

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ROSEDALE-RIO BRAVO WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
December 12, 2023
8:00 a.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

District Staff / Consultants – Dan Bartel, Trent Taylor, Megan Misuraca, Markus Nygren, Dan Raytis, Zach Smith, Rachelle Echeverria, Jennifer Spaletta
Public – Sonia Lemus

CALL TO ORDER

President Pierucci called the meeting to order at approximately 8:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Special Board Meeting Minutes – November 13, 2023
- b) Regular Board Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2023
- c) Adjourned Board Meeting Minutes – November 20, 2023

A motion was made by Director Unruh with a second by Director Selvidge to approve the Board of Directors special meeting minutes of November 13, 2023, regular meeting minutes of November 14, 2023, and adjourned meeting minutes of November 20, 2023. The motion was unanimously passed.

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

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

FINANCIAL REPORT

- a) Treasurer’s Report – Ms. Misuraca reviewed the treasurer’s report as of November 30, 2023.
- b) Accounts Payable/ November 11, 2023 through December 8, 2023 — Ms. Misuraca reviewed the accounts payable report with the Board. A motion was made by Director Selvidge and seconded by Director Watts to ratify and approve payment of the accounts payable in the total amount of \$589,616.89. The motion unanimously passed.

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

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

- c) Revenue and Expenditures Report – Ms. Misuraca reviewed the current Revenue and Expenditures Report through November 30, 2023, including the budget vs. actual.
- d) Consideration of revisions to Financial Policy – Ms. Misuraca reported that per the Board’s request, staff revised the financial policy to reflect a Board member’s signature is required on all checks. The policy also authorizes staff to process Tri-Counties Credit Card and Pitney Bowes payments electronically in order to avoid delays and finance charges, and adds a monthly payroll report to be sent to the Board treasurer for review. A motion was made to approve the revised internal financial controls policy as presented. The motion unanimously passed.
 - AYES: Directors Pierucci, Selvidge, Unruh, Millwee and Watts
 - NOES: None
 - ABSTAINED: None
- e) Consideration of 2024 Budget – Ms. Misuraca and Mr. Bartel presented the proposed 2024 budget presentation to the Board. A motion was made by Director Watts with a second by Director Millwee to approve the 2024 budget as presented. The motion was unanimously passed.
 - AYES: Directors Pierucci, Selvidge, Unruh, Millwee and Watts
 - NOES: None
 - ABSTAINED: None
- f) Consideration of Resolution No. 537- Setting Rate for 2024 Groundwater Charge - Mr. Bartel reviewed Resolution No. 537 with the Board and recommended that the Board set the initial water charge rate at \$95. Mr. Bartel noted the maximum rate authorized is \$256 and suggested that \$95 would be an appropriate initial rate. Mr. Raytis also referred the Board to an item of correspondence relating to the water charge. A motion was made by Director Millwee with a second by Director Watts to adopt Resolution No. 537 Setting a Rate for the 2024 Groundwater Charge at \$95 per acre foot to be imposed in accordance with the District’s Water Charge Policy. A roll call vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed.
 - AYES: Directors Pierucci, Selvidge, Unruh, Millwee and Watts
 - NOES: None
 - ABSTAINED: None

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE REPORT

- a) District Groundwater Levels – Mr. Nygren advised the Board of current groundwater levels with reference to the District’s minimum thresholds under SGMA.
- b) Operations Report – Mr. Smith reviewed water conveyance and recharge operations and estimated balances with the Board noting the CVC was down for 4 days.
- c) Maintenance Report – Mr. Smith reviewed maintenance projects that have taken place over the last month.

WATER RESOURCES REPORT

- a) State Water Project Operations – Mr. Taylor gave a detailed report on current state water project operations. Mr. Taylor also reviewed the 8-station index graph and reservoir conditions with the Board.
- b) California Delta Conveyance Project – Mr. Taylor reported the Final Environmental Impact Report is out for the project and an updated cost projection should be released in the 1st or 2nd quarter of 2024.
- c) Update on Landowner Banking Programs – Mr. Taylor reported that delivered to landowners under landowner banking programs have ended for 2023.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) ACWA Conference Report – Mr. Nygren reported on his attendance at the fall ACWA Conference and the meetings he attended. He noted that Director Pierucci and Mr. Taylor also attended.
- b) State Water Project Tour – Ms. Echeverria reported her attendance of the State Water Project tour and presented a slide show of pictures and locations along the tour. She noted that Mr. Nygren also attended.
- c) Strategic Plan Update – Ms. Echeverria reviewed the status of all Strategic Plan Goals with the Board and updated the Board on staff's current efforts to meet various goals.
- d) Consideration of Resolution No. 531 Flood Emergency Declaration – Ms. Echeverria reported on updated water and emergency conditions. A motion was made by Director Unruh with a second by Director Watts to continue the emergency action of Resolution 531 – declaring a flood emergency and to authorize procurement of equipment, services and supplies for such emergencies without giving notice for bids to let contracts. The motion unanimously passed.
AYES: Directors Pierucci, Selvidge, Unruh, Millwee and Watts
NOES: None.
ABSTAINED: None.
- e) Consideration of 2022 Operations Report – Mr. Bartel reviewed the draft 2022 Operations Report prepared by AECOM with the Board. A motion was made by Director Selvidge and seconded by Director Millwee to approve the Draft 2022 Operations Report subject to the review of staff. The motion unanimously passed.
AYES: Directors Pierucci, Selvidge, Unruh, Millwee and Watts
NOES: None.
ABSTAINED: None.

ENGINEERS / PROJECTS REPORT

- a) Onyx Ranch
 - i. Operations Report – Mr. Bartel briefed the Board on the status of the Onyx Ranch operations, the Smith ditch cleaning efforts and replacement of the spill box.
 - ii. Consideration of Resolution- FEMA Disaster Relief Application – Ms. Echeverria briefed the Board on the FEMA Disaster Relief process and reviewed the resolution with the Board. A motion was made by Director Unruh with a second by Director Watts to

approve the Designation of Applicant's Agent Resolution for Non-State Agencies with the authorized signatories as the Engineer-Manager, Resources Planner, Engineer Tech. A roll call vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAINED: None

- b) Improvement Projects – Mr. Nygren reported on latest NEPA efforts relating to the Bowling/McCaslin recovery well project and reported the West Enos Pilot Project has ceased and the pipe has been removed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Groundwater Banking Joint Powers Authority – Mr. Bartel reported on the December 1, 2023 Board meeting.
- b) James Groundwater Banking Authority – Mr. Bartel reported the Final Environmental Impact Report is being finalized.
- c) Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
 - i. Consideration of KGA Budget – Mr. Bartel reviewed the 2024 Proposed KGA Budget with the Board and noted that the District's representative (Director Unruh) had opposed the budget at the KGA meeting. Mr. Bartel and Mr. Unruh noted that the opposition was based on their position that the budget did not reflect the agreement between the District and the KGA relating to the District's Associate Member status with the KGA. Mr. Bartel explained that the budget had initially been proposed as a single, annual budget to the KGA, but that the KGA Board only approved a quarterly cash call. A motion was made by Director Unruh with a second by Director Selvidge to approve the District's Associate Member contribution for admin and overhead costs of the KGA 2024 budget for the first quarter. The motion was unanimously passed.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAINED: None.
- d) Kern Fan Monitoring Committee – No report.
- e) Cross Valley Canal Advisory Committee – Mr. Taylor reported the CVC 2024 Budget was approved for \$8,705,000.
- f) Pioneer Project Committee – Mr. Bartel reported the budget was approved for the Pioneer Project for \$6.4 million with Rosedale's share at \$975,000.
- g) Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (KRWCA) – No report.
- h) Kern Fan Authority – No report.
- i) Joint Operating Committee (JOC) – No report.
- j) Committee for Delta Reliability – Mr. Taylor reported on the local public workshop that was held.
- k) South Valley Water Resources Authority – Mr. Taylor briefed the Board on the Fish Friendly Diversion project.

- l) Valley Ag Water Coalition – No report.
- m) Kern Integrated Regional Water Management Plan – No report.
- n) Sites Reservoir Project – Mr. Taylor reported the Final Environmental Impact Report was released on the project.
- o) Association of California Water Agencies – Mr. Taylor gave brief report on the ACWA fall conference.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT

- a) Consideration of Employee Compensation & Adoption of District Salary Schedule – Mr. Bartel provided a report and made a recommendation to the Board with respect to adjustments to compensation for all District employees effective January 1, 2024. A motion was made by Director Millwee with a second by Director Watts to adjust the District’s employees’ salaries in accordance with the recommendation of the Engineer-Manager, to adopt a 2024 salary schedule to correspond with the adjustments, and to award the Engineer-Manager performance-based pay in accordance with the Employment Agreement for the position of Engineer-Manager. The motion unanimously passed.

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

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

- b) Consideration of Consulting Rate Increase – Mr. Raytis requested that the Board approve an increase in the rates charged by Belden Blaine Raytis for legal services. A motion was made by Director Watts with a second by Director Unruh to approve a consulting rate increase for Belden Blaine Raytis to \$310/hour for partners and \$275/hour for associates, effective January 1, 2024. The motion unanimously passed.

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

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

OLD OR NEW BUSINESS

The Board requested that staff inquire with ACWA/JPIA as to whether there is coverage for recent damage at a pump station.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Bartel reviewed a protest form that was received on November 30, 2023, noting the protest was received after the hearing date of November 14, 2023.

Ms. Misuraca reviewed 2 ACWA Presidents awards for recognition of a Low Loss Ratio for both Liability and Workers Compensation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CLOSED SESSION

During the meeting, the Board met in closed session, as follows: At 10:34 a.m. President Pierucci announced the Board would meet in closed session. At 12:45 p.m. the Board reconvened to open session. Mr. Raytis announced there were no reportable actions taken in closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:50 p.m. President Pierucci adjourned the meeting.