



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 11<sup>th</sup> day of May 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- <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 SIMONICH, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved, the agenda was approved as presented.

The minutes of the April 13, 2004 regular meeting and April 29, adjourned regular meeting were mailed for review. After thorough review and discussion following a few minor corrections, on motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the minutes of the April 13, 2004 regular meeting and April 29 adjourned regular meeting were approved as presented and ordered placed on file.

Controller LIMAS presented the financial statement for the month of April 2004. Included in the presentation of the financial statement was a check from the Kern County Water Agency for distribution of a capital account held by the KCWA for Cross Valley improvements. After thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved the financial statement for the month of April was ordered placed on file. Included in the action to accept the financial statements was the depositing of the capital distribution monies

from the KCWA into the District's capital reserve account. The financial statements for the month of April are attached as **Exhibit "A"**.

The Board reviewed the actions of the finance committee in payment of the March bills following the April meeting. On motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the Board ratified the actions of the finance committee in paying the April bills. The financial committee will meet following the May meeting to review the April bills.

## **2. WATER CONDITIONS**

General Manager VINK reviewed a variety of water supply activities with the Board. The current declaration from the Friant division remains at 100% Class 1 and 5% Class 2. That declaration is tentative pending negotiations with Southern California Edison on the end of August storage amounts.

The Board spent considerable time discussing the 2004 irrigation run. After thorough review it was the consensus to begin the run on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May run for approximately 30 days and resume again towards the middle of July in an effort to stretch the water supply into the first week of August. The Board will review the water run at the June meeting.

Considerable discussion was given to the 2004 water rate. Considering the Districts cost of water, and in an effort to be sensitive to growers cost as it relates to pumping ground water, on motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved the Board set the water for 2004 at \$45 per acre-foot.

General Manager VINK reviewed a variety of other water supply related activities including deliveries of the Cross Valley water for 2004.

## **3. DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

O & M Superintendent MIKE BATTLES reviewed a variety of construction and, maintenance activities with the Board including the preparation of district canals for a water run and the removal of sand from the various canals.

The Board spent considerable time reviewing the long term fiscal stability of the District including a meeting held with the landowners at the end of April, wherein the issue of a standby charge and long term costs associated with District operations were

reviewed. It was the consensus of the Board that staff meet with consulting engineer DENNIS KELLER to review the feasibility of standby charges as it relates to Prop 218 elections.

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

- The special districts reform bill pending before the State legislature
- Fish and Game 1601 permit and operational issues associated with the 1601 permit. That permit is in the process of being negotiated with Fish and Game.
- Clean Water Act 404 issues as it relates to the Corp of Engineers and the latest fact finding mission of the Environmental Protection Agency
- State Board fee issues. Currently the State Board fee issue is being managed by a task force comprised of State Board representatives and the water interest of which General Manager Vink is a part.

General Manager VINK updated the Board on the Strathmore Creek Project and discussions he had with Provost & Pritchard Engineering Group, which is managing the Strathmore Creek Project on behalf of Friant Water Users Authority.

At approximately 10:00 a.m. Auditor ERIC WHITE and ALISON DALE entered the meeting to review the Districts audited financial statement for 2003. General Manager VINK reminded the Board that the auditor works independently for the Board and reports directly to the Board. After thorough review and discussion with ERIC WHITE, on motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the Board accepted the 2003 audited financial statement and ordered it placed on file. The 2003 audited financial statement is attached as **Exhibit "B"**.

The Board reviewed the "Guidelines for Conduct" as distributed at the March meeting. After thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director MACMILLAN and unanimously approved the Board adopted the "Guidelines for Conduct" for the Board of Directors of the Lower Tule River Irrigation District. The "Guidelines for Conduct" is attached as **Exhibit "C"**.

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

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

**5. TULE RIVER ASSOCIATION**

The Board reviewed the April 2004 meeting of the Tule River Association Board of Directors. The minutes of the TRA Board of Directors have been distributed to the Board and are not repeated here.

General Manager VINK and O & M Superintendent BATTLES reviewed the status of the rehabilitation work at the Success Power Project. It is anticipated that that rehabilitation work will be completed around the time the District begins its summer water run.

The Board also reviewed a variety of Success Reservoir Enlargement activities. Considerable concern is centered on state and federal funding issues as well as the ongoing seismic remediation issues. At present the Corp of Engineers has limited storage in the reservoir to approximately 48,000 acre-feet. While that will not be problematic for the District in 2004 it could very problematic in subsequent years interfering with the Districts ability to store its Tule River water and make it available for summer irrigation runs. More information will be forthcoming.

**6. FRIANT WATER USERS' AUTHORITY**

The Board reviewed the April meeting. Considerable time has been spent at the Friant Water Users Authority discussing transition activities.

The District has received a call for funds from the Friant Water Users Authority in the amount of \$18,066. On motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director MACMILLAN and unanimously approved the Board authorized payment of the call for funds. The minutes of the FWUA Board of Directors have been distributed to the Board and are not repeated here.

**7. FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY**

Considerable time has been spent at the Friant Water Authority discussing transition activities. The minutes of the FWA Board of Directors have been distributed to the Board and 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**

Staff reviewed their attendance at the ACWA spring conference in Monterey. O & M Superintendent BATTLES attended to represent the District at the insurance functions, while Controller ERIC LIMAS attended a number of financial presentations & General Manager VINK met with various water related interest on policy and water supply issues.

**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. The District has received a request from the California Chamber of Commerce for dues in the amount of \$700 for 2004. On motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved the Board authorized payment of the California Chamber of Commerce dues.

F. Ag Water Committee

G. Water Education Foundation

H. California Farm Water Coalition.

I. Family Water Alliance. The District has received a request from the Family Farm Alliance for dues in the amount of \$500 for 2004. On motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director MACMILLAN and unanimously approved the Board authorized payment of the Family Farm Alliance dues.



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

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel G. Vink