



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 February 2006, at 9:00 am at the District office in Tipton, California. The meeting was called to order by President MACMILLAN. It was determined the following Directors were in attendance:

Director	Div. 2	2009	JIM COSTA
Director	Div. 3	2007	DONALD MACMILLAN
Director	Div. 4	2007	GARY FERNANDES
Director	Div. 1	2009	TONY SIMONICH
Director	Div. 5	2009	JOHN ROELOFFS

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

**1. BOARD ADMINISTRATION**

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

The minutes of the January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006 regular meeting were distributed via mail. On motion by Director COSTA, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the minutes of the January 10<sup>th</sup> regular meeting were approved as presented and ordered placed on file.

The financial statements for the month of January 2006 were reviewed. On motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the financial statements for January 2006 were ordered placed on file.

The Board reviewed the actions of the Finance Committee in paying the December bills following the January meeting. On motion by Director COSTA, second by Director ROELOFFS and unanimously approved the Board ratified the actions of the finance committee in payment of the December bills.

The Board reviewed the vacancies created by the turnover in Directors. After through review and discussion, by appointment of President MACMILLIAN, Director SIMONICH was appointed to the Tule River Association Board of Directors and Director FERNANDES was appointed to the Deer Creek and Tule River Authority Board of Directors.

## **2. WATER RESOURCES**

The Board reviewed a variety of water resource issues including the preliminary 2006 declaration from the Friant project of 100% Class 1 and 15% Class 2. Based on current supplies available, the District will have approximately 90,000 a/f available which would allow for 50-60 days worth of water.

The Board turned its attention to the 2006 water rates, spending considerable time reviewing a presentation by staff. The information provided was consistent with a plan of action taken last year to level the Districts water rates over a 5-year period. After through review and discussion, Director SIMONICH moved that the water rates be set at \$40.00 per acre-foot for the spring run and \$65.00 per acre-foot for the summer run, Director SIMONICH'S action was seconded by Director ROELOFFS and considerable discussion ensued. Upon calling for the question to vote was taken and the motion was defeated on a vote of 1 in favor and 3 opposed. It was then moved by Director COSTA, second by Director FERNANDES, to set the 2006 water rates at \$40.00 per acre foot for the spring rate and \$60.00 per acre foot for the summer rate and \$25.00 per acre foot for the winter rate. After considerable discussion the question was called for and the motion passed on a vote of 4 to 0. It was further understood that the Board could modify the rates as extraneous conditions warranted. A copy of the water rate schedule for 2006 is attached as **EXHIBIT "A"**.

The Board reviewed the Poplar Ditch allocation for 2006. Given the preliminary water supply declaration, and considering the restricted storage in the Success Reservoir, on motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved, the Board set the Poplar Ditch allocation at 55 acre feet per share, however only 20 acre feet of that will be available to the Poplar share holders after June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006.

The District has received the 2006 Interim Renewal contract for Cross Valley. On motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director COSTA and unanimously approved the Board accepted the 2006 Cross Valley Interim Renewal contract and authorized execution accordingly.

The District has received an agreement from the Bureau of Reclamation to develop the environmental documentation associated with the long-term water supply program the District agreed to with Fresno County. On motion by Director COSTA, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved the Board authorized execution of the Letter of Agreement with the Bureau for the development of the environmental documentation. The cost to be paid for the work by the Bureau will be borne by Fresno County.

The Board reviewed a variety of water supply activities including the sale of 2006 Tule River flood release water to the City of Porterville. The sale to the city is significant in that is the first time the City has participated in groundwater management programs and groundwater recharge projects with any of the local irrigation districts.

### **3**      **DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

#### Construction and Operation activities

The Board reviewed a variety of construction and maintenance activities. O&M Superintendent BATTLES updated the Board on routine winter and spring maintenance in preparing the Districts system for the summer irrigation run.

Staff updated the Board on a variety of construction projects including:

- The Tule River Inter-tie and a status report related to that project,
- The Poplar Ditch relocation and;
- The Westside Inter-tie project. Staff presented for Board review the finalized findings related to the CEQA documentation associated with the well drilling adjacent to the Toledo Basin. On motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director COSTA and unanimously approved the Board finalized the CEQA findings and ordered them filed accordingly.

The District had also received a finalized contract from Pacific Boring for the Ave 144 crossing. On motion by Director COSTA, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the Board ratified the actions of General Manager VINK in executing the contract with Pacific Boring. General Manager VINK'S signature to the contract was consistent with prior Board action.



O & M Superintendent BATTLES and General Manager VINK informed the Board that they would present to the Board, at the March meeting, a five year equipment replacement plan.

#### Administrative Activities

The Board reviewed a variety of administrative activities including:

- Tule river channel clearing
- Long-term fiscal stability issues

General Manager VINK then presented for consideration a proposed scholarship fund to be shared jointly with Pixley Irrigation District in the amount of \$5000.00. After through review and discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to proceed with the development of a scholarship fund. More information will be forthcoming at a subsequent meeting.

At approximately 11:30am the Porterville Irrigation District Board and members of the Pixley Irrigation District Board entered the meeting to continue discussions relative to joint district management between the three Districts. Considerable discussion ensued. No action was taken.

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

The Board reviewed a variety of Cross Valley Canal activities including the Inter-tie construction and an update from Controller LIMAS on PWRPA activities.

#### **6. TULE RIVER ASSOCIATION**

The Board reviewed the January 18th 2006 meeting of the Tule River Association. Considerable time at that meeting was spent discussing the Ag Discharge Waiver issues.

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

#### Success Power Project

Nothing new to report - No action was taken.

Success Reservoir Enlargement

General Manager updated the Board on the DSAP program for Success Reservoir. The encouraging news was the inclusion of \$25,000,000.00 in President BUSH'S 2007 budget proposal for Success Dam funding. The \$25,000,000.00 consistent with what the Corp of Engineers had required as their spending capabilities.

**7. FRIANT WATER USERS' AUTHORITY**

The Board reviewed the January 26<sup>th</sup> 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 January 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

Considerable time at the Friant Water Authority meeting was spent discussing the O & M reconciliation's. It is anticipated the District will receive approximately \$750,000.00 in the first round of O & M reconciliations.

**9. MISCELLANEOUS AUTHORITY/AGENCY**

a. Mid-Valley Water Authority.

Nothing new to report

b. Deer Creek & Tule River Authority.

Nothing new to report

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

Nothing new to report.

**11. MEETINGS, HEARINGS & NOTICES**

General Manager VINK updated the Board on a variety of meetings including the ACWA legislative supposing the Family Farm Alliance to be held in Las Vegas in the first part of March.

**12. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

The District has received a request for support from the Tulare County Farm Bureau for their scholarship program. On motion by Director ROELOFFS, second by Director COSTA and unanimously approved the Board authorized support of the Tulare County Farm Bureau Scholarship program in the AMOUNT OF \$500.00.

The District has also received a request for support from the Family Farm Alliance in the amount of \$100.00. On motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director ROELOFFS and unanimously approved the Board authorized a contribution to the Family Farm Alliance in the amount of \$100.00.

- 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