

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 April 2007, 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  
MIKE BATTLES – Operations Manager  
ERIC LIMAS – Business Manager

**1. BOARD ADMINISTRATION**

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

The minutes of the March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007 regular meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. On motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved the Board accepted the minutes of the March 13<sup>th</sup> 2007 regular meeting and ordered them placed on file.

The Board reviewed the financial statements for the month of March 2007. On motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director COSTA and unanimously approved, the Board accepted the financial statements for the month of March 2007 and ordered them placed on file.

The Board reviewed the actions of the Finance Committee in paying the February bills following the March meeting. On motion by Director COSTA, second by

Director ROELOFFS and unanimously approved the Board ratified the actions of the Finance Committee in paying of the February bills.

## **2. WATER RESOURCES**

The Board reviewed a variety of water resources activities including the current projections for April / July runoff on both the San Joaquin and the Tule River, which are 25 to 35 percent of normal. That runoff declaration will equate to approximately two to two and a half weeks of water for a summer irrigation run.

The Board also received an update from General Manager VINK on:

- 2007 Cross Valley water deliveries,
- Spring operations on the Tule River,
- Various discussions relative to the Tulare County water commission. General Manager VINK is playing a role in the discussions relative to the appointments on that commission.

After considering the April / July runoff further the Board tentatively set a summer irrigation run to begin on or around June 25<sup>th</sup> and to be terminated until the water was gone approximately two weeks hence.

The Board then turned its attention to the 2007 water rates. After thorough review and discussion, considering the need of cost recovery versus the Districts rolling five – year plan, a motion was made to set the water rate at \$65.00 per a/f for the summer. Further discussion ensued. The question was called for and with a 4 to 1 vote with Director SIMONICH being opposed, the water rate was set at \$65.00 per af for the summer irrigation run.

The Board spent considerable time discussing a potential water management program with OCID that would involve a number of water management components with the focus of the program being the exchanging of the water with Orange Cove Irrigation District. The exchange balance would be approximately 3 1/2 to 1 acre feet with Orange Cove receiving dry year water from Lower Tule in exchange for normal to wet year water from the Orange Cove Irrigation District. The Board had reviewed a draft “Principals of Agreement” between the two Districts prior to the meeting. On motion by Director ROELOFFS, second by Director COSTA and unanimously approved the Board took action to support the “Principals of Agreement” and directed that staff negotiate final details and prepare a memorandum of understanding for review at a subsequent meeting.

### **3. DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

#### Construction and Operation activities

The Board reviewed a variety of construction and maintenance activities including updates from Operations Manager BATTLES on the status of the Westside Inter-tie Project, which is 95% complete. It is further reported that the Phase 2 for the Poplar Ditch relocation will be awarded some time in June. Further discussion was held on the Tule River Inter-tie canal including the scoping of the alternatives as suggested by landowner Borba and various boring locations.

#### Personnel

At approximately 11:15am President MacMillan convened the meeting into executive session to discuss employee related matters, including a lawsuit filed against the District and General Manager Vink by former Employee Terry Moss. The Closed Session was in accordance with Government code section 54957. Upon bring the meeting out of closed session it was reported that no action was taken.

#### Administrative Activities

The Board discussed several administrative matters including recent developments in the San Joaquin River Settlement which, included the Washington D.C hearing on the House subcommittee side in April and various issues related to the Dan Dooley's representation of the District and of the Friant at large

General Manager VINK updated the Board on the sale of the Rostrada property to Lanting. No action was taken.

The District has also received a request for legal fees to support the State Water Resources Control Board litigation. On motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director ROELOFFS and unanimously approved the Board authorized payment of the legal fees in the amount of \$2612.00.

The Board then spent a brief amount of time discussing District wide strategic planning and noted the need to better organize the Districts goals and objectives

**4. CROSS VALLEY CANAL**

The Board reviewed a variety of Cross Valley Canal activities including the Inter-tie and Cross Valley expansion project. No action was taken.

**5. TULE RIVER ASSOCIATION**

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

Success Power Project

Nothing new to report.

Dam Safety Project

General Manager VINK reviewed with the Board a number of Success Reservoir Enlargement and Dam Safety project activities. No action was taken

**6. FRIANT WATER USERS' AUTHORITY & The FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY**

The Board reviewed the March 29<sup>th</sup> meeting Friant Water and the Friant Water Users Authority activities. The District has received a call for funds from Friant Water Users Authority in the amount of \$34,411.00 and for the Friant Water Authority in the amount of \$26,536.00. Considering a number of issues including the Dooley legal fee issue and recent letters from Chowchilla to Friant Water Users Authority along with the pervasive disfunctionality of the Friant Water Users Authority, on motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved the Board authorized payment of the call for funds and directed General Manager VINK to prepare an action plan for alternatives relative to representation of the District's larger water policy issues outside of the Friant and Friant Water Users Authority.

It is not the intention of the Board to withdraw their membership from either one of the Authorities at this time. However, they feel it is important that they examine all alternatives. The minutes of the FWUA and the FWA Board of Directors have been distributed to the Board and are not repeated here.

7. **MISCELLANEOUS AUTHORITY/AGENCY**

Deer Creek & Tule River Authority.

The Board reviewed the March 16<sup>th</sup> of the DCTRA.

Mid-Valley Water Authority.

Nothing new to report

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

Nothing new to report.

9. **MEETINGS, HEARINGS & NOTICES**

10. **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 Farm Alliance

The District has received a request for support from the FFA in the amount of \$500.00. On motion by Director ROELOFFS, second by Director COSTA and unanimously approved the Board authorized support of the FFA and the dues payment of \$500.

J. California Farm Bureau

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

Approved

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel G. Vink