

**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 14th day of October 2014, at 9:00 am, at the District office in Tipton, California. The meeting was called to order by 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 (<i>Absent</i>)
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

It was noted that Director Garcia was absent from the October meeting due to a prolonged illness. Thoughts and prayers from The Board of Directors and staff go to Director Garcia and his family.

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

The minutes of the August 19, 2014 Regular meeting were distributed for review prior to the meeting. On motion by Director BARCELLOS, seconded by Director COSTA

and unanimously approved, the Board accepted the minutes of the August 19, 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 an overview of statewide conditions. Coming off one of the driest years on record, reservoirs in California remain at historic lows. Projections for fall / winter precipitation vary widely and remain unknown at this point.

The Board then reviewed a proposal EXHIBIT “F” to the longstanding agreement between Lower Tule River Irrigation District and Pixley Irrigation District for Operations and Maintenance activities. The agreement is a joint use agreement for use of the Lower Tule River # 1 canal, which is the source of water for the Avenue 116 project in Pixley ID. After thorough review and discussion, including a presentation from Business Manager LIMAS, on motion by Director BARCELLOS, seconded by Director COSTA and unanimously approved the Board authorized execution of EXHIBIT “F” to the Lower Tule River and Pixley Irrigation Districts MOU agreement. A copy of EXHIBIT “F” of the MOU agreement is attached as **EXHIBIT “A”**.

The Board then reviewed a variety of other water resource related activities including the development of an agreement with Sun World for the recharge of groundwater on property owned by Sun World. General Manager VINK reported an agreement has been developed and has been submitted to Counsel for review and consideration at a subsequent meeting.

The Board reviewed the most recent meeting of the Groundwater Task force and the appointment of a Groundwater Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is made up of seven landowners of the Irrigation Districts. The Steering Committee has also requested that a liaison from the Board of Directors be appointed to attend the Groundwater Steering Committee meetings. After some discussion, President FERNANDES appointed Director COSTA to attend the Steering Committee meetings as a liaison to the Irrigation District Board of Directors. The Steering Committee will be

spending the bulk of its time discussing how best to implement the recently passed Groundwater Sustainability Act in the State of California.

At approximately 10:30 am, the Board convened into Executive Session to discuss a variety of matters with Special Counsel JENNIFER SPALETTA and District Counsel ALEX PELTZER. The adjournment in the Executive Session was done in accordance with Government Code Section 54956.9. Upon coming out of Closed Session, no reportable actions were announced.

The Board then spent considerable time reviewing various legislation and Bureau of Reclamation related issues, including the continued work to develop 13i Re-circulation and O & M language in some form of legislation this fall or early spring.

The Board also discussed and was briefed on the status of the Drought bill being developed in Congress. General Manager VINK and District Counsel PELTZER will be leaving for Washington next week and will be spending considerable time meeting with the Bureau of Reclamation and Hill staff on these and other issues. General Manager VINK provided the Board with a briefing on key portions of the Drought bill. The bill is currently being kept very confidential, with limited access by all but a few select people working on the drafting process. General Manager VINK recognized that he was probably breaking the unwritten “confidentiality code” by sharing certain provisions with the Board of Directors. However, General Manager VINK felt it was in the best interest of the Board and landowners of the District to begin the review and interface process sooner rather than later.

3. DISTRICT OPERATIONS

Construction and Operation activities

The Board reviewed a variety of Construction and Maintenance activities including an update on the Avenue 116 project in Pixley, Ca. With most of the channel construction work nearing completion, it is estimated the project will be completed by the end of the year 2014.

The Board considered a contract with CAL TRANS for the Hwy 190 project. Operations Manager BATTLES reported that, while some work is being planned, action on the contract has been deferred to a subsequent meeting.

General Manager VINK briefed the Board on the sale of District owned lands to the Fish and Wildlife Services. The District is working on negotiating sale of the Rostrata subdivision property to the Fish and Wildlife Service. The District has received appraisals from the Fish and Wildlife Service for properties in both the Lower Tule River and Pixley Irrigation Districts. General Manager VINK is currently negotiating the appraised values with more information at a subsequent meeting.

The Board then convened into Closed Session to confer with Counsel on pending or threatening litigation in accordance with Government Code Section 54956.9. Included in Closed Session was a discussion on the Ridenour vs. 3M and Lower Tule River and Pixley Irrigation Districts, vs. the Bureau of Reclamation lawsuits. Upon coming out of Closed Session, no reportable action was announced.

Administrative Activities

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

The Board reviewed the actions of the Finance Committee in the payments of the August / September bills. On motion by Director BARCELLOS, seconded by Director COSTA and unanimously approved, the Board ratified the actions of the Finance Committee in the payments of the August / September bills.

At approximately 10:00 am, the Board convened as a Board of Equalization hearing to consider the 2015 assessment rolls. General Manager VINK presented the assessment rolls as prepared by District Assessor BETH GROTE-LEWIS. After some discussion, on motion by Director ROELOFFS, seconded by Director COSTA and unanimously approved the Board adopted Resolution 2014-9-1, setting the District assessment rate at eight-tenths of 1% to be levied on lands within the District

boundaries with and additional .85% of 1% to be levied on lands within the District boundaries for the purpose of funding the bond payments. A copy of Resolution 2014-9-1 is attached as **EXHIBIT “B”**.

As part of the Board of Equalization hearing the Board considered a request from landowners KEVIN HOUSER for and an adjustment for his assessed acreage on APN # 300-120-050. After considerable discussion, the Board declined MR. Houser’s request for adjustment. The Board then closed the Board of Equalization hearing and resumed the Regular District meeting.

Business Manager LIMAS presented an extensive overview of the 2015 General District and Operations and Maintenance budget as prepared and mailed prior to the meeting. On motion by Director BARCELLOS, second by Director ROELOFFS and unanimously approved the Board adopted both the 2015 General District and Operations and Maintenance budgets.

4. CROSS VALLEY CANAL

General Manager VINK provided a brief updated on a variety of Cross Valley canal activities including Interim Renewal contracts and Long Term Renewal contracts. No action was taken.

5. TULE RIVER ASSOCIATION

The Board reviewed the August 20, 2014 and September 17, 2014 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.

6. FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY

The Board reviewed the August 28, 2014 and September 25, 2014 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 Friant Water Authority is under going and extensive facilitation and review process which is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

The District has also received a call for funds from the Friant Water Authority for \$----- to fund the first quarter of 2015. On motion by Director COSTA, seconded by Director BARCELLOS and unanimously approved the Board authorized the call for funds for \$-----, to fund the first quarter for fiscal year 2015.

7. MISCELLANEOUS AGENCIES & AUTHORITIES

Deer Creek & Tule River Authority

The Board reviewed the September 19, 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.

The Board then discussed the November meeting, which coincides with the Veteran's Day holiday. It was the consensus of the Board to move the meeting from November 11, 2014 to November 18, 2014.

Finally, General Manager Vink reported he had completed the Project Leadership Certification program through Stanford University and thanked the Board for the tuition assistance provided. The program was just under a year in total.

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 – 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