

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
HILLS VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT

March 13, 2025

Visalia, California

CALL TO ORDER

Secretary Keller called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m. with the following in attendance: Directors Archer and Rinaldi. Also in attendance were Tracy Jones, Engineer-Secretary Dennis Keller, Engineer Nick Keller and Recording Secretary Carol Johnstone. In attendance by ZOOM were Paul Adams, Drew Ketelsen and Tom Mulholland.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Secretary asked the Directors if there were any potential conflicts of interest to be declared and none were offered.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Secretary asked if there were any comments to be presented during this portion of the Agenda and none were offered.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO THE Agenda

The Secretary asked if there were any additional items to be considered for addition to the Agenda and none were offered.

WATER SUPPLY AND OPERATIONAL ISSUES

2024-2025 Water Supply Issues, Schedule, Disposition and Sale/Exchange/Carryover Options

Engineer Nick Keller reviewed with the Board the 2024-2025 Water Summary. He noted that the District delivered 5,838 AF with a carryover quantity of 170.96 AF. The USBR allowable quantity of Class 1 water carryover water of ten percent has been exchanged with LSID.

Engineer Nick Keller reviewed with the Board that for the 2025-2026 water year, the Class 1 water declaration is currently at forty-five percent, however, with the last rain, this percentage will likely increase.

Engineer Dennis Keller reported that DOGE fired all seven crew members at the Tracy Pumping Plant due to their probationary status. Without the fish recovery team working to salvage endangered fish, the pumping quantity can be reduced or turned off compromising the water supply.

Delta Conveyance Program-Bond Financing

Engineer Keller reported that the Department of Water Resources has moved to validate the Delta Tunnel Project in order to put funds in place. This will allow the State to sell bonds to pay for defined elements of the Project.

AUDITORS REVIEW/AUDIT STATUS

Audit Report – 2013 Audit Report Handout

Secretary Keller handed out to the Board the Final 2013 Audit copies that had been approved at the previous Board meeting.

Audit Report – 2014 Audit Report Status

Secretary Keller reported to the Board that Moss Adams plans to start completion of the 2014 audit by the end of May. He reported that Moss Adams has asked for a couple of items to complete the 2014 audit and staff is in the process of furnishing the requested data.

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Treasurer's Report

The Secretary noted that the current Financial Report had been included in the Board meeting packet. Review of the document, covering the period February 13, 2025, through March 13, 2025, occurred. Following review, it was moved by Director Archer to accept the Financial Report and to authorize the payment of bills. The motion was seconded by Director Rinaldi and was carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Insurance-Binding

Secretary Keller reported that the liability insurance policy had been renewed with \$252.16 still due, said amount being included in the current accounts payable. The amount was changed as the final bill was for more than the budget amount.

Web Site Contract

Secretary Keller reported to the Board that the Streamline contract had been reviewed and signed. The \$500.00 included in the accounts payable is for the website development. He also reported that the judge for the Fresno County Grand Jury has been sent a letter reporting contracting for a ADA compliant website.

USBR Accounting Issues

Engineer Nick Keller reported to the Board that the USBR Accounting Department has sent out a request for bank information for wire transfer of the approximately \$231,000 which is currently on deposit with the USBR. The funds should be received by the end of March.

USBR Staff Changes

Engineer Keller reported that Michael Jackson has left the USBR and Rain Emmerson is the interim head of the Fresno USBR office. He reported there will be many issues that will come up due to staff turnover.

FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY

Capacity Correction Status

Engineer Keller reported Teapot Dome WD and Saucelito ID are meeting with the Friant Water Authority and their engineer to reach an agreement on the pumping stations for both districts.

Capacity Correction Status

Engineer Keller reported that the discussion between the Friant Water Authority and the USBR indicates there is little chance there will be a single call for funds. It is likely that the differential will be amortized and contracts offered by the USBR.

CLOSED SESSION – CANCELED

Closed Session was cancelled due to the lack of attorney availability.

Water Supply Exchange Negotiations

Engineer Keller noted that due to lack of an attorney he would continue Open Session and discuss a Closed Session item to the extent allowed. A Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District (SWID) draft exchange agreement with the District was reviewed with the Board. The review included the terms of the agreement, being for 15 years, with the ability to terminate and also the ability to re-up. The purpose of the agreement is to allow the District to convey water made available under the west-side contract with the USBR with another federal Contractor. The Agreement allows for up to 30,000 AF of Cross Valley Canal supply to be for exchange. This would give SWID the capability to use the District's Cross Valley Canal capacity and they could recover recaptured San Joaquin River water that they have no way of currently moving for their use. Engineer Nick Keller indicated the Cross Valley Canal water would most likely move each fall for exchange the next year. It was reported SWID approved the contract on the Tuesday prior to the Board meeting. Also indicated to the Board was the dual representation by Alan Doud for the parties.

A motion was made by Director Rinaldi to authorize entering into the Agreement once pending legal review and authority to initiate work in compliance with CEQA/NEPA to cover the exchange. The motion was seconded by Director Archer and was carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no more items to address, the Secretary adjourned the meeting at 1:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dennis R. Keller, Secretary