



Minutes of Regular Meeting, Board of Directors January 9, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Porterville Irrigation District met this day in regular session both in person and by teleconference from the District office located at 22086 Avenue 160, Porterville, California.

CALL TO ORDER

President Borba called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Borba, Chambers, Gisler, McCowan

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Witzel

OTHERS PRESENT: Sean P. Geivet, *District Manager*
Jeffrey S. Row, *District Secretary-Treasurer, Assessor/Collector*
Jody A. Griswold-Bratcher, *District Assistant Secretary*
Chris Eriksen, *District Maintenance Foreman*
Kathy Briano
Nick Gatti
Larry Suniga
Terry Schuler
Allan Lombardi
Douglas Jackson
Numerous guests via Zoom and One tap mobile

AGENDA – There were no changes or additions made to the agenda.

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

District customer Kathy Briano inquired about District staff changes, training practices, well measurements and debris in ditches near her property. She also asked for more information about the District's recent phone number changes. Secretary-Treasurer Row explained that our small business phone service provider, MCI, notified us that they would no longer be able to provide service to us. They also said that we would not be able to keep our phone numbers. He contacted OACYS Technology, our current internet provider, and they were able to help. They delivered new phones and set up the new fax number.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

M/S/U Gisler, Chambers to approve the Minutes of the Board of Directors Regular Meeting of December 12, 2023 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: Controller Row reviewed with the Board reports in the meeting packet that included the November 2023 Balance Sheet, showing status of the banking accounts, and Income Statements for the same period. Also included in the packet is the California Asset Management Program (CAMP) account statement for December 2023.

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

Administration Report: Included in the meeting packet was the “Monthly Google Analytics Report” on the District’s website for December 2023 (Enclosure #5.B.).

The Manager asked the Controller when we plan to go live with the new BasinSafe software. Mr. Row noted that he believes that the software will provide improved water use tracking, but also shared that he does not find it to be very user friendly. District staff will continue moving toward a March 1st launch.

Operations/Water Report: Mr. Geivet updated the Board on current operations. He noted that Friant-Kern Canal maintenance and construction tasks are progressing at or ahead of schedule with plans to come back online around January 26th.

Also included in the meeting packet was a Water Billing Recap for 2013-present.

Mr. Eriksen, the District’s Maintenance Foreman, brought the Board and guests up to date on projects and maintenance activities, including the P1 pipeline repair, Southern California Gas high pressure line relocation near Rhodes-Fine Ditch and other cleanup projects. He also noted the installation of eye wash stations in numerous locations in the District yard. Also included in his report was an accounting of equipment purchases and expenses to date.

Also included in the meeting packet was Enclosure #5.C.3. reporting rainfall totals for the current year going back through the 1960’s. The report reflects that the rainfall water year is October-September. The total rainfall for October 2023 – present is 1.15 inches.

Status Report of Authorities: TRA & FWA: Manager Geivet briefed the Board on both TRA & FWA.

Eastern Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agency (ETGSA): President Borba announced to the PID Board that he intends to retire as Chairperson of ETGSA.

Success Reservoir Enlargement Project (SREP) Update: Nothing new to report.

Future Planning: The Manager gave a brief update on future projects that were not discussed earlier under Operations. President Borba asked for a project timeline if possible.

BANKING POLICY – Review and consider adopting revised Policy Principles for PID Groundwater Banking Program

The Manager stated that he hopes to get the revised policy later today. Once he receives it, he will share with Directors and anyone that has asked for it. The next step will be for Provost & Pritchard (P&P) to perform the environmental work necessary. Once done, we will have a hearing for public comment and review before considering approval.

CUTTONE & MASTRO ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT – Review and consider authorizing the Board President and Manager to sign an Engagement Letter to audit 2023 financial statements

The Manager brought the Board's attention to an engagement letter from Joe Mastro of Cuttone & Mastro Certified Public Accountants to confirm services related to an audit of the District's financials for 2023.

M/S/U McCowan, Gisler to authorize the Board President and Manager to sign an Engagement Letter with Cuttone & Mastro Certified Public Accountants to audit the District's financials for year ended December 31, 2023.

NORTH BASIN PROJECT – Requesting the Board approve going through the 30-day public comment period that is part of the CEQA process

Manager Geivet reviewed with the Board and guests a memo from P&P (Enclosure #8) giving an update of the North Basin Project (Project). The Project is a partnership with the City of Porterville for a new turnout from the Friant-Kern Canal (FKC) and new recharge basin.

M/S/U McCowan, Gisler to approve initiating the 30-day public review and comment period as outlined in the North Basin Project Memorandum from District Engineer, Provost & Pritchard.

PID FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING – Consider changing the February PID Board Meeting date on account of the conflict with the World Ag Expo (aka Farm Show)

Manager Geivet reminded the Board that the annual World Ag Expo (aka Farm Show) will be held February 13 – 15, 2024 in Tulare. Discussion was then held regarding the regular February Board meeting scheduled for February 13th and the Board concurred the Board meeting date should be changed to the following Thursday so that guests that may show up on the regular scheduled day will have the opportunity to attend the adjourned meeting.

M/S/U Gisler, Witzel to change the February PID Board meeting date from Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. to Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be conducted as an adjourned meeting since it will be held after to the regular meeting date.

Mr. Geivet asked that we adjourn into closed session. All guests departed the Board room and Zoom meeting at 10:01 a.m.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9, the Board adjourned into closed session at 10:02 a.m.

The Board adjourned from closed session at 10:29 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 reportable action.

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION – [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)] *Setton Pistachio of Terra Bella, Inc. v. Porterville Irrigation District*, Tulare County Superior Court, Case No. PCU301703

No reportable action.

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION – [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)]

No reportable action.

CLOSED SESSION ITEMS – Report Action Taken in Closed Session Required by Government Code Section 54957.1

No reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT –President Borba adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.



Jody A. Griswold-Bratcher, *Asst. Secretary*