

KINGS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020

As a result of the COVID-19 emergency, the public was able to participate through a conference call. Directors could choose to meet with Staff in the Board Room or participate through a conference call. President Taylor called the regular meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Steven P. Dias, Barry McCutcheon, Michael Murray (phone), Ernest Taylor

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Joseph Freitas

OTHERS PRESENT: Dennis Mills, General Manager
Ray Carlson, Attorney (phone)
Johnny Gailey, Delta View WA (phone)
Geoffrey VandenHeuvel, Milk Producers Counsel (phone)

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 JULY 9 MEETING

President Taylor asked if there was a motion regarding the minutes circulated in this month's Board packets. Vice-President Dias made a motion to approve the regular July 9, 2020 meeting minutes. Director McCutcheon seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the regular July 9, 2020 meeting minutes. The vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

AYES: Steven P. Dias, Michael Murray, Barry McCutcheon, Ernest Taylor

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Joseph Freitas

COMMUNICATIONS

None

GENERAL MANAGER

STAFF

Manager Mills reported that all staff had been healthy in July. He also relayed that with the end of the water run on Riverside Ditch, John Scribner and Eddie Miranda's schedules would be shifting back to normal weekends.

WATER SUPPLY

Manager Mills reported that on Peoples Ditch there had been a recent discovery that one of the District's renters appears to have been stealing surface water. The property is between 6th and 7th Avenues, north of Excelsior. The renters signed up both last year and this year. In the beginning of the season they were calling in orders for water, but at some point that stopped.

The reason it wasn't caught earlier relates to the diversion facilities and the lack of a sluice gate in the ditch. The Ditch Company has shut the renter's diversion down and requested their irrigation schedule. The Ditch Company has estimated what they could have diverted to irrigate the fields they signed up for, and that amount has been taken from the District's account. For this reason, the plan is to bill the renter for that amount. Manager Mills relayed that he would be contacting the renter about the situation. The Board affirmed that if the District's invoice is not paid, as per the contract, the renter would not be allowed to sign-up until the unpaid balance was addressed.

Manager Mills reported that on the Peoples system both Riverside and New Deal were shut down at the end of July. The District appears to have sufficient supplies to keep the Main and Settlers systems active until about August 20.

Manager Mills reported that Andy Hemans had spoken to Clarence Dutra related to renting his unused water this year. Unfortunately Mr. Dutra was not interested.

Related to the recovery wells at Apex Ranch, Manager Mills explained that the plan continues to be for them to run through most of August. He also reported that Bank's starting 2020 balance was 20,189 AF in storage, that 1,796 AF had been recovered in June, that 2,230 AF had been recovered in July, leaving a balance of 16,163 AF.

Manager Mills reported that the Last Chance system was shut down at the end of July. He also reported on discussions with a local stockholder about the value of stock and potential scenarios where he would be willing to sell stock to the District.

FACILITIES

Manager Mills discussed the plans for facilities that would be modified or rehabilitated this fall. The first facility discussed was the Riverside Ditch crossing over Last Chance Main Canal. The second was improvements to Esajian basin and the potential realignment of Peoples Ditch. The third were efforts at Weidman Basin to address homeless trespassers and remove built up vegetation. Several other possible efforts were briefly mentioned as well. Manager Mills relayed that he would bring the Board additional information as it was developed on efforts related to facilities.

SGMA – MID-KINGS RIVER GSA

Manager Mills reported that the Mid-Kings River GSA had sent the District an invoice for \$10,174.98 for bridge funding related to the Tulare Lake Subbasin GSP and Annual Report development. The Board briefly discussed the expense and approved the expenditure.

Manager Mills brought up that the local GSAs will need to contract for consultant services to develop groundwater pumping estimates until groundwater meter readings become widely available. He suggested that the District, instead of the GSAs, take on this effort because the effort was not needed in Hanford and so that the District would have one consistent evaluation across its area. The suggestion was discussed and the Board agreed that Manager

Mills pursue a proposal for the effort with Land IQ, which will hopefully be discussed at next month's meeting.

SGMA – GREATER KAWEAH GSA

None

ON-GOING EFFORTS

None

EXPENDITURE LIST APPROVAL & FINANCING STATEMENT ACCEPTANCE

On a motion by Vice-President Dias, 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: Steven P. Dias, Michael Murray, Barry McCutcheon, Ernest Taylor

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Joseph Freitas

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 September 10, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Mills

MIN08.06.20