

**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 rescheduled Regular meeting on the 19th day of August 2014, at 9:00 am, at the District office in Tipton, California. The meeting was called to order by Vice President ROELOFFS. 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 (Arrived at 9:25am)
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  
DAVE DORRANCE, Landowner

**1. BOARD ADMINISTRATION**

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

The minutes of the June 10, 2014 Regular meeting were distributed for review prior to the meeting. On motion by Director BARCELLOS, seconded by Director GARCIA and unanimously approved, the Board accepted the minutes of the June 10, 2014 Regular meeting and ordered them placed on file.

## **2. WATER RESOURCES**

General Manager VINK reviewed with the Board a variety of water related activities including the current Declaration from the Friant Division, which remains at zero percent. The Board spent some time discussing various water supply conditions around the State of California, none of which are very good.

General Manager VINK briefed the Board on recent meetings with the Groundwater Task Force Committee and discussions with J.G. Boswell representatives on operations and recharge programs. No action was taken.

The Board then received a presentation from DAVE DORRANCE of the SUN WORLD Corporation. SUN WORLD has purchased property in the District, and is interested in collaborating with the District on a pilot recharge project on a portion of the property. The Board expressed interest in the project, thanked MR. DORRANCE for his presentation, and directed staff work with SUN WORLD representatives to further advance the idea.

The Board then received an extensive briefing from General Manager VINK, Director BARCELLOS and District Counsel PELTZER on their recent trips to Washington D.C. All three were in DC on separate occasions during the month of July, spending considerable time on legislative issues related to the endangered species act implementation, the 13i water program for Friant relative to the restoration program, recirculation and the 2014 O & M cost issue. It was reported a draft of a bill is being circulated in Washington with a schedule calling for completion sometime around Labor Day. Director BARCELLOS, General Manager VINK and District Counsel PELTZER all discussed the difficulties of getting a bill passed through Washington, given the current political environment but expressed some cautious optimism that something might happen against the backdrop of the California drought.

The Board then went into Closed Session welcoming Special Counsel JENNIFER SPALETTA, via telephone. The Board spent considerable time in Closed Session discussing on-going litigation matters. Upon coming out of Closed Session, it was reported that no action was taken.

## **DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

### **Construction and Operation activities**

The Board received an extensive briefing from Operations Manager BATTLES on the construction of the Avenue 116 project in Pixley, Ca. The project is moving along as expected, ahead of schedule, albeit slightly over budget.

The Board considered the award for bids of the HWY 190 crossing. This project is related to work being done by CAL TRANS. CAL TRANS is paying for all of the engineering, design and construction. After thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director BARCELLOS, seconded by Director COSTA and unanimously approved the Board authorized award of the lowest bid, as per the bid opening that occurred earlier in the week.

Operations Manager BATTLES and Business Manager LIMAS briefed the Board on a review of security concerns around District facilities relating the need for security cameras. BATTLES and LIMAS are working on a proposal to install security cameras at various locations.

The Board returned to Closed Session to receive a briefing on pending or threatening litigation in accordance with Government Code Section 54956.9, in particular the Ridenhour vs. 3M litigation matter. Upon coming out of Closed Session, it was reported no action was taken.

### **Administrative Activities**

The Board reviewed the Financial Statements for the months of June / July 2014. On motion by Director COSTA, seconded by Director ROELOFFS and unanimously approved, the Board accepted the June & July Financials and ordered them placed on file.

The Board reviewed the actions of the Finance Committee in the payments of the June /July bills. On motion by Director ROELOFFS, seconded by Director GARCIA and unanimously approved, the Board ratified the actions of the Finance Committee in the payments of the June / July bills.

**3. CROSS VALLEY CANAL**

General Manager VINK updated the Board on the status of the long-term contract renewal negotiations. No action was taken.

**4. TULE RIVER ASSOCIATION**

The Board reviewed the June / July minutes of the Tule River Association. The minutes of the Tule River Association meetings were distributed for review prior to the meeting, and as such, are not repeated here.

**5. FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY**

The Board reviewed the June / July minutes of the Friant Water Authority. The minutes of the Friant Water Authority meetings were distributed for review prior to the meeting, and as such, are not repeated here.

The District received a call for funds for \$81,000.00, which is the final call for funds for 2014. On motion by Director COSTA, seconded by Director BARCELLOS and unanimously approved the Board authorized payment for \$81,000.00 for the call for funds from the Friant Water Authority.

The Board then spent considerable time discussing future representation and participation in the Friant Water Authority, particularly in light of letters recently received by Arvin-Edison Water Storage District and the Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District indicating their consideration of withdrawal from the Friant Water Authority. General Manager VINK and Friant representatives from Lower Tule River ID, Directors COSTA and BARCELLOS, briefed the Board the discussions held at the Friant Water Authority related to the withdraw and the notion that something has to change at Friant in terms of representation.

On motion by Director COSTA, seconded by Director ROELOFFS, and unanimously approved, the Board directed staff to send a letter similar to the Arvin-Edison Water Storage District and Delano Earlimart Irrigation letters, indicating the

District's general dissatisfaction with the direction the Friant Water Authority is going and the intent for the District to withdraw from the 2014-15 budget obligations.

**6. MISCELLANEOUS AGENCIES & AUTHORITIES**

Deer Creek & Tule River Authority

The Board reviewed the July 18, 2014 minutes of the Deer Creek and Tule River Authority. The minutes of the Deer Creek and Tule River Authority meeting were distributed for review prior to the meeting, and as such are not repeated here.

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

Nothing new to report.

**8. MEETINGS, HEARINGS & NOTICES**

Nothing new to report.

**9. 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 – Nothing new to report

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel G. Vink  
General Manager