

JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES April 9, 2024

ATTENDANCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Riley Chaney, President
Micah Combs, Vice-President
Robert Barcellos
Wm. Cory Carvalho
Robert Motte

PUBLIC

- RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 1606
Gerald W. Kinnunen, President (Arr.10:39 a.m.)
- LANDOWNERS / GROWERS
None

EXCUSED

None

ABSENT

None

CONSULTANTS

- Charles M. Burt, Ph.D. (Zoom)
- JRP HISTORICAL CONSULTING, LLC / CLOSED SESSION
Scott A. Miltenberger, Ph.D. (Zoom)

STAFF PRESENT

Manny Amorelli, General Manager
Walter Flores-Barboza, Office Manager
Kenneth Mancini, Superintendent
Donna Hanneman, Secretary

LEGAL COUNSEL

- YOUNG WOOLDRIDGE, LLP
Alan F. Doud, Esq. (Zoom)
- BARTKIEWICZ KRONICK & SHANAHAN / CLOSED SESSION
Holly Jacobsen, Esq. (Zoom)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT ("District") was held Tuesday, April 9, 2024, in the District office located at 8749 Ninth Street, San Joaquin, California. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m., by President, Riley Chaney. A quorum was at all times present and acting.

2. ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions/corrections to the Agenda.

3. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST [FPPC §87105]

Directors were given an opportunity to identify potential conflicts-of-interest with items appearing on the Agenda; none were reported.

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4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public were given an opportunity to directly address the Board on any item of interest before or during consideration of the item. No comments were offered.

5. MINUTES

a. REGULAR MEETING: MARCH 12, 2024

b. ANNUAL MEETING: MARCH 21, 2024

M/S/C (M.COMBS / R.MOTTE), to APPROVE as presented by the following vote:

AYES: 5 (M.Combs, R.Motte, R.Barcellos, W.Carvalho, R.Chaney)

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

In accordance with Water Code §24273, financial reports were presented by Mr. Amorelli as follows:

a. Interim Warrants: March 13-April 9, 2024 (Att.1)

b. Accounts Payable (Att.2)

Interim Warrants (bills paid) with supporting invoices and Accounts Payable invoices (unpaid bills) were presented for review/approval. M/S/C (W.CARVALHO / M.COMBS), to RATIFY/APPROVE Interim Warrants totaling \$995,997.69 and AUTHORIZE/APPROVE payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$19,107.88 by the following vote:

AYES: 5 (W.Carvalho, M.Combs, R.Barcellos, R.Motte, R.Chaney)

c. Payroll Certification: Pay Periods Ending March, 2024 (Att.3)

A listing of payroll checks totaling \$70,145.00 (net) issued to employees and Board members was reviewed and certified by the President, General Manager and Office Manager.

d. Income Statements (Budget-to-Actual): Period Ending March 31, 2024

e. Quarterly Report of Financial Investments: March 31, 2024 Gov. Code §53646

f. Cash Position Report: March 31, 2024

g. Schedule of Long-Term Debt/Notes Payable: March 31, 2024

h. Accounts Receivable Activity Report: March 31, 2024

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7. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Amorelli presented his verbal report encompassing operations, maintenance, projects and other District matters for the month of March, 2024, as follows:

OPERATIONS

- ▶ Water Deliveries: March, 2024 were 1,643 acre-feet which is 958 acre-feet more than was delivered during March, 2023.
- ▶ Weekly TDS Readings: April 1, 2024
- ▶ Kings River Water Association (KRWA)
 - KRWA Storage Operations in Pine Flat Reservoir as of April 7, 2024, totaled 1,420 CFS-days.

PROJECTS

- ▶ Community Solar - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has proposed a vote against Community Solar projects, the first state to do so. Projects are intended to allow low to moderate-income household access to solar energy thereby reducing energy costs.

AGENCIES

- ▶ Mendota Pool Group (MPG) met March 21st and reviewed water hyacinth control measures, water quality issues.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent, Kenneth Mancini, reported field staff have been working on the following projects:

- ▶ Maintenance of canal banks, grading
- ▶ Replacing sewer line
- ▶ Weed Control (spraying, mowing)
- ▶ Repairs/maintenance of headgates, pumps & boosters

9. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Directors were given an opportunity to report on meetings and/or conferences attended on behalf of the District. None were presented.

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10. ACTION ITEMS

a. SECTION 215 TEMPORARY SURPLUS WATER (04/09/2024)

Mr. Amorelli advised Friant surplus water may be available. Awaiting Bureau announcement. He requested authorization to procure a Section 215 contract if/when available at reasonable price. Wanting to plan ahead.

M/S/C (R.MOTTE / W.CARVALHO) to AUTHORIZE GENERAL MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR SECTION 215 SURPLUS WATER IF/WHEN AVAILABLE AND ECONOMICALLY PRACTICABLE UNDER RESOLUTION 2024-03. (Att.4)

AYES: 5 (R.Motte, W.Carvalho, R.Barcellos, M.Combs, R.Chaney)

b. MAIN CANAL PROJECT (10/26/2021)

Dr. Charles Burt reviewed the various components of this expansive project to include:

- (1) Raise Main Canal bank 1-foot to increase capacity and elevate flow to 200 CFS north/south.
- (2) Remove Booster E.
- (3) Address bottlenecked crossing at Lateral C & Colorado.
- (4) Pumps have been evaluated. Three new pumps, motors and flap gates are needed to automate control of water levels.
- (5) Dr. Burt has contacted Summers Engineering who has quoted \$190,000, 8-12 months construction. Their conceptual drawings would be reviewed by Manny Amorelli, Ken Mancini and Dr. Burt.

Mr. Amorelli indicated the Main Canal Reserve Fund could be drawn upon initially to pay Dr. Burt and Summers Engineering for project design (construction not included). Long-term financing arrangements to be explored & discussed later this fall. Dr. Burt emphasized that, "cost control is the overriding factor" in all planning.

Comments followed:

- ▶ Director Barcellos inquired if the base of the Main Canal levees will need to be expanded. He farms vines adjacent to the Main Canal and there is no room to expand. Dr. Burt responded he does not anticipate needing to increase the levee base.
- ▶ President Riley Chaney inquired if these changes could impact/stress other locations. Would like to develop a comprehensive plan now to guide future planning.
- ▶ Superintendent Kenneth Mancini noted the infrastructure is failing at J Booster and will need replacing. Would also like to evaluate how much we can maximize spill (without demand).
- ▶ Review power needs for new booster pumps and confirm PG&E has the capacity to provide service.

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- ▶ President Riley Chaney: Include J Booster as a separate component and price separately. It was the consensus of the Board to engineer now; construct later.

At the direction of the Board, Mr. Amorelli indicated Summers Engineering would be advised to include reconstruction of J Booster; Dr. Burt will consult. The Main Canal is to be evaluated/engineered in its entirety. A Special Meeting will be scheduled, if necessary. Dr. Burt gave a rough estimate of \$4.6 million to complete.

c. WATER ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE (07/11/2017)

Two workshops were conducted April 2nd to familiarize users with STORM Water Management online portal access for orders, cancellations, and access to water usage. Many good ideas were exchanged.

11. REPORT ITEMS

None

ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 11:20 A.M.

Directors Attending:

Riley Chaney, President

Micah Combs, Vice-President

Robert Barcellos, Director

Wm. Cory Carvalho, Director

Robert Motte, Director

Staff Attending

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

Consultants:

- JRP Historical Consulting, LLC
Scott A. Miltenberger, Ph.D. (Zoom)

Legal Counsel

- Young Wooldridge, LLP
Alan F. Doud, Esq. (Zoom)
- Bartkiewicz Kronick & Shanahan
Holly Jacobsen, Esq. (Zoom)

12. CLOSED SESSION: GOVERNMENT CODE §54956.9 - CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

- a. SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OR (3) OF SUBDIVISION (D):

4 CASES

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13. CLOSED SESSION: GOVERNMENT CODE §54956.9 - CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-EXISTING LITIGATION

AS DEFENDANT: 2 CASES

- a. NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL, ET AL, V HAALAND, ET AL
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California
Case No. 1:5-CV-01207LJO-GSA
- b. CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, RESTORE THE DELTA AND PLANNING & CONSERVATION LEAGUE V UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION ET AL (06/08/2021)
United States District Court, Eastern District of California
Case No. 1:20-CV-00706 DAD-EPG

AS PLAINTIFF: 3 CASES

- c. KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION ET AL V. JAMES VERBOON ET AL
Kings County Superior Court, Case No. 15 C0304
- d. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT VS. KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION ET AL
Fresno County Superior Court Case No. 19CECG00769
- e. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT V. McMULLIN AREA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
Santa Clara County Superior Court, Case No. 23CV417565

AS INTERVENOR: 1 CASE

- f. CITY OF FRESNO, ET AL V. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
United States Court of Federal Claims, Case No. 1:16-CV-01276-MCW

14. CLOSED SESSION: GOVERNMENT CODE §54956.8 - CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR

- a. JAMES & TRANQUILLITY NEGOTIATIONS
Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee
Tranquillity Irrigation District: Danny Wade
Kings River Lower River Units: Scott Sills
Under Negotiation: Price, terms & conditions of possible real property and/or water supply transactions

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- b. SOUTHWEST GROUNDWATER RECHARGE PROJECT (11/13/2012)
Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee
Fresno Irrigation District: Bill Stretch
Under Negotiation: Price, terms and conditions of possible real property and/or water supply transactions, operations & maintenance.
- c. WATER BANKING & TRANSFERS (04/19/2018)
Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee
To Be Determined
Under Negotiation: Price, terms and conditions of possible water supply transactions.
- d. WATER BANKING & TRANSFERS: MCMULLIN GSA (06/22/2021)
Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee
McMullin GSA: Matthew Hurley, General Manager
Under Negotiation: Price, terms and conditions of possible water supply transactions.
- e. TERRANOVA RANCH, INC. (05/16/2023)
Negotiating Parties: James Irrigation District: General Manager/Designee
Terranova Ranch, Inc.: Don Cameron
Under Negotiation: Price, terms and conditions of possible water supply transactions.

RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION AT 12:28 P.M.

15. REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION (Gov. Code 54957.1)

- 13.d. JAMES IRRIGATION DISTRICT VS. KINGS RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION ET AL
Fresno County Superior Court Case No. 19CECG00769
Mr. Amorelli reported this case involving Kings River Water Association adjustments for losses has been settled. A settlement agreement has been executed.

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16. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was ADJOURNED at 12:30 p.m., until the next Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 14, 2024.

RECORDED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Donna Y. Hanneman, Secretary

Riley Chaney, President

Manny Amorelli, General Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Interim Warrants: March 13-April 9, 2024, \$995,997.69
2. Accounts Payable: \$19,107.88
3. Payroll Certification: Pay Periods Ending March, 2024, \$70,145.00 (net)
4. Resolution 2024-03 Approving a Contract for Surplus Central Valley Project Water Under Section 215 of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 Between the District and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Approved April 9, 2024