

KINGS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2021

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 McCutcheon called the regular meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Steven P. Dias, Barry McCutcheon, Ernest Taylor
DIRECTORS ABSENT: Joseph Freitas, Michael Murray
OTHERS PRESENT: Dennis Mills, General Manager
Ray Carlson, Attorney (phone)
Johnny Gailey, Delta View WA (phone)
Shawn Corley, Lakeside IWD (phone)
Sebastian Silveira, Griswold-LaSalle (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 JUNE 11, 2021 MEETING

President McCutcheon asked if there was a motion regarding the minutes circulated in this month's Board packets. Director Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular June 11, 2021 meeting. Vice-President Dias seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the regular June 11, 2021 meeting. The vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Joseph Freitas, Michael Murray

COMMUNICATIONS

Manager Mills reported that:

- Rosemary Knight from Stanford University communicated about an Aerial ElectroMagnetic (AEM) survey grant opportunity connected to subsidence paired with local data. The opportunity is through NASA but doesn't seem to currently be a good fit for the on-going efforts in the area.

- The State Water Resources Control Board conveyed a grant opportunity through them is now available.
- The District received a letter from Tulare Lake Basin WSD regarding the Kings County Exchange. The letter relayed that no State Water Project water developed this year. Regardless of no water being available, full costs will still be required.
- Manager Mills relayed that he had learned from various sources that a number of properties in the area are currently for sale.
- Manager Mills gave a brief review of the DWR's July 9 AEM survey meeting regarding AEM flights in October.
- Manager Mills relayed that the District had received a message from Bryce McAteer at WestWater Research on conditions in the area and information related to the value of surface water and ditch company stock. Manager Mills relayed that he had learned this kind of information was being requested from other local entities as well.
- Manager Mills relayed that the District had received a message from National Public Radio, Washington DC regarding the current drought conditions and potential future groundwater pumping restrictions.

GENERAL MANAGER

WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

Manager Mills reported that conditions continued to be very dry. He reported that the Kings River coordinated run had been set for June 15 through July 24. Related to the water run he reported that Fresno ID had shut off their irrigation run on June 30 and Laguna ID had shut off on July 7. At this point the Kings River is estimating the percent delivery to Peoples DC as 84% and the Peoples system delivery appears to be around 89%. Peoples system is projected to continue until July 28. The percent delivery to Settlers DC is roughly 75% and the run in this system is projected to end on July 15.

Manager Mills relayed that through discussions with Clarence Dutra, Anthony Azevedo and Dino Giacomazzi, the District had been able to rent roughly 125 AF of additional surface water and make that available to other District renters.

Manager Mills relayed that Corcoran ID had made a proposal to Last Chance Water DC for a 2,000 acre-foot backstop arrangement and discussed the details of the potential arrangement with the Board for awareness.

Lastly Manager Mills made the Board aware that he had received a call from Bruce Fagundes that he was experiencing well problems and was requesting emergency help. His request was for one irrigation on his 18 acre corn crop. He hoped that the pump company would be able to repair his well and it wouldn't be necessary, but if it was needed, and he had no water, he would lose the crop. Mr. Fagundes had not signed up for rental water this year and currently doesn't have a meter on his turnout from Peoples Ditch. Manager Mills recommended that if the Board desired to grant the emergency request that Mr. Fagundes be required to sign an emergency use contract, that he be required to have a functional flow meter prior to taking any deliveries and that the cost per acre-foot be set at \$100 per acre-foot. The Board members discussed the situation and various aspects about the request. After the discussion, Vice-president Dias made a motion to approve the arrangement Manager Mills recommended, but also require that Mr. Fagundes pay for the anticipated water when he signs the contract to avoid any

possible collection issues. Director Taylor seconded the motion and President McCutcheon called for a vote. The vote for all of the Directors was as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Joseph Freitas, Michael Murray

LAND IQ CROPPING INFORMATION UPDATE

Manager Mills reported that the District had received monthly data sets for March, April and May of this year. Also, the District had received the revised version of the retrospective analysis of Water Year 2020. Manager Mills explain that he is still in the process of reviewing the deliverables and will likely have a presentation to the Board in August.

RAMBOLL BASIN INVESTIGATION UPDATE

Manager Mills reported that the he had very recently received a draft deliverable from Ramboll and was still reviewing it. He hoped to discuss the results at the next regular Board meeting.

STANFORD STUDY – SUBSIDENCE SOUTH OF HANFORD

Manager Mills reported that the he was still in the process of reviewing this report. He hoped to discuss the results at the next regular Board meeting.

ON-GOING EFFORTS

Projects

Manager Mills reported that efforts have continued on the Houston Avenue pipeline and the connected turnouts to north and south Sand Slough. The facilities have been impacted by the construction of the Live Oak East development and communication with the developer continues in attempts to resolve issues with the facility.

Independent DC

Manager Mills reported efforts related to the Independent Ditch will be taken up after the water run is completed.

GSA Issues & Information

Spring 2021 Groundwater Maps

Manager Mills reported that Spring 2021 groundwater maps had been developed for the District. The A-Clay maps appear to be roughly the same as in Spring 2020. The deep groundwater maps average depth to groundwater in 2020 was 133 feet below ground surface and it fell to 144 feet in 2021. While the average depth declined from the year prior, it was similar to the average depth in both 2018 and 2014. Also, in the southwest portion of the District it appears that the zone of 275-300 feet below ground surface has reemerged.

MKR GSA

Manager Mills reported that the Point of Contact for the Subbasin had formally been shifted from Dusty Ferrence to Amer Hussain. He also reported that there had been a mix-up by DWR when issuing a reimbursement check for the Round 3 Planning grant, which was in the

process of being resolved. He reported that there had been a proposal to develop a Tulare Lake Subbasin website to list projects, but the GSAs that already had websites did not see the need.

Manager Mills reported that Spring groundwater monitoring information had been submitted by the MKR GSA to DWR and as part of that submittal Sustainable Management Criteria “SMC” information was also provided. As the SMC information was reviewed earlier this year it became apparent that there were issues with several of the values previously included. The issues seemed to relate to the use of a groundwater model for level predictions over time. The SMCs were revised and a letter to explain the revised values to DWR staff is being developed.

Other Efforts

Manager Mills reported ag well #19 at Apex Ranch required maintenance over the last month. It appeared that pumping water levels began to approach where the bowls in the well were set. Belknap Pumps was engaged to service the well and the bowls were dropped an additional 60 feet to restore function to the well. The estimate for the effort was roughly \$10,000 and was approved by staff.

Manager Mills reported that Allied Weed Control was engaged to spray weeds along Riverside Ditch and visited the site on July 5.

Manager Mills reported that Ann Culp, through Sandra Rodriguez, accepted the District’s offer to purchase Settlers Ditch Company (DC) stock and Settlers DC’s attorney confirmed that the sales documentation was sufficient to process the stock sale/transfer.

EXPENDITURE LIST APPROVAL & FINANCING STATEMENT ACCEPTANCE

On a motion by Vice-President Dias, with a second by Director Taylor, 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, Barry McCutcheon, Ernest Taylor

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: Joseph Freitas, Michael Murray

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 August 5, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Mills
MIN07.08.21