



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
APRIL 19, 2023
MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Koster called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. Board Members present were Daniel Bays, Zach Maring, Jarod Lara and Kyle Perez.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

President Koster asked if there was any public comment and asked if anyone on the phone had any public comment. No one was on the phone line and there was no public comment.

3. ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes or revisions to the agenda.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

The Minutes from the Board Meeting of 3/15/2023, and Special Board Meeting of 4/5/23, Monthly Accounting Reports, and Field Operations Report for March 2023 were provided in advance for the Board's review. The Board approved the Consent Calendar as follows:

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

Note: Board Member Lucich arrived at 8:37 a.m.

5. MANAGER'S REPORT

Anthea provided the SLDMWA Update on Water Policy/Resources Activity, a Public Notice from SLDMWA and Westlands WD on a Draft EIS for the Delta Conveyance Project, a letter to the State Senate from several organizations opposing SB 687, and a brochure on Healthy Rivers California. She reported that a record of decision on any new opinions will more than likely not be completed until Summer of 2024. The Central Valley Project is currently operating under the 2019 Biological Opinions with some court imposed variations.

6. ACTION ITEMS

A. Board to Review and Consider Annual Surface Water Transfer Policy

Anthea shared that since there had not been any CVP water to transfer in the past few years, the District's Annual Surface Water Transfer Policy had been suspended. She informed the Board that the policy had been changed a few years ago to incorporate requirements, goals and objectives that came about due to SGMA, primarily encouraging growers to use surface water and restrict transfers of supplemental supplies. Due to the recent allocation, Staff suggested an updated policy to incorporate an application and review process before a transfer can be approved. After review, discussion and guidance the Board asked Staff to draft an application and bring it back in May for final review before being approved.

B. Board to Review and Approve Staff Recommendation for Closing of 2021-22 & 2022-23 Annual Additional Supplies Pool(s)

Anthea provided and reviewed a Summary of Annual Additional Supplies Pool Results for the 2021-22 & 2022-23 Water Years. After review and discussion, the Board approved Staff's recommendation for closing of 2021-22- & 2022-23 Annual Additional Supplies Pools and rebates for eligible customers as follows:

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

Absent: Jasper

C. Board to Adopt 2023-24 "Drafting Rate" for Construction Project Requests

Anthea reported that she was approached about providing water for construction projects. Assuming requests will be made this water year, Staff is requiring a rate to charge for such projects. It was noted that drafting in the prior year was at \$575/AF fee. After review and discussion, the Board approved a "Drafting Rate" of \$575/AF for construction projects as follows:

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

7. WATER OPERATIONS & SUPPLY

A. CVP/SWP Operations

Anthea provided a CVP Water Supply Briefing from March 31st showing a Precipitation Index for the Northern Sierra, and San Joaquin as well as snow water content, Trinity, Shasta, Folsom and New Melones storage for the Board's review. She also provided a News Release from the Bureau of Reclamation announcing an 80 allocation and shared that she would not be surprised if the allocation increased to 100% in the near future. A San Luis Storage Projection Graph was also provided.

B. Monthly Supply/Use/Completed Transactions Summary Report as of 3/31/23

Paul provided the Supply/Use/Completed Transactions Summary Report as of 3/31/23 and reported in-District use for the Month of March at 135 AF and OCCRP use for the month of March at 456 AF. Total use for the 2023-24 water year was 591 AF, leaving the total estimated for rescheduling into 2024-25 at 67,146 AF.

C. 2023-24 Additional Supplies Development Options Report

Anthea provided a 2023-24 Annual Additional Supplies Pool report and mentioned she covered this item on item 6.B.

D. Landholding / Licensing Updates

Paul provided and reviewed the Active Permits and Licenses Report with the Board.

E. Rescheduling Update

This item was covered with item 7.B.

8. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

A. Westside Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Activities

Anthea provided the SLDMWA Activity Agreements Staff Report for March 2023 and reported that for IRWM, the focus continued to be on the Disadvantaged Community Needs Assessment; she noted that the IRWM Activity Agreement Members are reviewing a draft scope of work for Self-Help Enterprises to conduct the Assessment.

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

Adam provided the minutes from the February 7th Drainage Authority Board of Directors meeting, a Summers Engineering Memo on a Management Zone Update for the Drainage Authority's April 4th meeting and a Summary of VWC Participation Agreement Revision. He reported that the original VWC Participation Agreement was revised by SJVDA legal counsel to document changes required by the SJDVA Board. Also reviewed and discussed was the Management Zone Setup Cost Analysis. Also discussed was the State Board's focus from nitrates to surface water and provided the Board with Water Quality Exceedances reports.

C. Sustainable Groundwater Management Activities

1. Policy Discussion Regarding Management Action Enforcement - Continued

Adam provided minutes from meetings of February 13th and 23rd as well as March 13th and 21st as well as a letter to the SLDMWA Water Resources Program Manager on the Proposal to Initiate Response to the Inadequate Determination Delta-Mendota Subbasin. He gave an overview on the key deficiencies identified by the Department of Water Resources and the next steps to refine the water level and GW storage SMCs based on feedback, initiate other SMC development efforts and follow up on access to the CVHM2 model.

2. SGM Implementation Grant-Round 1 Monthly Grant Administrator Update
Anthea shared that she had submitted the first invoice recently and was looking to open a separate account for these funds.
3. Well Registration Package – Response Update
Adam indicated there had been positive response due to increased communication with growers relating to CVP water supply allocation forms.

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- A. Report on USBR FY 22 Project Use Energy Accountings
Anthea gave background information to the Board pertaining to a Letter of Agreement for the Replacement of Project Use Power and Fees Incurred for Conveyance of Groundwater in Project Facilities. After review and discussion, Staff recommended that due to no Pump-In Program for WY 2023-24, the District wait until USBR's Oct-Sept FY 23 is reconciled, so that it may complete the 2022-23 WY analysis for each of the customers who conveyed water under the WA contract last year, then do a 3 year true-up by customer.
- B. CVP Financial Matters
Anthea provided the CVPWA March Meeting Agenda and reported that the CVPWA FAC had an in-person meeting with Ernest Conant present and discussed, among other things, the implementation of the final cost allocation the completion of outstanding reconciliations.

10. SUPPLY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

- A. Orestimba Creek Recharge & Recovery Project – Update
Anthea reported that on April 6th, she received notice that the OCRRP was approved under the Small Surface Water and Groundwater Storage Projects funding opportunity and was awarded \$1,040,879 for the project. Anthea also reported that a nesting pair of swainson's hawks were in the construction area and work in that area would have to wait until they fledged before construction could begin. She also reported that a challenge with getting the final landowner easement signed was being addressed.
- B. Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir Project – Update
Anthea introduced the Technical Review Board Team, who were on site working on the DPCR Project. They gave an update on the Project and the Board thanked them for their time and effort. Anthea also provided the TERRA/GeoPentech January – March reporting period for the Board to review.
- C. Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project – Presentation by Taryn Ravazzini, LVR JPA Executive Director
Anthea provided a brochure showing the LVRE progress and timeline as well as a letter of support for advancing \$500 million for the Prop 1 Water Storage Investment Program. She reported that agency outreach to try to solidify funding was ongoing, terms sheets are under development and an update on all financial models for the project were almost complete. A cost benefit analysis will more than likely be presented in the May meeting. She believes that by September 2023, the Board will have to decide as to whether the District will continue to participate in or withdraw from this Project.
- D. BF Sisk Dam Raise Project – Update
Anthea provided email communication from HGCPM requesting a meeting be held on May 3rd to discuss a Financial Model. She was concerned that this Project might not be worth the financial risk, and it is not clear if the District would be able to operate its own share of the USBR's facility.
- E. Ceres-DPWD-Turlock Discussions on Advancing Recycled Water into NVRWP Facilities-Update
There was nothing to report on this item.

11. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

- A. Staffing Update
Anthea reported that she had been reviewing all the items dealt with on a daily basis and hoped to return in May to give an update to the Board.

12. SLDMWA Report

A. SLDMWA Minutes, Reports and Issues Updates

Anthea provided the SLDMWA Open Minutes from March 12th, O&M Report for March and Update on Science Program Memo. She and reported that the SLDMWA was doing some strategic planning and had recently held the first of three sessions planned. She also reported that \$25 million per project was awarded for the Jones Pumping Plant Excitation System & Control Cabinet Modernization and Subsidence Correction Project.

13. CLOSED SESSION

A. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation

Upon return from Closed Session, Anthea reported that the Board received information on existing litigation as listed on the Agenda from Staff and Special Counsel and no reportable action was taken.

B. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation

There was nothing to report on this item.

C. Conference with Special Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation

There was nothing to report on this item.

14. ARTICLES/CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC OUTREACH

Anthea provided a Bureau of Reclamation memo on FY 2023 Aging Infrastructure Projects, Family Farm Alliance April Update Report, an article on Two Fresno County Groundwater Plans getting an approval from the State, a report from PPIC on Adapting California's Water Rights System to the 21st Century Climate, and Tom Birmingham's Speech from the Family Farm Alliance conference for the Board's review.

15. ITEMS TO DISCUSS PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE 54954.2

There was nothing to report on this item.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthea G. Hansen
Secretary