

Approved

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
PIXLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

The Board of Directors of the Pixley Irrigation District convened a meeting on December 14, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by President JUNIO. It was determined the following Directors were present:

Director Div.3	Randy Parreira
Director Div.2	Bill DeGroot - ABSENT
Director Div.5	Frank Junio
Director Div. 1	Neal Westbrook - ABSENT
Director Div.4	Rusty Schott

District Staff present:

Eric Limas, General Manager
Mike Battles, Assistant Manager
John Michael Domondon, Engineer
Mark Greenall, Controller
Allison Tristao, Resources Coordinator

Others Present:

Alex Peltzer, General Counsel

Landowners and Public:

Susan Long, Seth Merritt, Sonia Sanchez, Jim Morehead, Travis Millwee, Geof Vanden Huevel, Joseph Gallegos

BOARD ADMINISTRATION

The Board reviewed the agenda. On motion by Director PARREIRA, second by Director SCHOTT and unanimously approved, the agenda was approved as presented.

On motion by Director SCHOTT, second by Director PARREIRA, and unanimously approved, the minutes of the November 9, 2023 regular meeting and

December 4, 2023 special meeting were approved as presented.

LIMAS reviewed the current slate of officers and committee appointments. The Board tabled action on Board reorganization to January when all members are present. No action was taken.

During the public comment period, Joseph Gallegos from Umida Agriculture showed the Board a new irrigation method being developed, where perforated PVC is buried 3-5 feet below surface and irrigation water can be applied to the root zone, eliminating evaporation and minimizing total applied water.

WATER RESOURCES

Manager LIMAS reviewed current local and statewide water conditions. The Friant Water Year 2023 allocation is 100 % Class 1 and 15% Class 2. The CVC allocation is currently 100% with deliveries starting in October and continuing currently. No action was taken.

FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY

LIMAS reviewed activities related to the Friant Kern Canal operations, subsidence/capacity correction current activities, studies of phase 2 capacity correction study, and November FWA Board retreat. No action was taken.

SOUTH VALLEY WATER ASSOCIATION

LIMAS reviewed the South Valley Water Association activity. No action was taken.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS

Construction and Operation activities

JOHN MICHAEL DOMONDON reviewed construction projects and canal maintenance activities. In addition, safety meetings were held, shop and facility inspections were performed, and canal maintenance and spraying were performed. O&M on the Teapot Dome/Pioneer/ Vandalia and Campbell Moreland systems were performed. DOMONDON also gave updates on the SPP, East side capacity improvement and Lateral 4 projects in Pixley. No action was taken.

MIKE BATTLES updated the Board on long term Deer Creek channel repairs needed from the spring flood damage. Staff has logged and prioritized projects along with estimated costs. The high priority items are estimated at \$3.9 million and the total list estimated at around \$4.7 million. Staff is working with FEMA to try and get funding. The Board consensus was that the high priority projects are important and staff should move forward with them while at the same time working with FEMA for potential reimbursement.

DOMONDON reviewed 4 proposals for a recharge basin design. After discussion, on motion by Director PARREIRA, second by Director SCHOTT and unanimously approved, the Board approved the low bid from Hartman Engineering in the amount of \$48,200.

Administrative Activities

LIMAS reviewed CPI data and a recommended Cost of Living Adjustment for 2024. After discussion, on motion by Director SCHOTT, second by Director PARREIRA and unanimously approved, the Board approved an employee COLA of 3.7% for 2024.

LIMAS reviewed an engagement letter from Cuttone and Mastro for the 2023 audit. After discussion, on motion by Director PARREIRA, second by Director SCHOTT and unanimously approved, the Board approved executing the engagement letter.

LIMAS reviewed the current District Investment Policy with no recommended

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changes for 2024. After discussion, on motion by Director SCHOTT, second by Director PARREIRA and unanimously approved, the Board readopted the current investment policy.

The Board reviewed the financial reports for the month of November. On motion by Director PARREIRA, second by Director SCHOTT and unanimously approved, the Board approved the financial reports.

The Board reviewed the bills paid for the month of November. On motion by Director PARREIRA, second by Director SCHOTT and unanimously approved, the Board approved the bills paid including 2024 membership dues for the California Farm Water Coalition in the amount of \$10,125.

OTHER MATTERS

The Board then went into closed session. Upon reconvening into open session, it was reported that the Board performed and approved a performance evaluation and salary adjustment for the General Manager.

There being no further business to be brought to the Board attention, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric Limas
General Manager