



Approved

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 9th day of May 2011 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	2013	JIM COSTA
Director	Div. 3	2011	TOM BARCELLOS
Director	Div. 4	2011	GARY FERNANDES
Director	Div. 1	2013	TONY SIMONICH
Director	Div. 5	2013	JOHN ROELOFFS

District Staff Present: DANIEL G. VINK – General Manager
MIKE BATTLES – Operations Manager
ERIC LIMAS – Business Manager

Others Present: District Counsel – ALEX PELTZER

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 12, 2011 Regular meeting were distributed for review prior to the meeting. On motion by Director COSTA, second by Director ROELOFFS and unanimously approved, the Board accepted the minutes and ordered them placed on file.

Miscellaneous Administration

General Manager VINK and Business Manager LIMAS then updated the Board on health insurance options for 2012. The goal of the Board is to stabilize the health insurance costs paid by the District. Staff has been reviewing various options and will be meeting with the balance of the employees later in the month of May. The District is looking at shifting from and HMO/PPO option to PPO only option through either PERS or Special Risk Management Association.

The District has received a notice from the County of Tulare wherein the District can consent to consolidate its 2011 elections with the November general elections held by the County. On

Approved

motion by Director BARCELLOS, second by Director COSTA and unanimously approved the Board adopted Resolution 2011-5-1 consenting to consolidate the 2011 elections. A copy of Resolution 2011-5-1 is attached as **EXHIBIT "A"**.

2. WATER RESOURCES

General Manager VINK reviewed with the Board a variety of water resources activities including:

- The current water supply conditions
- 2011 spring operations
- Additional RWA water made available and;
- The use of Section 215 water.

2011 is shaping up to be one of the wetter years on record and as such, the District should have plenty water available through the month of August.

The Board then turned its attention to the 2011 summer water rate. Given the uncertainty as to what water might be available and at what cost, the Board decided to set the water rate for June only at \$55.00 a/f. On motion by Director BARCELLOS, second by Director ROELOFFS and unanimously approved the Board set the water rate at \$55.00 a/f for the month of June. The Board will discuss the future summer water rates more at the June meeting.

The Board went into closed session with District Counsel ALEX PELTZER entering the meeting to discuss groundwater activities and groundwater pumping within the District. Upon coming out of closed session it was reported no action was taken.

General Manager VINK updated the Board on several other water related issues including long-term water management programs with Porterville Irrigation District.

3. DISTRICT OPERATIONS

Construction and Operation activities

General Manager VINK and Operations Manager BATTLES reviewed a variety of operation and maintenance activities including an update on the Tule River Inter-tie canal and the work being done to finish that project. All work is on hold until September when the irrigation system can be shut down to finish the final details of construction.

The Board turned its attention to the possible purchase of equipment outside of the budget perimeters. Operations Manager BATTLES reviewed with the Board the need for replacement of the Districts low-bed trailer due to operational and safety concerns. The District had not been planning on replacing the trailer until 2012. However, safety concerns have dictated a need for an

Approved

accelerated replacement plan. On motion by Director BARCELLOS, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the Board authorized the replacement of the low-bed trailer in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00.

Administrative Matters

General Manager VINK reviewed a variety of Administrative Matters with the Board including an update on the strategic planning process and distribution of the Districts draft vision statement.

The Financial Statements for the month of April 2011 were reviewed by the Board. On motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director ROELOFFS and unanimously approved, the Board accepted the Financial Statements and ordered them placed on file.

The Board reviewed the April bills. On motion by Director ROELOFFS, second by Director COSTA and unanimously approved the Board ratified payment of the April bills following the May meeting.

At approximately 9:30am Auditor ERIC WHITE entered the meeting to present to the Board the audited financial statements for 2010. After considerable review and discussion with Auditor WHITE, on motion by Director BARCELLOS, second by Director ROELOFFS and unanimously approved the Board accepted the audited financials as prepared by the District's Auditor and ordered them placed on file.

Business Manager LIMAS then presented the proposal for pay out of the current office loan with Citizen's Business Bank. LIMAS presented a scenario wherein the District would payoff the balance of the office loan estimated at \$160,970.00. The District would use money from reserves and then payback the reserve account over the same period of time creating an interest expense savings for the District. On motion by Director BARCELLOS, second by Director ROELOFFS and unanimously approved, the Board accepted the proposal by Business Manager LIMAS and authorized payment of the office loan from the reserve account.

4. CROSS VALLEY CANAL

The Board reviewed a variety of Cross Valley canal activities including the action on a proposed agreement with Cawello Water District, which was deferred to a subsequent meeting.

Contract Renewal Negotiations

General Manager VINK updated the Board on recent meetings held in Washington D.C to discuss the status of the Cross Valley contract renewals. Specific concerns remain about the status of the biological opinions particularly in light of recent court rules. More information will be forthcoming.

5. **TULE RIVER ASSOCIATION**

The Board reviewed the April 20, 2011 minutes of the meeting of the Tule River Association. The minutes of the meeting have been distributed and as such are not repeated here.

General Manager VINK and District Counsel ALEX PELTZER reviewed recent meetings held in Washington D.C. to discuss the Success project. General Manager VINK, District Counsel PELTZER and Watermaster SCHAFER met with the Assistant Secretary of the Army Corp of Engineers to convey the extreme frustration of the pace of the project and also to discuss potential mitigation measures. Meetings were also held with Capital Hill staff.

6. **FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY**

The Board reviewed the April 28, 2011 meeting of the Friant Water Authority. The minutes of the meeting have been distributed and as such are not repeated here.

7. **MISCELLANEOUS AGENCIES/AUTHORITIES**

Deer Creek & Tule River Authority

The Deer Creek and Tule River Authority will be holding its meeting on the 20th of May.

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

Nothing new to report.

9. **MEETINGS, HEARINGS & NOTICES**

Nothing new to report.

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 in the amount of \$1000.00. On motion by Director BARCELLOS, second by Director ROELOFFS and

Approved

unanimously approved the Board authorized support for the FFA in the amount of \$1000.00.

- J. California Farm Bureau
- K. California Special Districts Association
- L. Ag Leadership
- M. Tulare County Farm Bureau

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel G. Vink
General Manager