

**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 15th day of January 2013 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	2015	TOM BARCELLOS
Director	Div. 4	2015	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

Guests Present: ALEX PELTZER – District Counsel

1. BOARD ADMINISTRATION

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

The minutes of the December 11th Regular meeting were distributed for review prior to the meeting. On motion by Director BARCELLOS, second by Director COSTA and unanimously approved, the Board accepted the minutes of the December 11th Regular meeting and ordered them placed on file.

2. WATER RESOURCES

General Manager VINK reviewed with the Board a variety of water resource related activities including the current water supply conditions. Early projections indicate that the watershed is at or near normal for the year, although much of the year remains to be determined and it has been dryer as of late.

The Board had a brief discussion on the Irrigated Lands program and the involvement of the District. It was the consensus of the Board to continue participation and monitoring of the litigation related to the General Order but not to engage in the landowner sign-ups outside of providing a venue for landowners to engage through the Deer Creek & Tule River Authority or another non-profit organization. It was further consensus that that effort is best kept local and not joined with the Kaweah watershed, at least at the outset.

General Manager VINK reported that he and District Consultants are working on information for the Groundwater Task Force. A follow up meeting will be held with that group sometime in February.

The Board then convened into Closed Session with District Counsel PELTZER to discuss a variety of threatened and pending litigation. Upon coming out of Closed Session it was reported that no action was taken.

3. DISTRICT OPERATIONS

Construction and Operation activities

The Board reviewed a variety of Operation and Maintenance activities including an update on the Pixley Avenue 116 project from Business Manager LIMAS and General Manager VINK. Work continues on the right-of-way and design aspects of the project.

The Board turned its attention to equipment purchases and a presentation from Operations Manager BATTLES on several equipment bids. After considerable discussion, on motion by Director BARCELLOS, second by Director ROELOFFS and unanimously approved, the Board accepted the bids received on the dump truck and authorized purchase of the dump truck in the amount of \$ 117,496.00 from GIBBS INTERNATIONAL.

The Board also considered the need to replace two water tractors used for routine maintenance and watering of the canal banks. After considerable discussion on the bids received, on motion by Director BARCELLOS, second by Director ROELOFFS and

unanimously approved, the Board authorized purchase of two 615D tractors from LAWRENCE TRACTOR in the amount of \$59,407.00.

The Board received an update on routine and maintenance activities including channel clearing work being done in the Porterville area and an update on several new hires to replace employees who have resigned, been terminated or are retiring.

General Manager VINK reviewed with the Board a variety of activities related to the San Joaquin River Restoration plan. General Manger VINK reported that a trip is being planned for Washington D.C sometime in March or April of 2013. District Board of Directors may participate in that trip.

Administrative Activities

The Board reviewed a variety of Administrative actives including a renewal of a contract with the Ferguson Group for representation in Washington D.C. On motion by Director BARCELLOS, second by Director COSTA and unanimously approved the Board authorized execution of the agreement under the same terms and conditions as 2012.

The Board reviewed the Financial Statements for the month of December, included in the review were the year-end financial statements for 2012 and a recap of the 1st installment of the 2013 assessments. On motion by Director COSTA, second by Director BARCELLOS and unanimously approved, the Board accepted the Financials and ordered them placed on file.

The Board reviewed the actions of the Finance Committee in the payment of the December bills. On motion by Director ROELOFFS, second by Director COSTA and unanimously approved the Board ratified the actions of the Finance Committee in the payment of the December bills.

4. CROSS VALLEY CANAL

Nothing new to report.

5. TULE RIVER ASSOCIATION

The Board reviewed the December 19th minutes of the Tule River Association along with the January 7th minutes of a meeting of the Tule River Joint Powers Agreement. The minutes of the meeting have been distributed and as such are not repeated here.

Success Power Project

General Manager Vink reported that the Corp of Engineers will be meeting later in the month to review the final Baseline Risk Assessment Report, as well as to discuss the 2013 Reservoir operations. More information will be forth coming at a subsequent meeting.

6. FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY

The Board reviewed the December 14th minutes of the Friant Water Authority Board of Directors meeting. 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 18th of January 2013.

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 - The District has received a request for support from the Farm Water Coalition in the amount of \$ 14,385.00. On motion by Director COSTA, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the Board authorized payment for support of the Farm Water Coalition for 2013.

- 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