

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 13th day of May 2008, at 9:00 am at the District office in Tipton, California. The meeting was called to order by President SIMONICH. It was determined the following Directors were in attendance:

Director	Div. 2	2009	JIM COSTA
Director	Div. 3	2011	TOM BARCELLOS
Director	Div. 4	2011	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

Others: Kathy Briano  
Mike Boyett

**1. BOARD ADMINISTRATION**

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

The minutes of the April 8<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and the April 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Meeting were distributed for review. On motion by Director ROELOFFS, second by Director COSTA and unanimously approved, the minutes of the April 8<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and the minutes of the April 23<sup>rd</sup> Special meeting were accepted and ordered placed on file.

The Board reviewed the Financial Statements for the month of April 2008. On motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director BARCELLOS and unanimously approved the Board accepted the Financial Statements and ordered them placed on file.

The Board reviewed the actions of the Finance Committee in paying the March bills following the April meeting. On motion by Director BARCELLOS, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the Board ratified the actions of the Finance Committee in the payment of the March bills following the April meeting.

The Lower Tule River Finance Committee will be responsible for reviewing the April Joint Operations & Maintenance bills following the May meeting.

## **2. WATER RESOURCES**

The Board reviewed a variety of water resources activities including the current declaration issues. The current water supply declaration remains at 100% Class I, and 5% Class II.

One of the driest springs on record has left the Class II declaration in a precarious position, although current indications from the Bureau are that the declaration should be able to be maintained.

The Board spent considerable time discussing groundwater pumping and groundwater monitoring within the District boundaries. No action was taken.

General Manager VINK updated the Board on a variety of water related activities including:

- Discussions with J.G Boswell representatives regarding the Creighton Ranch pumping agreement and the continuing efforts to modify that agreement based on changing price conditions.
- The Bureau of Reclamations position on the Delta Lands pump-in water
- The Ivanhoe to Kaweah Delta Conservation District assignment of Class I and Class II.

The Board spent considerable time reviewing the 2008 water rate and 2008 water budget. After thorough review and discussion, including a subsequent review of the District's five year costing methodology for water rates. On motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director ROELOFFS and unanimously approved, the Board set the water rate at \$65.00 per acre foot for the 2008 summer run and accepted the water budget as presented.

The Board then turned their attention to the 2008 summer water run. After thorough review and discussion, considering the use of water throughout the District, on motion by Director COSTA, second by Director ROELOFFS and unanimously approved the Board set the first water run to begin the 1<sup>st</sup> of June until the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2008, with the second run beginning the 20<sup>th</sup> of July and continuing until the water is gone, which is estimated to be approximately the first part of August.

The Board considered the 2008 Poplar Ditch allocation and modifications to the allocation and the timing of the use given the District's spring and summer run. The original allocation to Poplar Shareholders assumed the District would begin its summer

run in the beginning of May. Shareholder BRIANO addressed several issues with the Board. On motion by Director COSTA, second by Director BARCELLOS and unanimously approved the Board left the 2008 Poplar Ditch allocation at 55 acre feet per share, but authorized 40 acre feet of that water to be available to the shareholders after June 1<sup>st</sup>.

The District has received a groundwater export request from landowner MIKE BOYETT. BOYETT reviewed his request and answered questions. The request is to export water under the Districts groundwater export policy updated in February 2007. On motion by Director BARCELLOS, second by Director COSTA and unanimously approved the Board accepted the groundwater export from MIKE BOYETT consistent with District policy.

### **3. DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

#### Construction and Operation activities

Operation Manager BATTLES reviewed a variety of construction and maintenance activities including the completion of the Poplar Ditch Relocation Project and a variety of summer work including grading and routine maintenance activities and reported that the spray equipment in order to complete the Districts modified spray truck has been ordered. The District will be hiring a number of college and high school students for summer help.

General manager VINK reviewed with the Board the Tule River Inter-tie canal project including right-of way acquisitions, which currently involves meetings with Appraisers and a right-of way acquisitions specialist. The District anticipates having a proposal to prepare right-of-way available for approval at the June meeting. It is estimated that the current cost to do the right-of-way appraisals will be approximately \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00.

The District has also submitted, as per the April 23<sup>rd</sup> Special meeting, a grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation for work to be done on the upper end of the Inter-tie project at the Tule River diversion. The Bureau is reporting 60 to 90 days before award notices are given.

The Board reviewed an updated equipment rates and rental costs assessments as per direction at the April meeting. Director BARCELLOS recused himself from the meeting in order to avoid any conflict of interest with the discussion. After thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director COSTA, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the Board accepted the updated rates and rental schedule and ordered it placed on file. A copy is attached as **EXHIBIT "A"**.

Personnel Matters

Staff updated the Board on a variety of personnel activities including meetings with AFLAC representatives to provide the District employees with supplemental insurance and the transition of Salvador Malta to the District's GIS department.

The Board spent time reviewing a variety of San Joaquin River Settlement activities including legal representation of the Friant Water Authority and the 9D conversion. No action was taken.

Administrative Matters

General Manager VINK updated the Board on a variety of administrative matters including:

- An update on the Pixley / Delano banking program
- A May 20<sup>th</sup> landowner meeting to scope the banking program.
- Silva Bankruptcy settlement
- Review of the District's recently published newsletter

The Board turned its attention to turnout installation rates and costs associated with new delivery turnouts. After thorough review and discussion, the matter was deferred to a subsequent meeting.

**4. CROSS VALLEY CANAL**

General Manager VINK reviewed with the Board a variety of Cross Valley canal activities including:

- The expansion on the Inter-tie project, which is essentially completed and waiting only the installation on the pump facilities
- Agreements with Cross Valley canal parties on capacity sharing
- The potential for Cross Valley canal deliveries in the summer. At present it looks more favorable than it had earlier in the year in that the District's Cross Valley canal water would be delivered to Del Puerto under agreement. There remain a number of variables including Delta Pumping and upstream releases.

**5. TULE RIVER ASSOCIATION**

The Board reviewed the minutes of the April 16<sup>th</sup> Tule River Association.

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

General Manager VINK also reported that the stakeholders will be having a meeting with the Corp of Engineers on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May in Sacramento to review a variety of Dam Safety activities.

**6. FRIANT WATER USERS' AUTHORITY**

The Board reviewed the April 24th meeting of the Friant Water Users Authority Board. The minutes of the FWUA Board of Directors have been distributed to the Board and are not repeated here.

**7. FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY**

The Board reviewed the April 24th meeting of the Friant Water Authority Board. The minutes of the FWA Board of Directors have been distributed to the Board and are not repeated here.

**8. MISCELLANEOUS AUTHORITY/AGENCY**

Deer Creek & Tule River Authority.

Deer Creek and Tule River Authority will be having it's meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May.

Mid-Valley Water Authority.

Nothing new to report

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

Nothing new to report.

**10. MEETINGS, HEARINGS & NOTICES**

The District has received a membership request from the California Chamber of Commerce. On motion by Director COSTA, second by Director ROELOFFS and unanimously approved the Board authorized continuing membership in the California Chamber of Commerce.

**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
- F. Ag Water Committee
- G. Water Education Foundation
- H. California Farm Water Coalition
  
- I. Family Farm Alliance
- J. California Farm Bureau
- K. California Special Districts Association

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel G. Vink  
General Manager