

**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 12th day of December 2013 at 9:00 am at the District office in Tipton, California. The meeting was called to order by Vice President FERNANDES. It was determined the following Directors were in attendance:

Director	Div. 2	2017	JIM COSTA
Director	Div. 3	2015	TOM BARCELLOS
Director	Div. 4	2015	GARY FERNANDES
Director	Div. 1	2017	ALEX GARCIA
Director	Div. 5	2017	JOHN ROELOFFS

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

Guests Present:  
ALEX PELTZER – District Counsel  
ROD STIEFVATERS – Landowner  
JESUS GUTIERREZ - Landowner

**1. BOARD ADMINISTRATION**

Vice President FERNANDES welcomed new Board member ALEX GARCIA to the Board. GARCIA is taking the place of former Board President ANTON “TONY” SIMONICH.

On motion by Director BARCELLOS, seconded by Director COSTA and unanimously approved, the agenda was approved as presented.

Before the regular business of the Board, the Board discussed the reorganization of the slate of officers and appointments. Vice-President FERNANDES turned the meeting over to General Manager Vink, who opened the floor for nominations for Board President. On motion by

Director COSTA, seconded by Director ROELOFFS and unanimously approved, Director FERNANDES was nominated to serve as the President of the Board of Directors of the Lower Tule River Irrigation District. Director BARCELLOS then moved that nominations be closed, and a unanimous ballot be cast in favor of Director FERNANDES for President, all present voted unanimously.

President FERNANDES then resumed Chair of the meeting and opened up the floor for nominations for the Board Vice President. On motion by Director BARCELLOS, seconded by Director COSTA, Director ROELOFFS was nominated to serve as the Board of Directors of the Lower Tule River Irrigation District Vice President. Director BARCELLOS then moved that nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be casted in favor of Director ROELOFFS to serve as Vice President, all present voted unanimously.

The Board then turned its attention to the appointments and positions that needed to be filled. After review of the current slate of officers and appointments, on motion by Director BARCELLOS, seconded by Director ROELOFFS and unanimously approved, the Board concurred with the appointment of new Director ALEX GARCIA to the positions formally held by ANTON SIMONICH.

The minutes of the November 12, 2013 Regular meeting were distributed for review prior to the meeting. On motion by Director ROELOFFS, seconded by Director BARCELLOS and unanimously approved, the Board accepted the minutes of the November 12, 2013 Regular meeting and ordered them placed on file.

The Board then reviewed Resolution 2013-12-1, honoring the service of former Director Anton Simonich. On motion by Director BARCELLOS, seconded by Director ROELOFFS and unanimously approved, the Board adopted Resolution 2013-12-1 and ordered it be placed on file, and directed that it be presented to former Director ANTON SIMONICH with a special thank you and appreciation from the Board of Directors. A copy of Resolution 2013-12-1, honoring the service of ANTON SIMONICH is attached as **EXHIBIT "A"**.

Shortly after the meeting started, landowner JESUS GUTIERREZ requested time during the public comment portion of the meeting. MR. GUTIERREZ (through interpretation by District employee RAUL PEREZ) expressed to the Board his dissatisfaction with his 2014 Assessment on APN # 300-120-026. MR. GUTIERREZ stated that he does not receive District water and requested reconsideration of his assessment. He then thanked the Board for their attention, and left the meeting. After MR. GUTIERREZ left, the Board briefly discussed the matter and

concurred that no action would be appropriate outside of a Board of Equalization hearing which is not scheduled again until September.

## **2. WATER RESOURCES**

The Board reviewed a variety of Water Resource related activities. There has not been any changes to the Friant water supply declaration. It has been an unusually dry fall and early winter period.

The Board reviewed a brief update from General Manager VINK on a variety of matters including, the Groundwater Task Force and various groundwater throughout the State of California.

The Board reviewed an outline prepared by General Manager Vink on a potential water management program with PIONEER WATER COMPANY. Under that program, the District would pay PIONEER WATER COMPANY a flat rate, for the right to use Pioneer flood release water and would also receive surplus water from Pioneer at Pioneers discretion at a rate agreed to by the parties in advance. No action was taken.

The Board then went into Executive Session with District Counsel ALEX PELTZER to discuss ongoing litigation in accordance with Government Code Section 54956.9. Upon coming out of Executive Session, President FERNANDES reported, that there was no reportable action taken.

## **3. DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

### **Construction and Operation activities**

The Board reviewed a variety of Operations and Maintenance activities including an update on the Pixley Avenue 116 project, and a brief discussion on any potential impacts the HIGH SPEED RAIL might have on District facilities. No action was taken.

The Board then considered a cost-of-living increase for all employees for 2014. After considerable discussion, on motion by Director COSTA, seconded by Director ROELOFFS and unanimously approved, the Board authorized a 1.5% cost-of-living increase for 2014.

Administrative Activities

The Board reviewed the 2014 Investment Policy and on motion by Director BARCELLOS, seconded by Director COSTA and unanimously approved, the Board adopted the 2014 Investment Policy, which had no changes from calendar year 2013.

The Board reviewed the Financial Statements for the month of November. On motion by Director BARCELLOS, seconded by Director COSTA and unanimously approved, the Board accepted the November Financials and ordered them placed on file.

The Board reviewed the actions of the Finance Committee in the payment of the November bills. On motion by Director BARCELLOS, seconded by Director COSTA and unanimously approved the Board ratified the actions of the Finance Committee in the payment of the November bills.

The Board considered the 2013 audit and a proposal from auditor PAUL KLIPPENSTEIN to prepare the District's audit. The District will be using a different auditor for the 2013 audit as the District's current auditor, ADAIR, EVANS and WHITE will be doing the Pixley audit. VINK and LIMAS proposed retaining Auditor PAUL KLIPPENSTEIN to prepare the 2013 audit. Mr. KLIPPENSTEIN has been the long-standing auditor of the Pixley Irrigation District. On motion by Director ROELOFFS, seconded by Director COSTA and unanimously approved, the Board accepted the proposal from Mr. KLIPPENSTEIN for \$9,850.00.

General Manager VINK then reviewed with the Board the bids received for the office improvement project. The bids all came in within the budgeted amount and the work is scheduled to begin in January. The bulk of the work will include interior/exterior painting, carpet replacement along with technology and furniture upgrades.

**4. CROSS VALLEY CANAL**

General Manager Vink presented for consideration the Interim Renewal Contract and related Environmental documentation. On motion by Director ROELOFFS, seconded by Director COSTA and unanimously approved, the Board adopted Resolution 2013-12-2, approving the form of the Cross Valley Interim Renewal Contract 14-06-200-8237A-IR15 and Resolution 2013-12-3, approving the filing the Notice of Exemption related to the CEQA process. A copy of Resolution 2013-12-2, approving the form of the Cross Valley Contract has been attached as **EXHIBIT "B"** and Resolution 2013-12-3, approving the filing of the Notice of Exemption related to the CEQA process is attached as **EXHIBIT "C"**.

**5. TULE RIVER ASSOCIATION**

The Board reviewed the November 20, 2013 minutes of the Tule River Association. The minutes of the meeting have been distributed for review, and as such, are not repeated here.

Success Power Project

The Board then discussed the 2014 Success Power Project budget and on motion by Director GARCIA, seconded by Director BARCELLOS and unanimously approved, the Board accepted the 2014 Success Power Project as presented.

**6. FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY**

The Board of Directors of the Friant Water Authority has not met since the Districts last Board meeting and will be holding its next meeting on December 13, 2013.

**7. MISCELLANEOUS AGENCIES & AUTHORITIES**

Deer Creek & Tule River Authority

The Board reviewed the November 15, 2013 meeting of the Deer Creek and Tule River Authority. The minutes of the meeting have been distributed and as such are not repeated here.

**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 – Nothing new to report
- B. California Farm Water Coalition – Nothing new to report
- C. Family Farm Alliance – Nothing new to report
- D. 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