



**Minutes of Regular Meeting, Board of Directors  
June 9, 2020**

The Board of Directors of the Porterville Irrigation District met this day in regular session in Porterville, California. Consistent with Executive Order N-29-20 and social distancing directives, the meeting was conducted by teleconference only, with no physical location for the meeting.

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Borba called the meeting to order at 9:23 a.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Borba, Gisler, Chambers, McCowan, Witzel

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Sean P. Geivet, District Manager  
Jody A. Griswold-Bratcher, District Secretary  
Ann Erickson, District Staff  
Michael Knight, City of Porterville  
Tom O'Sullivan  
Terry Schuler  
Dave Dorrance, Homer LLC  
Trelawney Bullis, Sun Pacific  
Matt Gisler  
Steve Etchegaray

**AGENDA** – No changes or additions were made to the agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – President Borba asked if there was any public comment.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

M/S/U McCowan, Gisler to approve the Minutes of the Board of Directors Regular Meeting held May 12, 2020 as presented.

**AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS**

M/S/U Gisler, Chambers to authorize the Treasurer to pay all outstanding bills against the District as presented.

**MONTHLY REPORTS – Financial Reports:** Treasurer Griswold-Bratcher reviewed with the Board the April 2020 Balance Sheet, showing status of the banking accounts, and Income Statements for the same period. It was also noted that although these reports

indicate they are pending, they do include adjustments as a result of the 2019 audit that is on the agenda for approval later in the meeting. Also included in the meeting packet is the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) statement for April 2020 reflecting interest earned in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2020 of \$15,505.18.

M/S/U Chambers, Witzel to accept the preliminary financial reports as presented and to place the reports on file.

**Administration Report:** Nothing to report at this time.

**Operations/Water Report:** The Manager informed the Board that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) Class 1 allocation has been increased to 60% which results in nine thousand acre-ft for this district. This increase supersedes the schedule included in the packet as Item #5.C.1. reflecting a 55% allocation.

Discussion then turned to Item #6 on the agenda pertaining to Water Policy for the 2020 Water Year. Manager Geivet directed the Board's attention to Item #6.A. titled PID Water Rate Study and Item #6.B. Sharewater Expense Calculation to be used in determining 2020 rates. He reviewed the study indicating this year's District water rate needs to be at least \$81.33/acre-ft to meet budget needs. It was reiterated from prior reports that Lower Tule River Irrigation District (LTRID) is tentatively planned to run starting in mid-July for approximately 30 days. Lengthy discussion ensued before action was taken.

Upon motion by Director Gisler, seconded by Director Chambers, to:

- 1) allocate the District water supply as groundwater recharge credits for \$70.00/acre-ft to all assessed land subject to the Supplemental rate (more specifically those parcels that are 5.0 acres or more plus any smaller parcels that have an agreement in place with the District to be included in the Supplemental billing rate) on a voluntary basis to those that wish to participate and with any unclaimed credits being re-allocated amongst those eligible and that request to purchase additional credits;
- 2) set the irrigation season to start Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> (with the exception of those ditches managed by LTRID that are tentatively scheduled to start July 15<sup>th</sup>) and will endeavor to keep the system running through August if possible;
- 3) set the 2020 water rate at \$25.00/acre-ft for irrigation water (no banking or recharge at this time); and the 2020 Sharewater water rate at \$21.48/acre-ft that can be utilized for irrigation or recharge;
- 4) if the surface water does not move near the end of the water run, the District may take steps to recharge the water in the underground on behalf of all lands in the District;
- 5) and all of the above allocated recharge credits or surface water available only to accounts in good standing and Assessments current.

<b>AYES:</b>	<b><i>Borba, Chambers, Gisler, Witzel</i></b>
<b>NOES:</b>	<b><i>McCowan</i></b>
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	<b><i>None</i></b>
<b>ABSENT:</b>	<b><i>None</i></b>

Also included in the meeting packet for the Board's information was the 2019 Crop Report (Item #5.C.2.) as submitted recently to the Bureau as well as rainfall totals (Item #5.C.3.) for the current year-to-date and going back through the 1960's.

**Status Report of Authorities: DCTRA, TRA, VAWC & FWA:** Mr. Geivet reminded the Board that he forwards CEO Updates from Jason Phillips, Friant Water Authority (FWA) to Directors periodically in an effort to keep them updated. He also touched on Deer Creek and Tule River Authority (DCTRA) topics.

**Eastern Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agency (ETGSA):** The Manager shared with the Board current issues faced by ETGSA with the current focus on financing and the prospect of a 218 election.

**Success Reservoir Enlargement Project (SREP) Update:** Manager Geivet updated meeting participants on an announcement from Congressman McCarthy's office a few weeks ago stating that "the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded a contract for up to \$30M for construction of Phase I of the SREP at the Richard L. Schafer Dam".

**Future Planning:** The Manager informed the Board that our engineer has sent packets regarding Service Areas #3 & #4 to the Bureau for consideration for future funding.

Mr. Geivet shared that Homer LLC and some P3 neighbors have expressed interest in a pipeline near the old Falconer property. He stated that he committed to a 50/50 partnership on the Engineer's Report for that project.

### **WATER POLICY – Review and consider setting water rate, water allocation, water season, and general water policy for the 2020 water run**

This topic was discussed earlier in the meeting under Operations/Water Report.

### **2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENT – Review and consider placing the audited 2019 Financial Statement on file as audited by Joe Mastro, Cuttone & Mastro CPAs**

Manager Geivet reviewed the 2019 Financial Statements that were prepared by Cuttone & Mastro CPAs.

M/S/U Gisler, Chambers to approve and place on file the 2019 Financial Statements as prepared by Mr. Joe Mastro, Cuttone & Mastro CPAs, as presented.

### **REPAYMENT AGREEMENT – Review and consider executing a Repayment Agreement for Recapture of Restoration Flows in the Lower San Joaquin River**

The Manager brought to the Board's attention background and details regarding a repayment agreement being considered between Friant Water Authority (FWA) and other

Friant Division Contractors to reimburse costs associated with recapture of Restoration Flows in the Lower San Joaquin River.

M/S/U, Chambers, Gisler to authorize the Manager to execute a Repayment Agreement with Friant Water Authority for Recapture of Restoration Flows in the Lower San Joaquin River.

**GRIFFITH FARMS – Discuss extending the term on the Griffith Farms lease agreement and the potential to re-negotiate the rent**

This item was tabled and will be revisited next month.

All guests departed the online Board Zoom meeting at 11:41 a.m.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9, the Board adjourned into closed session at 11:42 a.m. The Board adjourned from closed session at 11:53 a.m.

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION – [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)] *City of Fresno, et al. v. United States of America*, Court of Federal Claims, Case No. 16-1276L**

No action taken.

**ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54954.2 (RELATING TO ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA)**

Nothing to report.

**ADJOURNMENT** – President Borba adjourned the meeting at 11:54 a.m.

  
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Jody A. Griswold-Bratcher, Secretary