

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARCH 20, 2024
MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Koster called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Board Members present were Daniel Bays, Zach Maring, Jarod Lara, Jim Jasper, and Kyle Perez.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment as there were no members of the public present.

3. ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

Anthea requested to move the Closed Session discussion to the start of the meeting, change the Consent Calendar Items to a discussion item, omitting the Special Meeting Minutes of March 5, 2024, and to move the Resource Management Activities Section to the end of the Agenda. After review and discussion, the Board approved the Revisions to the Agenda as follows:

Ayes: Koster, Bays, Perez, Maring, Jasper, Lara and Lucich
Nays: None
Abstentions: None
Absent: None

Note: Board Member Lucich arrived at 8:45 a.m.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

The Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting February 21, 2024, and the Monthly Accounting and Field Operations Reports for February 2024 were provided in advance for the Board's review. An abbreviated accounting report was handed out and reviewed as well. After review and discussion, the Board approved the Consent Calendar Items as follows:

Ayes: Koster, Bays, Perez, Maring, Jasper, Lara and Lucich
Nays: None
Abstentions: None
Absent: None

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. Board to Review and Consider Staff Recommendation for Delay of 2024-25 WCP Collection

Anthea shared that Reclamation would be making an additional Ag allocation in the coming days and staff was recommending delaying invoicing for the retroactive change to the 2023-24 WCP Policy (from a 75% WCP to a 50% WCP requirement) and billing for the 2024-25 WCP until that announcement is made. After review and discussion, the Board approved the delay of the 2024-25 Water Cost Payment Collection until April's billing cycle as follows:

Ayes: Koster, Bays, Perez, Maring, Jasper, Lara and Lucich
Nays: None
Abstentions: None
Absent: None

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

Anthea provided a News Release stating the Bureau of Reclamation would receive its full budget, \$1.6 billion, for fiscal year 2025. She shared that the Delta Conveyance project was moving forward, and she provided a notice of petition from DWR requesting a change to their water right permits to add two new points of diversion for the project. Anthea shared letters from Westlands Water District and the State Water Contractors to NMFS expressing concerns

over operations of the CVP and SWP and protection of the Central Valley steelhead. She shared a letter to Reclamation from Congressman Costa encouraging the BoR to provide a substantial increase in the CVP allocation South-of-the-Delta. Current Delta pumping operations were limited to -500 CFS in OMR resulting in only two pumps running at Jones Pumping Plant. Reclamation's forecast suggests project operations could be limited to one unit for all of April and May for the Salmon and Smelt; at least two units would be required to meet demands at the DMC.

7. WATER OPERATIONS & SUPPLY

A. CVP/SWP Operations

Anthea provided the SLDMWA Update on Water Policy/Resources Activities Memo and reported on the reinitiation of consultation on Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. She also gave an update on the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan and the Delta Conveyance Project.

B. Monthly Supply/Use/Completed Transactions Summary Report as of 2.29.24

Paul provided the Supply/Use/Completed Transactions Summary Report as of 2/29/24 and reported in-District use for the Month of February was 151 AF and 525 AF was transferred out. Total use for the 2024-25 water year was 86,274 AF. The District requested to carryover 14,021 AF of CVP supply and 8,694 AF of NVRWP supply, for a total of 22,715 AF of carryover into 2024-25.

C. 2024-25 Additional Supplies Update

Anthea shared that with the District Bank supplies, the water currently stored in water banks, and other multi-year sources, there would be sufficient additional supplies to meet any requests for supplemental supplies in the coming year. The 2024-25 Annual Additional Supplies Pool Options Report was being prepared and would be shared at the next meeting.

D. Landholding/Licensing Updates

Paul provided and reviewed the Active Permits and Licenses Report, which showed seven active permits and one active license.

8. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

A. Westside Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Activities

Adam provided and discussed the SLDMWA Activity Agreements – Staff report for February and gave updates on funding for OCCRP and Self-Help Enterprises.

B. SJVDA/Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition Report(s)

Adam reported no meeting was held in March. Adam provided and discussed a Notice of Public Hearing on the Nitrogen Control Program, Management Zone Implementation.

C. Sustainable Groundwater Management Activities (SGMA)

Adam provided minutes from the most recent Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee and Delta-Mendota Coordination Committee meetings. He also provided the Notice of Intent to Adopt a new GSP that was sent to all Cities, Counties and Public Agencies within the jurisdiction of the GSP, as required 90 days prior to GSP adoption. Potential adoption of the new GSP is anticipated in July 2024. A PowerPoint presentation from the March 11 Coordination Committee meeting was provided and reviewed. Adam reported that the emphasis of the meeting was on the various GSP Zones of the subbasin to provide their specific plans for demand management to reduce groundwater overdraft from the lower aquifer bringing the water budget into balance.

D. SGM Implementation Grant – Round 1 Monthly Grant Administrator Updates

A letter from Woodard & Curran to DWR requesting to move SGM Round 1 Grant funds from the LBCRRP to the OCCRP was provided. This item was discussed with item 10.E.

E. Groundwater Well Remote Telemetry Program (2023-24 WaterSMART Grant)

Adam provided maps showing proposed well monitoring sites and how they were connected to subsidence monitoring locations.

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

A. CVP Financial Matters

Anthea reported that the new Executive Director at the CVPWA, Brooke White, was formerly with the Bureau of Reclamation. Items of potential interest that will be discussed this coming Friday at the Financial Affairs Committee Meeting are pricing for 3F water, the annual PUE rate setting proposal, and expediting any refunds from USBR FY 2023.

10. SUPPLY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

A. Orestimba Creek Recharge and Recovery Project – Update

Adam provided a picture of the Project ponds in operation and reported on each pond's performance. He reported that approximately 40 CFS was being delivered to the ponds. He provided and reviewed a four-week Work Job Scheule from Steve P. Rados, Inc.

B. Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir Project – Update

Anthea provided Progress Report Updates for March and reported that the current focus was on the road realignment options. Five alignments were being reviewed and Staff and the consultants are working with the County to narrow the alignments down to a preferred alternative. A request for Community Project Funding was submitted by the Exchange Contractors on behalf of the DPCR for projects and activities that have a direct impact on California's 22nd Congressional District.

C. Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project

Anthea provided an update and reported that although the JPA was making progress with Contra Costa Water District on various agreements, the lead on the Project for Contra Costa has resigned, and it was possible that there may be additional delays.

D. BF Sisk Dam Raise Project – Update

Anthea shared that she attended the most recent Contract Negotiation session and indicated progress was made on the Operations Agreement. She believed that a final Agreement might be presented at the next negotiation session taking place in mid-April.

E. Ceres – DPWD – Turlock Discussions on Advancing Recycled Water into NVRRWP Facilities – Update

Anthea provided a City of Ceres Council Agenda Report and shared that the City of Ceres was requesting approval from their council to authorize an agreement with Schneider Electric Building Americas to assist in the design and construction of Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements and Upgrades. She reported that the District had made a formal request of DWR to utilize the \$272,000 grant intended for plant upgrades which would increase Ceres' ability to deliver wastewater to the City of Turlock instead for performing a feasibility study with the City of Ceres to connect a direct pipeline from the proposed treatment plant to the NVRRWP pump station pipeline.

F. Coordination with Local Agencies on Regional SGMA Projects - Update

Anthea indicated there was no local coordination meeting with the City of Patterson for March.

11. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

A. Training Updates

Anthea shared that Staff participated in mandatory Harassment Training and fulfilled their requirements.

B. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan 5-Year Update

Adam shared that he will be focusing on the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan 5-Year Update once end-of-year billings conclude for the month.

C. Zacharias-Baldwin Master Plan - Update

Anthea shared that the City of Patterson will be moving forward with the LAFCO process for the Zacharias-Baldwin Master Plan.

12. SLDMWA REPORT

Anthea provided the SLDMWA Selection and Appointment of FY25 SLDMWA Board Officers Memo and shared that all officers remained the same. An O&M Report for February was also provided.

13. ARTICLES / CORRESPONDENCE / PUBLIC OUTREACH

Articles were provided on Ellen Wehr, legal counsel for Grasslands WD moving on to open her own firm, a Family Farm Alliance Memo March Update and letter to the House Committee and Subcommittee on water pertaining to H.R. 7408, and an article titled "Newly Built Friant-Kern Canal Sinking From Overpumping: Lawsuit".

Note: Anthea left the meeting at 10:06 a.m. to attend a meeting with the City of Modesto.

14. CLOSED SESSION

Upon return from Closed Session, there was no reportable action taken on the items listed on the Agenda.

15. REPORTS PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE 54954.2

There were no reports pursuant to Government Code 54954.2

16. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthea G. Hansen
Secretary