

**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 13th day of January 2015, 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
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
JENNIFER SPALETTA, Special Counsel (*via phone*)

1. BOARD ADMINISTRATION

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

The minutes of the December 11, 2014 Regular and December 16th Adjourned Regular meetings 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 and ordered them placed on file.

2. WATER RESOURCES

General Manager VINK reviewed with the Board a variety of water related activities including statewide water supply conditions. The slightly above normal December precipitation has given way to a very dry beginning to January with conditions deteriorating statewide. It's speculation only at this point, to determine whether the District will have any water supply in this now 4th year of an unprecedented drought.

At approximately 9:00 am, the Pixley Irrigation District Board joined the Lower Tule River Irrigation District Board to discuss a variety of matters. The discussion began with a general discussion about the strategic direction of the Districts including a review by General Manager VINK on key topics and objectives for 2015. After considerable review and discussion, including an additional briefing from District Counsel ALEX PELTZER, the Board agreed with the strategic direction, as outlined by General Manager VINK, and directed those initiatives be acted upon.

Following the meeting with Pixley Irrigation District, the Board convened into Executive Session to confer with Counsel on pending litigation in accordance with Government Code Section 54956.9.

District Counsel ALEX PELTZER had previous joined the meeting and was joined by Special Counsel JENNIFER SPALETTA, via telephone. Upon coming out of Closed Session there was no reportable actions announced.

3. DISTRICT OPERATIONS

Construction and Operation activities

The Board reviewed a variety of Construction and Maintenance activities including an extensive briefing on the Avenue 116 project in Pixley ID, which is nearing completion.

At 11:00 am, the Board held a public hearing to consider adoption of an EA-IS under CEQA connected to the construction of the Riparian System Expansion. On motion by Director BARCELLOS, seconded by Director COSTA and unanimously approved, the Board opened the public hearing and with no comments, the Board

adopted Resolution 2015-1-1, adopting an EA-IS under CEQA for the construction of the Riparian System Expansion project. A copy of Resolution 2015-1-1, is attached as **EXHIBIT "A"**.

Administrative Activities

General Manager VINK briefed the Board on a variety of administrative activities.

The Board took up the matter of the General Manager's Contract and performance review. That session was lead by District Counsel ALEX PELTZER and included a review of an updated employment contract with General Manager VINK. General Manager VINK excused himself from the room for some time, to allow the Board to discuss the matter in Executive Session.

General Manager VINK then rejoined the meeting to discuss the contract issue in more detail and to answer several questions related to the contract. It was the unanimous consensus of the Board to authorize execution of the contract at a subsequent meeting following clean up of the contract by District Counsel PELTZER.

General Manager VINK then briefed the Board on a number of other administrative and legal matters in open session.

Including in the briefing was an update on the RIDENOUR vs. 3M and Lower Tule et al. General Manager VINK reported that this case is settled; with the District extending representation to current and former employees in the event they are asked to testify or provide depositions.

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

The District received a proposal to prepare the 2014 audit for \$12,000.00 from PAUL KLIPPENSTEIN. On motion by Director BARCELLOS, seconded by Director ROELOFFS and unanimously approved the Board accepted the audit proposal and authorized execution.

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

At 11:45 a.m. the Board convened the regular meeting to a Lower Tule River Irrigation District Financing Corporation meeting. The Financing Corporation minutes and agenda are on file at the District office.

4. CROSS VALLEY CANAL

General Manager VINK provided a brief updated on a variety of Cross Valley canal and contract activities. No action was taken.

5. TULE RIVER ASSOCIATION

The Board reviewed the December 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.

The Board also received a briefing on the TRIJPA Executive Committee meeting held on January 5, 2015.

6. FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY

The Board reviewed the December 17, 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.

Considerable time was spent discussing the facilitation process and reflecting on the joint session with the Pixley Board. The Lower Tule River Irrigation District Board would like to see more progress on the facilitation process before making a determination as to whether Lower Tule will withdraw from the Friant Water Authority.

7. MISCELLANEOUS AGENCIES & AUTHORITIES

Deer Creek & Tule River Authority

Deer Creek and Tule River Authority will be holding its meeting on January 16, 2015.

8. **US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

Nothing new to report.

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