



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 9th day of March 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	VACANT	

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

1. BOARD ADMINISTRATION

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

The minutes of the February 10, 2004 regular meeting were distributed via mail. After thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved the minutes of the February 10, 2004 regular meeting were approved and ordered placed on file.

The financial statements for the month of February were reviewed. Considerable discussion was given as to the investments of the District including the placement of additional monies in longer-term investments. The Board reiterated its position relative to investment of district monies, which include the primary focus being on the stability of the money with secondary focus being on the liquidity and yield. After thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved the financial statement for the month of February was ordered placed on file and staff was directed to invest additional monies with Prudential Securities. Financial statement for the month of February is attached as **Exhibit “A”**.



The Board reviewed the actions of the finance committee in payment of the January bills following the February 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 January bills.

The Board spent considerable time reviewing the vacancy in Division 5. Notices have been posted according to the California Government and Water Codes and the District has received letters of interest from three different landowners: CHARLIE PITIGLIANO, ROBERT BOWMAN and JOHN ROELOFF. After thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the Board appointed ROBERT BOWMAN to serve out the remainder of the vacant term in Division 5. ROBERT BOWMAN indicated he was not interested in running for re-election following the completion of the vacancy and the Board felt that given the experience of Mr. BOWMAN and the equity issues involved the Board would rather have the landowners elect a Director for the position of Division 5 at the next general election.

2. WATER CONDITIONS

General Manager VINK reviewed various water conditions. Current projections call for below normal run-off conditions for 2004. Those declarations are based on normal precipitation for the balance of the water year. Current forecasts indicate above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation.

General Manager VINK presented for consideration the Districts 2004 Section 215 contract with the Bureau of Reclamation. It is unlikely that the District will have access to or will access Section 215 water, but in order to maintain contract continuity, on motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the Board approved Resolution 2004-3-2 authorizing execution of the Section 215 contract between Lower Tule River Irrigation District and the Bureau of Reclamation. Resolution 2004-3-2 is attached as **Exhibit "B"**.

It was reported that the District has delivered the balance of its extra water for 2003. The water was sold to Kern Tulare Water District and Stone Corral Irrigation District.

3. DISTRICT OPERATIONS

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

reported that the District has filled the opening for the Water Systems Operator position. Staff distributed for review an updated employee handbook. Directors were asked to review the handbook and provide comments at a subsequent meeting.

General Manager VINK presented for consideration Resolution 2004-3-1 honoring retiring Superintendent PAT BURTON. On motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the Board adopted Resolution 2004-3-1. The District will be hosting a retirement party for PAT BURTON at the end of the month. Resolution 2004-3-1 is attached as **Exhibit "C"**.

Staff reported on a variety of administrative issues including:

- Warranty work on the Districts office building;
- Workers compensation reform issues and;
- The status of the Districts 1601 permit.

No action was taken on any of these matters.

General Manager VINK reported that the settlement agreement between Westlands Water District and Friant Water Users Authority has been executed. Accordingly, on motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director MACMILLAN and unanimously approved the Board rescinded Resolution 2000-8-1 which the District adopted in August of 2000 wherein the Board publicly rebuked Westlands for their action of filing for County and Area of Origin status on the San Joaquin River and stated affirmatively the District would not conduct business with Westlands.

Considerable discussion was held relative to the long-term fiscal stability of the District. No action was taken. District staff was directed to meet and confer with counsel to research potential options

Distributed for review in the Board packets was a proposed Guidelines for Conduct for the Board of Directors. The Guidelines for Conduct are intended to demonstrate that the Board of Directors is adhering to a strict code of conduct. The matter was deferred for action until the April meeting.

General Manager VINK reported that he has been appointed to a task force to deal with the issue of the State Water Resources Control Board fees. There is a bill pending before the State Legislature that would more equitably distribute the fees and the task force has been put together in order to provide feedback and input into the process. The group will be meeting with State Board Chairman Art Bagget and Assembly Member Joe Canciamilla (the sponsor of the bill) this month to review the issue in more detail.

The District reviewed the potential for applying for a grant under the Bureau of Reclamations 2000-25 Challenge grant program. On motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the Board authorized staff to apply for the grant program as deemed appropriate and feasible.

The Board reviewed a request from the Riparianist pursuant to their annual meeting in February. The Riparianist have requested that the District once again re-regulate the riparian water in order to be able make the water available on a summer delivery schedule. On motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the Board authorized re-regulation of the Riparianist water.

4. CROSS VALLEY CANAL

General Manager VINK reported the negotiations relative to the expansion of the Cross Valley Canal have been completed and presented for Board approval a Principles Agreement. The Principles Agreement will be used as a guideline for drafting the final agreement. After thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director MACMILLAN and unanimously approved the Board authorized execution of the Principles Agreement on behalf of the FT Group.

General Manager VINK reported on his attendance at the Power and Water Resources Pooling Authority meeting. The PWRPA held its inaugural meeting in February. Considerable time at that meeting was spent on housekeeping issues. The long-term goal of the PWRPA is to provide coordinated support to the member Districts relative to the use of WAPA power. General Manager VINK requested that Controller LIMAS be appointed as alternate to the PWRPA Board. On motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved Controller LIMAS was appointed as alternate to the PWRPA.

5. TULE RIVER ASSOCIATION

The Board reviewed a variety of activities including the February 2004 Board meeting, the various activities associated with the Success Reservoir Enlargement, including several SREP meetings and Dam Safety reviews. The Dam Safety review issue will be coming to fruition sometime in March.

Considerable time was spent discussing the repair work at Success Power Project. The cost is significantly higher due to unforeseen repairs. It is now estimated that the project cost will exceed \$200,000.

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 February meeting of the FWUA Board of Directors. Considerable time at that meeting was spent discussing transition activities. No actions were taken. The minutes of the FWUA Board of Directors have been distributed to the Board and are not repeated here.

7. FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY

The Board reviewed the February meeting of the Friant Water Authority. Considerable time at that meeting was spent discussing transitional activities. In addition the Friant Water Authority extended an offer for the General Manager position to current Friant Water Users Authority General Manager RON JACOBSMA. The minutes for the FWA Board are distributed to the Board and as such are not repeated here.

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