

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ROSEDALE-RIO BRAVO WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED BOARD MEETING

May 11, 2021

8:30 a.m.

NOTE: This meeting was conducted by teleconference pursuant to and in conformance with Executive Order N-29-20 relating to public meetings during the State of Emergency that was declared as a result of COVID-19.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Roy Pierucci, Gary Unruh, Jason Selvidge, Mitch Millwee and Barry Watts

DIRECTORS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

District Staff / Consultants - Dan Bartel, Zach Smith, Megan Misuraca, Markus Nygren, Rachelle Echeverria, Dan Raytis & Jennifer Spaletta (during closed session only)
Public – Adriana Barba & George Capello

CALL TO ORDER

President Pierucci called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Raytis noted that the regular meeting was called to order on May 11, 2021 at 8:30 a.m, and by a vote of the Directors present, the meeting was adjourned to 1:00 p.m. on today's date after opening the public hearing on item 2d of the Agenda. Mr. Raytis noted that two members of the public were present for the hearing and declined to provide any comments. Mr. Raytis stated that no other matters on the agenda were considered, and that the notice of Adjourned Meeting was posted at the District office.

CONSENT ITEMS

- a) Regular Board Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2021

A motion was made by Director Watts and seconded by Director Selvidge to adopt the Consent Items. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously passed.

AYES: Directors Pierucci, Unruh, Selvidge, Millwee and Watts

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

FINANCIAL REPORTS

- a) Treasurer's Report – Ms. Misuraca reviewed the treasurer's report as of April 30, 2021 with the Board.

- b) Accounts Payable/ April 10, 2021 through May 7, 2021 — Ms. Misuraca reviewed the accounts payable report with the Board. A motion was made by Director Millwee and seconded by Director Watts to ratify and approve payment of the accounts payable in the total amount of \$715,028.05. A roll call vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed.

AYES: Directors Pierucci, Unruh, Selvidge, Millwee and Watts

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

- c) Revenue and Expenditures Report – Ms. Misuraca reviewed the current Revenue and Expenditures Report through 04/30/2021 with the Board.
- d) Public Hearing- Consideration of Adopting Assessment Rates for Collection Year 2021-2022 – The public hearing regarding the District’s assessment rates for collection year 2021-2022 was reopened at 1:12 p.m. Mr. Raytis announced that it was the time and place to continue the public hearing on the District’s assessment to be collected in 2020-2021 that was opened on May 11, 2021, as noticed, and continued to this meeting. Mr. Raytis advised the Board that the notice of the hearing was published in the Bakersfield Californian and that the proof of publication would be kept a part of the public record. Mr. Raytis stated that Staff would provide the Board with a presentation on anticipated revenues and expenses of the District for the ensuing tax year, and would make a recommendation for the following years’ assessment level based upon certain assumptions, which would be described in Mr. Bartel’s presentation. Mr. Raytis noted that public comments would be received after the Staff’s presentation. Mr. Bartel reviewed and displayed the District’s budget model, including projections, which contained the District’s anticipated costs and revenues for the 2022 year using assumptions that are guided by the Finance Committee’s preliminary consideration of the assessments. After the conclusion of Mr. Bartel’s report, discussion was had amongst the Board and Mr. Bartel. President Pierucci then asked whether any public wished to speak. There were no public comments received, and President Pierucci closed the public hearing at 1:25 p.m. Thereafter, a motion was made by Director Watts and seconded by Director Selvidge to adopt Resolution No. 517 setting the District’s assessment rate at \$125 per acre for the 2021 tax year (collected 2021-2022). A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously passed.

AYES: Directors Pierucci, Unruh, Watts, Selvidge and Millwee

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

DISTRICT OPERATIONS REPORT

- a) District Water Levels & Hydrographs Report – Mr. Nygren reviewed the current District water levels including the District’s thresholds under SGMA in the various zones of the District’s management area.
- b) Operations Report – Mr. Smith reviewed current operations and projected demands for 2021.
- c) Maintenance Report – Mr. Smith reviewed maintenance projects that have taken place over the last month noting staff’s efforts on weed management throughout the district.
- d) Consideration of District Technical Infrastructure Upgrade – Ms. Misuraca reported the District’s IT Infrastructure requires upgrades and a new server. A motion was made by Director Selvidge with a second by Director Unruh to approve a budget not to exceed \$12,000 for the purchase of a new server and necessary IT Infrastructure upgrades, and to authorize the staff to retain

consultants to complete the work. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously passed.

AYES: Directors Pierucci, Unruh, Selvidge, Millwee and Watts

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

- e) Consideration of Board Table and Chair Replacement – Ms. Misuraca proposed a new U shape layout for the conference table in the Board room to efficiently host meetings with public attendance and replace the current chairs as they are worn and suffer from various mechanical problems. A motion was made by Director Millwee with a second by Director Selvidge to approve the purchase of a U-Shape conference table and new chairs with a budget not to exceed \$15,000. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously passed.

AYES: Directors Pierucci, Unruh, Selvidge, Millwee and Watts

NOES: None

STATE WATER PROJECT ACTIVITIES UPDATE

- a) Update on State Water Project Operations – No report.
- b) California Delta Conveyance Project – No report.

MANAGER’S REPORT

- a) Consideration of Water Banking & Storage Agreement- Project Approval / CEQA Compliance – Mr. Bartel briefed the Board on the agreement and Mr. Raytis reviewed the key points. A motion was made by Unruh and seconded by Selvidge to do the following: (1) approve the project; (2) authorize execution of the Water Recharge and Storage Agreement, in substantially the form presented, subject to review and approval of legal counsel; (3) direct staff to execute and file the Notice of Exemption, in substantially the form presented and considered by the Board; and (4) to take all other necessary actions to consummate the proposed program. The motion was unanimously passed.

AYES: Directors Pierucci, Unruh, Selvidge, Millwee and Watts

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

- b) CEQA Compliance for SGMA Management Action and Storage and Extraction Agreement – Ms. Echeverria briefed the Board on the preparation of Addendum No. 2 to the Stockdale Integrated Banking Project FEIR to include the GSP management action for the Rosedale fallow transfer program and the construction and operation of San Joaquin Exchange Contractors water storage project.

ENGINEERS / PROJECTS REPORT

- a) Onyx Ranch
 - i. Operations Report – Mr. Bartel gave an update on staff activities including water operations and flows to the Board. Mr. Bartel briefed the Board on the tour for the Kern River Interests.
- b) Drought Relief Project
 - i. Status Report – Mr. Nygren reviewed the Project Status Report covering the activities through the end of April 2021.

c) Improvement Projects

- i. Scada Improvements – Mr. Nygren briefed the Board on the status of the Scada Improvements, noting the Bureau is working on the NEPA process for the grant. Mr. Nygren noted the Board had previously approved the budget for the cost of materials for the replacement of SCADA equipment, which the District has since purchased and received and staff is ready to move forward with the installation. A motion was made by Director Watts with a second by Director Millwee to approve a budget not to exceed \$25,000 for T & M electrical costs to install the SCADA equipment. A roll call vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed.
AYES: Directors Pierucci, Unruh, Selvidge, Millwee and Watts
NOES: None
ABSTAINED: None
- ii. Houghton Weir – Mr. Nygren briefed the Board on the status of the Water Smart Grant to complete the Houghton Weir, noting the Bureau is working on the NEPA process for the grant.
- iii. McCaslin Ponds – Mr. Nygren briefed the Board on the status of the Water Smart Grant to complete the McCaslin Ponds, noting the Bureau is working on the NEPA process for the grant.
- iv. SCVWA Wells – Mr. Bartel briefed the Board on the feasibility study with Tom Harder and Zeider’s Consulting for the location of the 4 additional well sites requested by SCVWA.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Groundwater Banking Authority- Mr. Bartel gave a brief overview of the GBJPA approved FY 2021-22 budget in addition to Technical Memo 6.
- b) James Groundwater Banking Authority – No report.
- c) Kern Groundwater Authority – No report.
- d) Rosedale Management Area Committee –
 - i. Presentation of Water Accounting Platform – Mr. Nygren gave a detailed presentation on the various features of the Water Accounting Platform.
 - ii. Consideration of Support for ITRC Evapotranspiration Analysis – Mr. Bartel briefed the Board on the efforts of Dr. Howes and ITRC on the study of open water evaporation from recharge ponds and ET from bare soil. Mr. Bartel noted that ITRC has applied for a grant to help partially fund the study effort. A motion was made by Director Watts with a second by Director Unruh to authorize staff to contribute \$5,000 toward the study effort. A roll call vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed.
AYES: Directors Pierucci, Unruh, Selvidge, Millwee and Watts
NOES: None
- e) Kern Fan Monitoring Committee – No report.
- f) Cross Valley Canal Advisory Committee – Mr. Bartel briefed the Board on the latest activities for the CVC Advisory Committee and gave a brief presentation from the CVC ad-hoc committee meeting.
- g) Pioneer Project – No report.
- h) Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (KRWCA) – No report.

- i) Kern Fan Authority – No report.
- j) Joint Operating Committee (JOC) – Mr. Bartel reported the committee meeting was postponed.
- k) Committee for Delta Reliability – No report.
- l) South Valley Water Resources Authority – No report.
- m) Valley Ag Water Coalition – No report.
- n) Kern Integrated Regional Water Management Plan – No report.
- o) Sites Reservoir Project – No report.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT

- a) Consideration of Revisions to District Employee Manual – Vacation/Sick Leave – Mr. Raytis reviewed the suggested revisions to the accrual caps for employees’ vacation and sick leave balances along with changes to “buyback” provisions to limit the District’s unfunded liabilities. The Board directed Mr. Raytis to further revise the manual to provide for “buyback” opportunities as suggested. A motion was made by Director Selvidge with a Second by Director Unruh to approve the update to the personnel handbook for employee vacation and sick leave caps and “buyback” provisions in addition to an annual buydown opportunity for those employees whose balances are in excess of the adjusted caps. A roll call vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed.

AYES: Directors Pierucci, Unruh, Selvidge, Millwee and Watts

NOES: None

OLD OR NEW BUSINESS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Raytis reviewed recent developments from the Governor’s office regarding the drought and budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CLOSED SESSION

During the meeting, the Board met in closed session, as follows: At 3:10 p.m. Director Pierucci announced the Board would meet in closed session. Director Millwee left the meeting at 4:15 and did not return. At 4:37 p.m., the Board reconvened to open session and Mr. Raytis announced that no reportable actions were taken in closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.