



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 January 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 ROELOFF

District Staff Present: DANIEL G. VINK – General Manager **(9:45)**  
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 December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005 regular meeting were distributed for review prior to the meeting. On motion by Director COSTA, second by Director ROELOFFS and unanimously approved the minutes of the December 13<sup>th</sup> regular meeting were approved as presented and ordered placed on file.

The financial statements for the month of December 2005 were reviewed. After through review and discussion, on motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director COSTA and unanimously approved the financial statements for December 2005 were ordered placed on file. Included in the review of the financial statements were year-end closings of both the budget and the assessment recap.

The Board reviewed the actions of the Finance Committee in paying the November bills following the December meeting. On motion by Director ROELOFFS,



second by Director COSTA and unanimously approved the Board ratified the actions of the finance committee in payment of the November bills.

General Manager VINK reviewed with the Board proposed amendments to the District's 125+ plan. The proposed amendments are consistent with I.R.S regulations which allow employees an extension on the timeline wherein they can submit claims under the 125+ plan. On motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director COSTA and unanimously approved the Board authorized the amendments to the Districts 125+ plan.

The District has received its 2005 letter of engagement from auditors Eric White et al. On motion by Director COSTA, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved, the Board authorized execution of the letter of engagement in an amount not to exceed \$5,750.00.

## **2. WATER RESOURCES**

The Board reviewed a variety of water resource issues including discussions General Manager VINK has had relative to the District's Cross Valley water supply. General Manager VINK also reported that the State Water Resources Control Board has been having additional discussions relative to the Districts Cross Valley contract water in general and specifically on the diversion of that water for any purpose other than direct delivery or exchange. More information will be forthcoming at a subsequent meeting.

The Board reviewed a variety of District water supply activities including winter flood operations. The Districts current run commenced early in January as the result of January storms on both the Tule River water shed and the San Joaquin River water shed. After considerable discussion relative to the water supply available, and the total cost of water to the District, on motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director ROELOFFS and unanimously approved, the Board set the 2005 water year winter rate at \$25.00 AF, which will be effective until January and the 2005 water year spring rate at \$40.00 AF, which will be effective through February. The Board will review the 2006 water rates at the February regular meeting.

## **3. DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

### **Construction and Operation activities**

The Board reviewed a variety of construction and maintenance activities including updates on the Westside inter-tie project and in particular the Ave 144 crossing. O&M Superintendent BATTLES reported on the status of the project including the projection of when the structure work would be done and the boring work at Ave 144 completed. The timeline is predicated on the arrival of the pipe, which is expected to be sometime in February. Weather may also be a factor. The District is anticipating shutting down portions of the #2 ditch to accommodate construction.

O&M Superintendent BATTLES also reported on the purchase of two truck tractors for use in the District fleet. The truck tractors were purchased according to prior authorization of the Board.

The Board also received an update on the Poplar Ditch relocation project.

### Personnel

Prior to the meeting staff had distributed an updated employee handbook for the Board to review. On motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved the Board accepted the modifications to the employee handbook and ordered it placed on file. The employee handbook is an important policy document between the District employees and the Board of Directors.

General Manager VINK requested the meeting be adjourned to executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Upon coming out of closed session it was reported that no action was taken.

### Administrative Activities

General Manager VINK reviewed a variety of administrative activities including:

- The NPDS permit that the District is in the process of preparing
  - Tule river channel clearing activities and;
  - The ongoing discussions with Porterville ID regarding joint management.
- General Manager VINK attended the Porterville ID Board meeting prior to coming to the Lower Tule Board meeting this morning and reported on discussions he had with the Porterville ID Board. It is anticipated that the two Boards along with the Pixley Irrigation District Board will meet sometime within the next month for further discussions.

Controller LIMAS presented proposed modifications to the contracts associated with the Web-site upgrade project. After through review and discussion, on motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the Board authorized accepted the contract modifications. There will be no change to the project cost.

The District has received notice from Paragon partners, who is representing the City of Porterville; on an offer to purchase a section of the Poplar Ditch right-of-way adjacent to the Tule River in the amount of \$1000.00. The right of way purchase is necessary for a road-widening project in the City. Acting as agent for Poplar Irrigation Company, on motion by Director COSTA, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved, the Board authorized execution of the documents.

O&M Superintendent BATTLES reported on the expiration on the District's surplus property program which enables District employees to review Federal surplus property for purchase by the District. Renewal requires Board action. Accordingly, on motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director COSTA and unanimously approved the Board authorized participation in the Surplus property program and execution of related documents thereto.

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

The Board reviewed a variety of Cross Valley Canal activities. **No action was taken.**

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

The Board reviewed the December 21st 2005 meeting of the Tule River Association. The minutes of the Tule River Association Board of Directors have been distributed to the Board and are not repeated here.

##### **Success Power Project**

The District staff submitted to the Board the 2006 budget proposal for the Success Power Project. On motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the Board accepted the Budget proposal as presented by staff.

##### **Success Reservoir Enlargement**

General Manager VINK reviewed a variety of Success Reservoir Enlargement and DSAP activities including a January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Tule River

Improvement Joint Powers Agreement executive committee. No action was taken.

**7. FRIANT WATER USERS' AUTHORITY**

The Board reviewed the December 9<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.

The District has received a call for funds in the amount of \$68,823.00. On motion by Director COSTA, second by Director ROELOFFS and unanimously approved the Board authorized payment of the call for funds.

**8. The Friant Water Authority**

The Board reviewed the December 9<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.

The main issue being discussed with the Friant Water Authority is the O & M reserve and the potential distribution of a portion of the O & M reserve funds. It is anticipated that a refund will be made in that regard within the next month.

**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**

The Mid Pacific will be having its annual Water Users conference in January in Reno, NV. The Farm Alliance will be having its meeting in Las Vegas in March. General Manager VINK will likely attend one or both of those meetings to represent the District.

**12. 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