

April 11, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Saucelito Irrigation District met this day in a regular session. The office is located at 20712 Avenue 120, Porterville, California.

CALL TO ORDER

President Kisling called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

ATTENDANCE

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kisling, E. Merritt, Demetriff, M. Merritt & Noble
DIRECTORS ABSENT: None
OTHERS PRESENT: Sean P. Geivet, Manager
Diane M. Ennis, Secretary/Treasurer
Aubrey Mauritson – Attorney
Nick Keller – Engineer

GUEST: Nick Gatti – Renewable Resources
Andrew Hart – Booth Ranches
Douglas Jackson – Water & Land Solutions
Johnny Amaral - FWA

AGENDA – The Manager reported that the agenda is in order and has been posted as required.

MINUTES

M/S/U, Demetriff, Noble– to approve the minutes from the Regular Board of Directors' meeting held on March 14, 2024.

AYE: Kisling, E. Merritt, Demetriff, M. Merritt & Noble
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

BILLS AND VOUCHERS

M/S/U, M Merritt, Demetriff - to authorize the Treasurer to pay all outstanding bills against the district as presented and to ratify check number 16056 to 16058 paid to USBR for Water.

AYE: Kisling, E. Merritt, Demetriff, M. Merritt & Noble
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

PUBLIC COMMENT – President Kisling asked if anyone from the public wished to comment at this time. Johnny Amaral stated he was here today to bring a check for a past due invoice and apologize for it getting overlooked. The check was for work that was done to relocate Sunview's meter which was in the way of the new canal. The Board moved on to the reports.

MONTHLY REPORTS

FINANCIAL – The Board reviewed the financial status of the District. Included in the review were the Citizens Business Bank accounts check register from the prior month, Local Agencies Investment Fund reports, Money Market Account Statement, Treasurer, Collector's, and Secretary's reports. The Treasurer reported the Income Statements and Balance Sheets for January will be ready to review next month. Discussion ensued.

M/S/U, Noble, M. Merritt – to accept the financial statements and direct that they be placed on file.

AYE: Kisling, E. Merritt, Demetriff, M. Merritt & Noble
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – No report was given.

OPERATIONS & WATER – The Manager reviewed Nick Keller's water schedule report with the Board. It included 95% class 1, carryover water, and URF water, which is a non-contract water supply. Following the Engineer and Managers meeting was held last Friday they stated the URF Tier 1 needs to be used by May 5th; Monday, the district basin was turned on to ensure the water was put into the underground before that date. Discussion ensued regarding what water needed to leave the system first. Keller stated Millerton is currently at 87%, and they need to move water out of Millerton to make more room. Once the ASO flyover is completed, we hope to get 100% class 1 and 5% class 2. The Manager updated the board on the new reduced cost of water; Keller reviewed the budget numbers with the increase of water supply to come up with the new rate of \$70.00 per acre-foot, he told the board the 218 election was working like it was designed to work. Included in the board packet are the Employee Safety Meeting and Monthly Field Staff Report for the Board's review. Discussion ensued.

The Manager reported that he will work with Nick Keller and Aubrey Mauritson on a Land Exchange Subsidence Program Policy. The pilot program will be designed to shift surface water to lands within the land subsidence area in exchange for pumping credit, the water extraction cost and the wear and tear to growers' pumps for growers outside the subsidence area who sign up for the pilot program. The Manager stated we need updated data for the number of acres and the average depth of wells within the subsidence area and explained that deep wells pumping from below 1800 ft depth drive subsidence below 1100 ft. If we are to reduce or eliminate, subsidence, a deep well within two miles of the canal will not be able to be used. A grower's meeting will need to be scheduled.

STATUS OF AUTHORITIES – The Manager continued forwarding CEO updates from Jason Phillips, CEO of FWA, and the AECA newsletter to the Board members. Today's guest, Johnny Amaral from FWA, was here to update the board on the ongoing operation with the Friant-Kern Canal Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project. The paving is currently being done; the north plug is scheduled to be removed, followed by the south plug on the new canal by the end of April. Then, they will plug the old canal, and the siphon under Deer Creek will remain closed. Johnny Amaral assured the Board that his number one priority is Saucelito's four new pumping stations on the new canal which are part of phase one. Amaral explained that the bids for the

pumping stations came in over what was budgeted, and the additional amount would need to be paid back to USBR. Discussion ensued.

EASTERN TULE GSA – The Manager reported that the ETGSA is working on rules and regulations and getting landowners in the land subsidence area to install meters on wells and reporting. If landowners don't want to put a meter on their well, they need to prove the well is pumping above the 600-foot depth and be in the non-subsidence area. The State Board held an open meeting on April 8th, 2024, at the Porterville Veterans Memorial Building. Discussion ensued.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES – President Kisling opened the discussion regarding the FWA Board and asked if someone would like to serve as the director on the FWA board. Discussion ensued.

M/S/U, Demetriff, Noble—Nominated Mark Merritt to serve as the Director on the FWA Board. The other SID Board members will be listed as alternates to the FWA Board.

AYE: Kisling, E. Merritt Demetriff, M. Merritt & Noble

NAY: None

ABSENT: None.

BANKING POLICY – The Manager reported the next step would be to do the EIR study. Discussion ensued.

EIR STUDY FOR GROUNDWATER BANKING POLICY PROGRAM – The Manager reviewed the Porterville ID proposal for the EIR study along with the email cover page stating the cost would be less for SID and would take about one year to complete. The Manager stated a lot of the work has already been done and just needs to be compiled into a report.

M/S/U, Noble, Demetriff – to accept the proposal from Provost & Pritchard to start working on the Groundwater Banking Policy Program and the Environmental Impact Report for SID.

AYE: Kisling, E. Merritt Demetriff, M. Merritt & Noble

NAY: None

ABSENT: None.

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION [Government Code Section 54956.9] (3 Case)

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION: [Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 4956.9(d)(2)(4)] Number of Potential Cases: One Approval of San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Joint Defense Agreement.

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION (Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9) Friant Water Authority v. Eastern Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agency Tulare County Superior Court Case No. VCU306343.

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION (Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9) Setton Pistachio of Terra Bella, Inc. v. Saucelito Irrigation District Tulare County Superior Court Case No. VCU301700.

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

CLOSED SESSION – The Board adjourned to a closed session at 11:09 am.

CLOSED SESSION ITEMS- The Board returned from a Closed Session at 11:28 am. President Kisling stated there was no reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT

President Kisling adjourned the meeting at 11:34 am.

Diane M. Ennis, Secretary