

KINGS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020

The meeting was conducted via conference call as a results of the COVID-19 emergency, and Director McCutcheon called the regular meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Joseph Freitas, Barry McCutcheon, Michael Murray
DIRECTORS ABSENT: Steven P. Dias, Ernest Taylor
OTHERS PRESENT: Dennis Mills, General Manager
Ray Carlson, Attorney
Johnny Gaily, Delta View Water Association

ESTABLISH QUORUM

It was determined that a quorum was present at the meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR FEBRUARY 6 MEETING

Director McCutcheon asked if there was a motion regarding the minutes circulated in this month's Board packets. Director Freitas made a motion to approve the regular February 6, 2020 meeting minutes. Director Murray seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the regular February 6, 2020 meeting minutes. The vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

AYES: Joseph Freitas, Michael Murray, Barry McCutcheon

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Steven P. Dias, Ernest Taylor

COMMUNICATIONS

Manager Mills discussed the following communications with the District:

- Kings River Water Association (KRWA) requested amounts of recharge in the Old River downstream of Apex Ranch and in Apex Ranch for water years 2017 and 2019.
- Stanford University representatives requested groundwater level data related to a subsidence study being conducted in the Kaweah Subbasin in coordination with the Greater Kaweah GSA. The information for the water levels read by loggers in clustered monitor wells was recently provided.
- Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District recently developed a letter to Governor Newsom advocating increased Delta flows and asked that the District sign as a signatory, which was done.
- Letters were developed to Senator Dianne Feinstein and Representative TJ Cox making them aware of potential District projects that could be accomplished quickly if stimulus funding became available.

- Google’s website now shows the District office as “permanently” closed for some reason.
- Manager Mills recently received a new set of District groundwater maps from P&P.

GENERAL MANAGER

COVID-19 STAFF ADJUSTMENTS

Manager Mills reported that all staff were general back to work in May. Manager Mills has been having the staff gather for “socially distanced” staff meeting at the office on pay days. All staff are healthy and trying their best to stay that way. At the office the lobby is closed, and Manager Mills is generally working from home. The field staff are keeping distant, using hand sanitizer, wearing bandanas or masks when they need to work closely. Manager Mills has directed field staff to communicate to growers to call them rather than try to talk in person.

WATER SEASON UPDATE

Manager Mills reported the most recent runoff projection was from April 14 and equated to 680 thousand acre-feet, or 56% of average on the Kings River. He also reported that Lemoore Canal and Fresno ID had already begun to run water in the River.

Lakeside IWD has communicated that they will likely run 7-10 days on the Kaweah system.

Manager Mills reported that on the Peoples system it appeared that the water run would be 75-90 days for Peoples and Settlers, with Riverside and New Deal likely being around 60 days. Manager Mills made the Directors aware that there was the potential to run TCP water and also to potentially purchase extra water from other stockholders, and inquired about the Directors support. The Directors indicated that they were in favor of both.

Manager Mills reported that by his calculations there was 20,189 AF of water available for recovery in Apex Ranch. He briefly described being able to recover roughly 5,300 AF in a 75 day period and potentially 6,300 AF in a 90 day period.

Manager Mills reported that on the Last Chance system it appeared that the water run would be 60-65 days. Also it is likely that Boswell will run their Last Chance water outside the coordinate run periods, so there would be minimal compensation to other system stockholders. Manager Mills made the Directors aware that there was the potential to run TCP water and also to potentially purchase extra water from other stockholders, and inquired about the Directors support. The Directors indicated that they were in favor of both.

EVERETT BASIN TURNOUTS

Manager Mills reported that Mattos Underground has been working through Last Chance on facilities at the Everett Basin. He reported that he had developed a design for two turnouts, one 36-inch to fill the basin quickly and other 18-inch for normal ditch operations. Mattos Underground provided bid of roughly \$80,000 for the designed facility. The effort has been authorized and began moving forward last week. The work is planned to be completed before the water run at the beginning of June.

ESAJIAN BASIN UPDATE

Manager Mills reported that excavation started this month. G&J Heavy Haul started their cut in the middle of the property. The way they described it, the material moving west from the middle is denser and is for overpasses. The material moving east from the middle is sandier and will be for HSR alignment. The District is now receiving truck load estimates from G&J. Also,

there is a design issue that has come up related to the basins west bank and the power towers along that bank.

HSR EFFORTS

Manager Mills reported that the District had received culvert plans from HSR for Batti Basin and the Riverside Ditch culvert. There is also a CCUA agreement that they have submitted for review.

REQUESTED SO CAL GAS LEASE AT GARNER BASIN

Manager Mills reported that additional discussions clarified issues regarding District indemnification. He reviewed the information provided and recommended the Board authorize him to agree to the temporary entry lease and sign the provided draft agreement. Director McCutcheon made a motion to authorize Manager Mills to sign the temporary lease agreement on behalf of the District. Director Murray seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the motion. The vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

AYES: Joseph Freitas, Michael Murray, Barry McCutcheon

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Steven P. Dias, Ernest Taylor

SGMA UPDATE

Related to the Kaweah Subbasin, the Greater Kaweah GSA has communicated that they will not be able to proceed with their Prop 218 election and will instead request additional funding from the JPA members, if they are willing to pay. Other efforts that have been underway relate to the 2020 Annual Report to DWR.

Related to the Tulare Lake Subbasin, Manager Mills reported on efforts related to the 2020 Annual Report to DWR. He gave an update on efforts related to the DWR SGM Round 3 grant contract and, relatedly, disappointing news on DWR's processing of reimbursement requests for the SSGM Round 2 grant. Lastly he reported on a letter from the Southwest Kings GSA regarding the Tulare Lake Subbasin GSP. The Board discussed the description of the content.

ON-GOING EFFORTS

None

EXPENDITURE LIST APPROVAL & FINANCING STATEMENT ACCEPTANCE

On a motion by Director Freitas, with a second by Director McCutcheon, it was unanimously approved by the Board that the expenditure list and financial statement be accepted as submitted. The vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

AYES: Joseph Freitas, Michael Murray, Barry McCutcheon

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Steven P. Dias, Ernest Taylor

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

None.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION/ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS

None.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular Board of Directors meeting was set for June 11, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Mills
MIN05.07.20