of February 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 - ABSENT
Director	Div. 1	2005	TONY SIMONICH
Director	Div. 5		VACANT

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.

The minutes of the January 13, 2004 regular meeting were distributed for review. Following two minor corrections, on motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director MACMILLAN and unanimously approved the minutes of the January 13, 2004 regular meeting were accepted and ordered placed on file.

Controller LIMAS reviewed the financial statements for the month of January 2004. After thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director MACMILLAN and unanimously approved the financial statements for the month of January were ordered placed on file.

The Board reviewed the actions of the finance committee in payment of the December bills following the January meeting. On motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved the Board ratified the actions of the finance committee in paying the bills due in December.

The Board spent considerable time discussing the vacancy in Division 5. According to the California Government and Water Codes the District can follow a

specific procedure to make an appointment within the Division. After thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director MACMILLAN and unanimously approved the Board set the March 9th, 2004 regular Board meeting as the date in which an appointment would be made to fill the position for Division 5. The Board also directed staff to post notices according to the California Water Code and California Government Code.

2. WATER CONDITIONS

Current water conditions were reviewed. The declaration for the Friant division is 75% Class One. It is anticipated that that declaration will be adjusted upwards with additional precipitation.

General Manger VINK reviewed a variety of water supply issues with the Board including the flood release during the month of January to accommodate the flood control diagram on the Tule River. General Manager VINK also reported that he and other Tule River water rights holders are engaged with the Corp of Engineers in studies being done to assess the re-operation of the Success Reservoir in order to accommodate the seismic retrofitting process. The Corps is currently looking at several alternatives to re-operate the Reservoir. The range of alternatives could have a significant impact on the Districts available water supply.

3. DISTRICT OPERATIONS

O & M Superintendent MIKE BATTLES reviewed a variety of operations, maintenance and personnel activities with the Board including a report on the interviews for vacancies in the water system operator positions.

The Board spent considerable time discussing the long-term fiscal stability of the District including potential actions and programs to offset the continual cost increases in the water operations, supply and water rights protection. No action was taken.

General Manager VINK reported that a proposal will be submitted to the Metropolitan Water District wherein in Metropolitan Water District and Lower Tule would partner on the Tule River Inter-tie Canal in exchange for some water quality enhancements to Metropolitan Water District. The program will be structured in such a way that there will be no net loss of water to either party.

The Board considered a request from the Tulare Lake Basin for the funding of a Chair at UC Davis honoring the late BOB HAGEN. In that HAGEN was a significant advocate for agriculture, on motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director

SIMONICH and unanimously approved the Board authorized support for the HAGEN endowment in the amount of \$500.

General Manager VINK presented for consideration Resolution numbers 2004-2-1, 2004-2-2 and 2004-2-3 wherein the District would terminate the right of redemption on APN's 237-150-049, 230-020-028 and 293-280-031. After thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved the Board adopted Resolutions 2004-2-1, 2004-2-2 and 2004-2-3. Resolution 2004-2-1 is attached as **Exhibit "A"**. Resolution 2004-2-2 is attached as **Exhibit "B"**. Resolution 2004-2-3 is attached as **Exhibit "C"**.

General Manager VINK updated the Board on the status of the State Water Resources Control Board fees and the ongoing litigation. No action was taken.

The Board spent time reviewing the General Managers vehicle reimbursement program. On motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved the General Managers vehicle reimbursement was adjusted to \$600 per month.

4. CROSS VALLEY CANAL

General Manager VINK reported on a variety of Cross Valley Canal activities including the ongoing discussions and negotiations relative to capacity increase.

5. TULE RIVER ASSOCIATION

The Board reviewed the January 2004 meeting of the Tule River Association. It was reported that the Tule River Association had negotiated a tentative settlement with the Tule River Tribe relative to the use of Tule River water on Tribal lands.

General Manager VINK also updated the Board on a variety of Success Power Project activities including the status of the repairs and replacements ongoing at the project and the status of the partnership.

The Board spent considerable time discussing Success Reservoir Enlargement activities. There is a significant concern relative to state and federal funding coupled with the Dam safety review that's being done. No action was taken.

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 the January meeting of the FWUA Board of Directors. The FWUA continues to being engaged in ongoing business. The minutes of the FWUA have been distributed to the Board and are not repeated here. The District has also received a call for funds from the FWUA to cover Authority activities through the month of March. On motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved the Board authorized payment of the call for funds in the amount of \$38,713.

7. FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY

Given the stalemate at FWUA, insofar as implementing the changes to the Joint Powers Agreement is concerned, the District has joined with 18 other Friant Districts and formed the Friant Water Authority. The goal of the Friant Water Authority is to transition all activities of the FWUA into the FWA and to implement the goals laid out in the facilitation process at the FWUA

The District has received the first call for funds from the Friant Water Authority in the amount of \$5,416. On motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director MACMILLAN and unanimously approved the Board authorized payment for the first call for funds of the Friant Water Authority.

General Manager VINK reported that Lower Tule has been named to the Human Resources and the Finance Committees of the Friant Water Authority.

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

Nothing new to report.

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.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel G. Vink