

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ROSEDALE-RIO BRAVO WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
January 9, 2024
8:00 a.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Roy Pierucci, Mitch Millwee and Barry Watts

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Jason Selvidge and Gary Unruh

OTHERS PRESENT

District Staff / Consultants – Dan Bartel, Trent Taylor, Megan Misuraca, Markus Nygren, Dan Raytis, Zach Smith, Rachelle Echeverria and 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) Regular Board Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2023

A motion was made by Director Watts with a second by Director Millwee to approve the Board of Directors regular meeting minutes of December 12, 2023. The motion was unanimously passed.

AYES: Directors Pierucci, Millwee and Watts

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

FINANCIAL REPORT

- a) Treasurer’s Report – Ms. Misuraca reviewed the treasurer’s report as of December 31, 2023.

- b) Accounts Payable/ December 9, 2023 through January 5, 2023 — 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 \$8,533,478.56. The motion unanimously passed.

AYES: Directors Pierucci, Millwee and Watts

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

- c) Revenue and Expenditures Report – Ms. Misuraca reviewed the current Revenue and Expenditures Report through December 31, 2023, including the budget vs. actual. Ms. Misuraca noted that the report was preliminary and that there will likely be some adjustments as invoices

come in. Staff will bring the final budget to actual for FYE December 31, 2023 after adjustments are final.

- d) Accounting System Update – Ms. Misuraca reported that Intuit is beginning to phase out and no longer support QuickBooks desktop version. Staff is making the switch to QuickBooks Online beginning in January 2024.
- e) Water Charge Update – Mr. Taylor reported staff is working to finalize farming unit list for distribution to landowners.

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. Mr. Smith noted that staff is waiting for June, October, November and December final delivery numbers from Kern County Water Agency to be able to finalize the report.
- c) Maintenance Report – Mr. Smith reviewed the maintenance projects that have taken place over the last month.
- d) Consideration of Vehicle Purchase and Declaration of Surplus Property – Mr. Smith reported staff is seeking authorization to purchase a new field pickup truck. Mr. Smith also requested that the Board declare the 2013 Ford F-150 is surplus property. A motion was made by Director Watts with a second by Director Millwee to authorize the purchase of a new operations vehicle for an amount not to exceed \$50,000 and to declare the 2013 Ford F-150 is surplus property that may be sold (or traded in). The motion unanimously passed.

AYES: Directors Pierucci, Millwee and Watts

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

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 gave a brief report on the status of the Delta Conveyance Project.
- c) Kern County Water Agency Board Meeting Update- Mr. Taylor provided an update on various issues that have been raised by certain Kern County Water Agency directors relating to the Agency’s current processes for considering and deciding issues of importance to the District and the other Member Units. The Board expressed disappointment with the general lack of constructive interaction with the Agency staff and directors in recent times.
- d) Update on Exchange Program Between Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District and Homer LLC – Mr. Taylor gave a brief report on the status of a proposed transaction under the District’s 2:1 program with Homer.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Strategic Plan Update – Ms. Echeverria reviewed the status of Strategic Plan Goal # 5 with the Board and updated the Board on staff's current efforts to Ensure that key responsibilities withing the agency are sustainable and efficient.
- b) Consideration of Termination of Emergency Action – Public Contract Code §22050(c)(1) – Resolution No.531 – Ms. Echeverria reported on updated water and emergency conditions. A motion was made by Director Millwee with a second by Director Watts to terminate the emergency action under Resolution 531. The motion unanimously passed.
AYES: Directors Pierucci, Millwee and Watts
NOES: None.
ABSTAINED: None.
- c) Consideration of Acquisition of Property and determining Acquisition is Exempt from CEQA Resolution 538 – Mr. Taylor reported staff has been in negotiations on APN 104-292-09 and have reached terms with the owner. Mr. Raytis discussed the CEQA document that had been prepared with respect to the acquisition. A motion was made by Director Millwee with a second by Director Watts to adopt Resolution No. 538 for the Acquisition of Assessor's Parcel Number 104-292-09 and Determining the Acquisition Exempt from CEQA in addition to authorizing staff to execute any necessary documents to complete the acquisition. The motion unanimously passed.
AYES: Directors Pierucci, Millwee and Watts
NOES: None.
ABSTAINED: None.
- d) Consideration of Technical Services Agreement for Evaluation of Hazardous Materials – Ms. Echeverria reviewed the proposal for Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment for the due-diligence process on acquisition of APN 104-292-09. A motion was made by Director Watts with a second by Director Millwee to execute a technical services agreement with Haro Environmental to complete due-diligence environmental site assessment on APN 104-292-09 in an amount not to exceed \$2,800. The motion unanimously passed.
AYES: Directors Pierucci, Millwee and Watts
NOES: None.
ABSTAINED: None.
- e) Consideration of Technical Services Agreement for JOC Groundwater Model Update – Mr. Bartel reviewed the proposal for the JOC groundwater flow model and preparation of 2024 groundwater level projections. A motion was made by Director Millwee with a second by Director Watts to approve the technical services agreement with Thomas Harder and Company to complete the JOC groundwater flower model and preparation of the 2024 groundwater level projects with an amount not to exceed \$75,000. The motion unanimously passed.
AYES: Directors Pierucci, Millwee and Watts
NOES: None.
ABSTAINED: None.

- f) Virtual District Tour- Ms. Echeverria reported staff has completed a virtual tour of the District facilities and directed them to the You-Tube channel where it can be found giving a preview of the video.

ENGINEERS / PROJECTS REPORT

- a) Onyx Ranch
 - i. Operations Report – Mr. Bartel briefed the Board on the status of the Onyx Ranch operations, the reported the Smith ditch project has been completed.
 - ii. FEMA Disaster Relief Application – Ms. Echeverria briefed the Board on the FEMA Disaster Relief process and reported the application is under review.
- b) Improvement Projects – Mr. Nygren reported on latest NEPA efforts relating to the Bowling/McCaslin recovery well project.
- c) Consideration of Technical Services Agreement for Design of Recharge Ponds – Mr. Bartel briefed the Board on the Dillard/Dawson acquisition and the timeline for a recharge project on the property. A motion was made by Director Watts with a second by Director Millwee to execute a technical services agreement with Zeiders Consulting (subject to entering escrow on APN 104-292-09) for the design of the recharge project and assistance with the bidding process in an amount not to exceed \$61,000. The motion was unanimously passed.

AYES: Directors Pierucci, Millwee and Watts
NOES: None.
ABSTAINED: None
- d) Consideration of Consent to Common Use Agreement-TRIP – Mr. Bartel reviewed the common use agreement with the Board noting the City of Bakersfield is transferring the Westside Parkway to Cal-Trans. The purpose of the agreement is to clean up some matters relating to rights of way on the District’s property. A motion was made by Director Millwee with a second by Director Watts to execute the common use agreement with the City of Bakersfield for the Westside Parkway property on Allen Road. The motion was unanimously passed.

AYES: Directors Pierucci, Millwee and Watts
NOES: None.
ABSTAINED: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Groundwater Banking Joint Powers Authority – No report.
- b) James Groundwater Banking Authority – Mr. Bartel reported on the meeting in December and the approval of the 2024 budget.
- c) Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
 - i. Ratification of Technical Services Agreement – Mr. Bartel reported on the subbasin’s quickly approaching timeline and reviewed the technical service agreements presented at the Kern Subbasin Coordination Committee. A motion was made by Director Watts with a second by Director Millwee to ratify the District’s cost share for technical service

agreements with GEI Consultants, Todd Groundwater, and Rincon Consultants. The motion was unanimously passed.

AYES: Directors Pierucci, Millwee and Watts

NOES: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

- d) Kern Fan Monitoring Committee – No report.
- e) Cross Valley Canal Advisory Committee – Mr. Bartel briefed the Board on the December committee meeting.
- f) Pioneer Project Committee – No report.
- 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 – No report.
- k) South Valley Water Resources Authority – Mr. Taylor briefed the board on the Fish Friendly Diversion viability continuing studies.
- l) Valley Ag Water Coalition – No report.
- m) Kern Integrated Regional Water Management Plan – No report.
- n) Sites Reservoir Project – Mr. Taylor briefed the Board on the FEIR and water rights application for the Sites Reservoir Project.
- o) Association of California Water Agencies – No report.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT

- a) Board Officers – Mr. Raytis advised the Board that the January meeting is the time for the Board to consider its officers for the coming year. The Board determined by consensus that the existing slate of officers should remain in their current positions for 2024.

OLD OR NEW BUSINESS

No report.

CORRESPONDENCE

No report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CLOSED SESSION

During the meeting, the Board met in closed session, as follows: At 10:00 a.m. President Pierucci announced the Board would meet in closed session. At 11:30 a.m. the Board reconvened to open session. Mr. Raytis announced there were no reportable actions taken in closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:33 p.m. President Pierucci adjourned the meeting.