



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 14th day of June 2005, at 9:00 am 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 - <b>ABSENT</b>
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 MACMILLAN, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved, the agenda was approved as presented.

The minutes of the May 10<sup>th</sup> regular meeting were reviewed. On motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director MACMILLAN and unanimously approved, the minutes of the May 10<sup>th</sup> regular meeting were accepted and ordered placed on file.

The financial statements for the month of May 2005 were reviewed. After thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director MACMILLAN and unanimously approved, the Board accepted the financial statements for the month of May 2005 and ordered them placed on file.

At the May regular meeting, the Board adopted the restricted account policy, which directed that long-term water management program proceeds be deposited into the restricted account. On motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director SERAFIN and unanimously approved the Board directed that the proceeds receive this spring from the long-term water management program with the City of Orange Cove be deposited into the restricted account.



The Board reviewed the actions of the finance committee in paying the April bills following the May meeting. After thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved, the Board ratified the actions of the finance committee in payment of the April bills.

## **2. WATER RESOURCES**

General Manager VINK reviewed a variety of water supply activities. The current water supply declaration for the Friant Division remains an uncontrolled season declaration. It is anticipated the District will have water available well into September and possible beyond with the duration of the run depending on the residual Class 2 declaration.

The Board reviewed a variety of other water supply activities including the proposed water supply exchange negotiations with Metropolitan Water District. General Manager VINK reported that work is proceeding on the design of the inter-tie canal associated with that potential exchange.

The issue of full cost payments by landowners in the District was deferred to a subsequent meeting in that the memo necessary from Counsel has not yet been received.

General Manager VINK reviewed with the Board the 2005 Poplar Ditch Allocation. As a result of the sustained Tule River inflows, General Manager VINK recommended that an additional 15 acre-feet of Poplar make-up share water be made available to Poplar shareholders. After thoroughly reviewing discussion, on motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director MACMILLAN and unanimously approved the Board authorized the make-up of 15 acre-feet to Poplar shareholders for the balance of 2005 water year.

General Manager VINK reviewed with the Board a letter written by the District to the Bureau of Reclamation requesting clarification on water deliveries to the Fresno and Chowchilla rivers. Considerable discussion ensued. No action was taken.

## **3. DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

### **Construction and Operation activities**

The Board reviewed a variety of construction and maintenance activities with O&M Superintendent BATTLES. Included in the report was:

- An update on the status of the Westside inter-tie.
- The purchase of the tractor trucks: No change
- Summer employment opportunities within the District
- The final accounting on the Wood Central Project -The final accounting on the Wood Central Project is attached as **EXHIBIT “A”**.

O&M Superintendent BATTLES then presented a proposed modification to the Districts equipment rate, which reflect increased overhead costs. After thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director MACMILLAN and unanimously approved, the Board adopted the revised equipment rates as recommended by staff. The revised equipment rates will be effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005. A copy of the revised rates is attached as **EXHIBIT “B”**.

#### Administrative Activities

The Board reviewed a variety of administrative activities including considerable discussion relative to long-term fiscal stability and meetings held between staff and Consulting Engineer DENNIS KELLER to develop allocation scenarios for the Board review at a subsequent meeting. It is anticipated that staff and consultants will present to the Board several options for a possible Prop 218 election at the July or August meeting.

General Manager VINK reported that the District has received preliminary notice from the Bureau of Reclamation that the District has been awarded a \$25,000 water conservation grant to update the Districts Web-site.

General Manager VINK reviewed with the Board a variety of press activities associated with District activities including a recent interview conducted by District staff with CNN and articles appearing in the Fresno Bee newspaper. No action was taken.

The Board reviewed several other matters of administrative activities including:

- The easements on the Taylor Ditch project
- Update on the 404 and 1601 jurisdictional issues
- A meeting between staff and Central California Power relative to the development of a power plants within District boundaries.

General Manager VINK then presented for consideration a CEQA action relative to the updating of the Districts ground water management plan in association with the AB303 grant received by the District and the Deer Creek and Tule River Authority. On motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved the Board accepted the staff finding of no adverse impact and authorized the notice of preparation.

**4. CROSS VALLEY CANAL**

The Board reviewed a variety of Cross Valley Canal activities including:

- Inter-tie construction
- On going PWRPA activities

General Manager VINK then presented for consideration a request by the National Defense Counsel to offset NRDC's attorney fees associated with the filing of an action by NRDC related to the Districts Cross Valley contract. Considerable discussion ensued. No action was taken.

**6. TULE RIVER ASSOCIATION**

The Board reviewed the May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005 meeting of the Tule River Association. Considerable time at that meeting was spent discussing Success Reservoir enlargement and DSAP activities.

General Manager VINK gave the Board a brief update on 2007 appropriations, which are proceeding through the administration at present.

General Manager VINK may also be traveling to Washington D.C later in the month to work on continued support for the Success Dam project.

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

**7. FRIANT WATER USERS' AUTHORITY**

The Board reviewed the May 26th meeting of the Friant Water Users Authority. The minutes of the FWUA Board of Directors have been distributed to the Board and are not repeated here.

**8. The Friant Water Authority**

The Board reviewed the May 26th meeting of the Friant Water Authority. The minutes of the FWA Board of Directors have been distributed to the Board and are not repeated here.

**9. MISCELLANEOUS AUTHORITY/AGENCY**

Mid-Valley Water Authority.

Nothing new to report

Deer Creek & Tule River Authority.

Nothing new to report

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

Nothing new to report.

**11. MEETINGS, HEARINGS & NOTICES**

Nothing new to report.

**12. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

General Manager VINK reviewed with the Board the AG Water Management Council membership. The District has received a request from the Ag Water Management Counsel to join the Ag Water Management Counsel and support the other Districts and their statewide efforts related to water conservation. General Manager VINK pointed out that membership in the Ag Water Management Counsel is free of charge. On motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved the Board authorized Resolution 2005-6-1, authorizing participation in the Ag Water Management Counsel. A copy of Resolution 2005-6-1 is attached as **EXHIBIT "C"**.

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.

Personnel Matters

Nothing new to report

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel G. Vink