



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARCH 15, 2023
MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Koster called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. Board Members present were Daniel Bays, Zach Maring, and Kyle Perez.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. ADDITIONS/REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes or revisions to the agenda, which was accepted as follows:

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

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

The Minutes from the Board Meeting of 2/15/2023, Monthly Accounting Reports, and Field Operations Report for February 2023 were provided in advance for the Board's review. The Board approved the Consent Calendar as follows:

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

5. MANAGER'S REPORT

Anthea provided the SLDMWA Update on Water Policy/Resources Activity Memorandum and reported that currently, many Congressmen and Legislators were introducing bills and she was following anything that would have an impact on the District. She added that there was currently three pieces of legislation that would challenge water rights structure in California and that the District would be lending support as needed to oppose unwarranted changes.

6. ACTION ITEMS

There were no Action Items.

7. WATER OPERATIONS & SUPPLY

A. CVP/SWP Operations

Anthea provided the Districts final letter requesting to reschedule 16,835 AF of 2022 Acquired Non-Project Water, 2022 Acquired Project Water, 2022 Transferred Refuge Level 2 Water and 2022 NVRRWP Exchanged/Stored Supply. An additional letter will be written to request the transfers during the Rescheduling period if warranted. She reported that the current hydrology had brought about drastic changes to the current situation, recalling that just the month prior Staff was looking for water to purchase and today, everything is flooding and the Bureau gave notice that the reservoirs are going to fill. Currently, San Luis is about 80% full and Staff was looking for ways to protect rescheduled water. Anthea reminded the Board that the District owes 2,000 AF to Contra Costa WD and 500 AF to Westlands and hoped to get it moved as soon as possible.

Note: Board Member Lara arrived at 8:41 a.m. and Board Member Jasper arrived at 8:52 a.m.

- B. Monthly Supply/Use/Completed Transactions Summary Report as of 2/28/23
Paul provided the Supply/Use/Completed Transactions Summary Report as of 2/28/23 and reported in-District use for the Month of February at 80 AF. Total use for the 2022-23 water year was 49,923 AF, leaving the total for rescheduling into 2023-24 at 16,835 AF. Anthea added that the Bureau would be updating the initial 35% allocation in the upcoming week and predicted a significant allocation increase.
- C. 2021-22 Additional Supplies Update – FINAL Reconciliation
Anthea provided and reviewed the 2021-22 Additional Supplies Pool Report and showed it fully subscribed at 25,968 AF.
- D. 2022-23 Additional Supplies Update
Anthea provided and reviewed the 2022-23 Annual Additional Supplies Pool Report showing only 28 AF unsubscribed of the 4,443 AF.
- E. 2023-24 Additional Supplies Development Options Report
Anthea provided and reviewed the Draft 2023-24 Annual Additional Supplies Pool Report. She reviewed all options available at 35%, 55%, 75% and 100% allocations with different scenarios that excluded supplies that were not required to be purchased. Transactions with San Luis Canal Company and Exchange Contractors transfers were also discussed. Anthea asked if any members of the public had any comments. Being none, the meeting continued.
- F. Landholding / Licensing Updates
Paul provided and reviewed a list of 8 active permits and no active licenses. President Koster asked if any member of the public had any comments. Being none, the meeting continued.
- G. Storm Update
There was nothing to report on this item.
- H. Transfers Update
Anthea covered this item in item 7.E. Anthea asked if there were any members of the public that had comment. Being none, the meeting continued.
8. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES
- A. Westside Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Activities
Anthea provided the SLDMWA Memo Update on Activity Agreements and reported that she signed the IRWM Contract the day prior. The District was now fully approved to start preparing the documentation to submit for reimbursement on \$955,000 grant received to perform Geotech studies in the Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir Project. The Grant allowed for retroactive reimbursement of funds already spent on Phase I of the Geotech studies. Anthea asked if there were any comments from the public. Being none, the meeting continued.
- B. SJVDA/Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition Report(s)
Adam provided the Agenda to the SJVDA meeting that took place on February 27th. He reported that there were no meetings in March but had requested an Ad Hoc Committee Meeting in February regarding Management Zone Development to do some pre-planning for the Nitrate Control Program and how the member agencies will approach compliance with the new regulation. Adam asked if there were any comments from the public. Being none, the meeting continued.
- C. Sustainable Groundwater Management Activities
1. Policy Discussion Regarding Management Action Enforcement - Continued
Adam provided DWR's letter on Inadequate Determination of the Revised 2020 Groundwater Sustainability Plans submitted for the San Joaquin Valley Basin – Delta -Mendota Subbasin, the Statement of Findings Regarding the Determination of Inadequate Status of the San Joaquin Valley – Delta-Mendota Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan and a presentation copy of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Response to the Inadequate Determination. He reported that the major concern is that there are 6 GSPs, 23 GSAs, 6 different consulting groups with 6 different plans that needed to be more cohesive. DWR indicated that the plans were not coordinated enough and too confusing and complicated. Adam reviewed the presentation that covered the background and general comments, Basin SGMA Status as of March 2023, SWRCB Intervention Process, Potential Revisions and three options for moving forward. He also provided and

reviewed the SLDMWA March 1, 2023 - February 28, 2024 SGMA Activities – Coordinated Cost-Share Agreement Coordinated (Fund 63). The next step would be a meeting with the State Board, getting guidance on what needs to be worked on and letting them know where the plan is headed in order to comply. He believed it would take from 3 to 4 months. Adam added that he forgot to mention during item 8.B. that April 15th is the deadline to submit the Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plans Summary Reports. President Koster asked if there were any comments from the public. Being none, the meeting continued.

2. SGM Implementation Grant-Round 1 Monthly Grant Administrator Update
There was nothing to report on this item.

3. FY 2022 WaterSMART Small Scale Water Efficiency Project Awards – DPWD Groundwater Well Remote Telemetry Program – Update on Award Status
Following on last month's report that this award would be delayed, Anthea asked Adam to contact WaterSMART and confirm if the Grant Agreement will have an effective date for coverage of costs from the date of the award.

4. Well Registration Package – Response Update
Adam provided a Well Registration Packet Report and shared that only 27% of customers have turned in their registrations.

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

A. 2023-24 New Year Statistics

Minnie provided and reviewed the Summary of 2023 Water Year Initial District Data. She also provided and reviewed a draft revised 2023-24 Agricultural Water Rate, which was updated to reflect a recent SLDMWA O&M rate adjustment.

B. CVP Financial Matters

Anthea provided a memo on the BOR's Strategy for Changes to CVP Water Rights to Facilitate New Storage Projects and a news release on the President's Fiscal year 2024 Budget Requests for \$1.4 million to the Bureau. Anthea shared a SLDMWA Memo pertaining to Finance & Administration Committee Recommendations / Board Approval of Revised Water year 2023 O&M Water Rates. She noted that with respect to the Water Rights Strategy that Reclamation believed that their existing water rights with the State Board have enough room in them to provide for being able to move water into additional storage projects. If not, the water rights have to be changed.

10. SUPPLY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

A. Orestimba Creek Recharge & Recovery Project – Update

Anthea provided a Scope Amendment for Change Order Work Construction Administration and Land Surveying Service for Orestimba Creek Recharge & Recovery Expansion Project. She shared that the last easement for the project had been a bit of a challenge to obtain but the landowner had confirmed with his attorney on the documents she hoped the last easement purchase would be finalized soon.

B. Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir Project – Update

Anthea provided the Terra/GeoPentech Progress Report for December 31, 2022 through January 27, 2023, a Progress Report for March from Woodard & Curran, a letter report from the meetings held on February 27th and March 1st, as well as Senator Feinstein Fiscal Year 2024 Congressionally Directed Spending Requests. She reported that the second round of Technical Review Meetings still on target to result in a 30% design update to the Boards in May. Work with PG&E continues on the design and relocation of their towers, work with Crimson and relocation of their gas pipelines, and an RFQ was released for the road engineer to assist with the road relocation. Work to access more funding is ongoing.

C. Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project – Presentation by Taryn Ravazzini, LVR JPA Executive Director

Anthea shared that a Record of Decision had not yet been received from the Bureau due to not having Biological Opinions on the Operations Agreements. Without Federal and State approvals, Service Agreements cannot be executed and State funding is at risk.

D. BF Sisk Dam Raise Project – Update

Anthea shared that this Project was awaiting Reclamation's approval on the Operations Agreement.

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

Anthea shared that she had obtained all the data from Ceres to put a term sheet together but had not yet done so. The goal is to develop a partnership between DPWD and the City of Ceres which resulted in a financially beneficial way to get all of Ceres water to Turlock for treatment. Anthea asked if there was any comment from the public. Being none, the meeting continued.

11. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

A. Warren Act Contracting Update

Anthea reported that there was some language in the contracts that the Districts had requested be removed. The language pertained to RRA (the District is no longer required to do RRA), and a requirement that the contract be validated by the courts. Reclamation agreed to a waiver on the items.

12. SLDMWA Report

A. SLDMWA Minutes, Reports and Issues Updates

1. General Manager's Update on SLDMWA Board/Committee Assignments

Anthea provided the SLDMWA Minutes and O&M Report and reported that there were three dispute resolution notices that have come from the Friant water authority.

13. CLOSED SESSION

A. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation

There was nothing to report on this item.

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 an Agenda to a Teen Outdoor Experience – Water Education Module where she hosted a group of local teens to educate them on water operations. She also shared that there was a sequel film to *Beyond the Brink* titled *California's Watershed Healing*, and that she will be working with the producer to bring the film to Patterson. An article from Family Farm Alliance on the Farm Bill was also provided.

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 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthea G. Hansen
Secretary