

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
ROSEDALE-RIO BRAVO WATER STORAGE DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
June 11, 2024  
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 and Rachelle Echeverria

Public – Ken Campbell, Sonia Lemus, John Gaugel and Bryan Bone

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a) Regular Board Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2024

A motion was made by Director Selvidge with a second by Director Watts to approve the Board of Directors regular meeting minutes of May 14, 2024. The motion 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 May 31, 2024 noting the 2018 COP Reserve Fund account funds were transferred to the Tri-Counties operations account and has been closed.
- b) Accounts Payable/ May 11, 2024 through June 7, 2024 — Ms. Misuraca reviewed the accounts payable report with the Board and reported that check 3413 to Quinn Company was voided and reissued as check number 3450 in the amount of \$17,766.91 that removed the finance charge that was waived. 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 \$940,627.79. 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 May 31, 2024, including the budget vs. actual.

- d) Water Charge Update – Mr. Taylor reported the draft mock 2023 water charge invoices were mailed out and a few landowners have contacted the District with general questions.

#### **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 and reviewed the compiled list of various changes in groundwater levels throughout the District.
- b) Operations Report – Mr. Smith reported a small amount of recharge was brought into the District between the end of May and the beginning of June.
- c) Maintenance Report – Mr. Smith reported on maintenance efforts throughout the District.
- d) Consideration of Purchase of Water Trailer – Mr. Smith reported staff has been renting a water trailer for Onyx for various needs. A motion was made by Director Selvidge with a second by Director Unruh to approve the purchase of a 500-gallon water trailer with a budget not to exceed \$11,000. The motion unanimously passed.

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

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

- e) Consideration of Encroachment Permit – Mr. Smith reported that AJB Ranch has contacted staff to remove excess material from West Basin Pond 4B. A motion was made by Director Watts with a second by Director Unruh to authorize staff to issue an encroachment permit to AJB Ranch to remove fill from Rosedale’s recharge facilities. The motion unanimously passed.

AYES: Directors Pierucci, Selvidge, Unruh 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, including a review of the 8-station index graph, reservoir conditions and updated the Board on the limitations of the project due to regulations to protect certain fish species.
- b) California Delta Conveyance Project – Mr. Taylor presented the Delta Conveyance Project Cost Estimate Update presentation to the Board.
- c) Kern County Water Agency Board Meeting Update – Mr. Taylor gave a brief report on recent Kern County Water Agency meetings and the fact that the 2024-2025 budget was adopted.

#### **MANAGER’S REPORT**

- a) Strategic Plan Update – Ms. Echeverria reviewed the status of Strategic Plan Goal #5 and briefed the Board on staff’s efforts to create SOPs for critical staff responsibilities.
- b) Rosedale Recap – No report.

## **ENGINEERS / PROJECTS REPORT**

### a) Onyx Ranch

- i. Operations Report – Mr. Bartel briefed the Board on the status of the Onyx Ranch operations and reported that the property is in full irrigation mode.
- ii. FEMA Disaster Relief Application – Ms. Echeverria briefly updated the Board on the status of the FEMA funding.

### b) Improvement Projects –

- i. Consideration of Pay Est. No. 4 for McCaslin/Bowling Recovery Project – Mr. Nygren reviewed Bakersfield Well and Pump’s Pay Estimate No. 4 with the Board. A motion was made by Director Selvidge with a second by Director Watts to approve Pay Estimate No. 3 for \$46,800 with \$2,340 retention withheld. The motion was unanimously passed.

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

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

- ii. Consideration of SCADA Improvements – Mr. Nygren briefed the Board on the latest efforts to update various SCADA systems in the District. A motion was made by Director Watts with a second by Director Millwee to approve a budget not to exceed \$12,000 for Innovative Controls SCADA for a cellular connection to the pumping plant HMI. The motion unanimously passed.

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

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

- c) Consideration of Authorization to Issue Notice of Award- McCaslin/Bowling Pipeline Project – Mr. Bartel reported that staff advertised a bid package for the construction of a pipeline connecting the Bowling wells to the Central Intake System and noted bids are set to be opened June 13, 2024. Mr. Bartel also reported that due to grant funds from USBR expiring December 31, 2024, staff is on a strict timeline to get the project completed. Therefore, Mr. Bartel requested authorization to issue the notice of award to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. A motion was made by Director Watts and seconded by Director Selvidge to authorize the Engineer-Manager to issue the notice of award to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, and to execute the contract upon compliance with the contract documents, in an amount not to exceed \$1,600,000. The motion unanimously passed.

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

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

- d) Consideration of Augment of Technical Services Agreement – Mr. Bartel briefed the Board on the design services needed for the Dillard and Schweikart properties. A motion was made by Director Millwee and seconded by Director Selvidge to authorize staff to augment Zeiders Consulting agreement to include the Schweikart property and for the solar array engineering services, for a total consulting agreement not to exceed \$128,500. The motion unanimously passed.

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

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

- e) Consideration of Technical Services Agreement for CEQA Review – Ms. Echeverria reviewed the proposal received from Rincon Consultants relating to the CEQA initial study for the McCaslin Recharge Project and the Dillard Groundwater Recharge and Solar Project. A motion was made by Director Unruh with a second by Director Millwee to approve Rincon Consultant’s proposal to conduct initial studies for CEQA compliance on McCaslin Groundwater Recharge Project and Dillard Groundwater Recharge Solar Project with a budget not to exceed \$117,576. The motion unanimously passed.

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

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

- f) Consideration of PG&E Easement for McCaslin Wells – Mr. Raytis announced a correction to this item to be corrected to include the consideration of Resolution Number 542 authorizing execution of an easement agreement with PG&E. Mr. Raytis generally recited the whereas and resolved clauses of the resolution. Mr. Smith reported staff is working to extend power to the McCaslin/Bowling Wells and an easement will be required for PG&E to complete the extension. A motion was made by Director Selvidge with a second by Director Watts to adopt Resolution Number 542 Authorizing the Execution of an Easement Deed for PG&E and authorize staff to execute any necessary documents for the completion of the easement. A roll call vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed.

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

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a) Groundwater Banking Joint Powers Authority

- i. Consideration of Payment of Cash Call – Ms. Misuraca reviewed the proposed budget for the Groundwater Banking JPA fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 and the recommended cash call with the Board. A motion was made by Director Selvidge with a second by Director Unruh to approve the payment of the cash call for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. The motion unanimously passed.

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

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

- b) James Groundwater Banking Authority – No Report.

- c) Sustainable Groundwater Management Act / Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District – Mr. Bartel reviewed the Kern County Subbasin Final Draft Amended Groundwater Sustainability Plan with the Board. Mr. Unruh complemented Mr. Bartel on his contribution to seeing the draft GSP was completed.

- d) Kern Non-Districted Lands Joint Power Authority-
  - i. Consideration of Board Members – Mr. Bartel reviewed the request from counsel for the authority to have Rosedale appoint a director to the KNDLA Board of Directors. A motion was made by Director Unruh with a second by Director Milwee to appoint Director Watts as the representative for the District for Kern Non-Districted Lands Joint Powers Authority. The motion unanimously passed.
    - AYES: Directors Pierucci, Selvidge, Unruh, Millwee and Watts
    - NOES: None
    - ABSTAINED: None
- e) Kern Fan Monitoring Committee – No report.
- f) Cross Valley Canal Advisory Committee – Mr. Taylor briefed the Board on the reconciliation process and the substantial over collection of funds.
- g) Pioneer Project Committee – No report.
- h) Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (KRWCA) – Mr. Pierucci gave a brief report on the meeting.
- i) Kern Fan Authority – No report.
- j) Joint Operating Committee (JOC) – No report.
- k) Committee for Delta Reliability – No report.
- l) South Valley Water Resources Authority – Mr. Taylor reported on the latest Fish Friendly Diversion Project efforts and the presentation made to the Kern County Water Agency on details of the project with updated cost estimates.
- m) Valley Ag Water Coalition – No report.
- n) Kern Integrated Regional Water Management Plan – No report.
- o) Sites Reservoir Project – Mr. Taylor reported on the last Sites Reservoir Board meeting noting the CEQA process is complete for the project and all challenges were resolved in the Sites Project’s favor.
- p) Association of California Water Agencies – No report

**ATTORNEY’S REPORT**

No report.

**OLD OR NEW BUSINESS**

Staff reminded the Board that the District had given Thane Campell a card for his retirement from the Kern County Water Agency after many years of service. Mr. Bartel reported that Thane wished to thank the District for the card.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**CLOSED SESSION**

During the meeting, the Board met in closed session, as follows: At 10:16 a.m. President Pierucci announced the Board would meet in closed session. At 11:53 a.m. the Board reconvened to open session.

Mr. Raytis announced that the Board authorized President Pierucci to initiate the Wheeling Statutes process with the Kern River Interests. The authorization was provided via a motion by Director Unruh with a second by Director Watts. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT – At 11:54 a.m. President Pierucci adjourned the meeting.