

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
RICHVALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT
HELD ON THURSDAY JANUARY 18, 2024**

The Regular meeting of the Richvale Irrigation District was called to order at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 18, 2024, by President Job. All Directors were present except Director Sheppard. Also present were District's General Manager Sean Earley, District's treasurer Andy Stone, and Legal Counsel Dustin Cooper.

The Board next considered adoption of the December 21, 2023, special meeting. Upon a motion by Director Meyer seconded by President Job the Board unanimously adopted the minutes as presented.

President Job allowed the opportunity for public comment on items within the subject matter jurisdiction of Richvale Irrigation District that do not appear on the Agenda. No such comments were offered.

The Treasurer's report was offered by Andy Stone. Mr. Stone introduced the topic of payment of the bills. The District's beginning balance in the General Account was \$499,480.82. During the month of December 2023 there were disbursements of \$148,155.16, including payroll disbursements of \$72,905.12, payroll taxes of \$4,649.51 and bank charges of \$31.95. Cash Receipts during December were \$182,212.45, and the District's ending balance in the General Account at the end of December 2023 was \$533,538.11. Mr. Earley reported that the cold water payment was received in the amount around \$300,000 for the 2021 year and that will be distributed to impacted landowners soon. President Job observed that it appears net income for 2023 will likely be negative \$487,000 and Mr. Earley reported that that is in large part due to the grant that still has not been reimbursed to the District and for the unforecasted expense for the siphon rebuild. After further discussion with question and answer a motion was made by Director Meyer seconded by President Job and unanimously carried to accept the treasurers report and authorize the payment of the bills.

Mr. Earley provided a report on the Joint Water Districts meeting. The Joint Districts nominated the new President and Vice President and Director Meyer was selected for Joint Water District Board President and Dominic Nevis was selected for the Joint Water Districts Vice President. Oroville operations were discussed along with joint work including finishing up improvements and repair work to A Joint that affects Sutter Extension Water District and Butte Water District. The Districts decided to shutoff the Sutter Butte canal on the 22nd of January. The proposed engineering tasks were approved subject to Biggs West Gridley Water Districts concurrent which was expected at a meeting to occur after the Joint Districts meeting. Finally, the managers discussed and approved the proposed 2024 budget of the Joint Water Districts Board.

Turning to a managers and hydrology report, Mr. Earley reported that Lake Oroville is still in very good shape at 2.45 million acre feet storage. Participation is below average at 66%. There is less snowpack, however, there are warmer storms in the forecast.

Mr. Cooper did not offer an Attorney's report.

Turning to items of business, Mr. Earley provided an update on the Proposition 218 Water Rate increase reporting that Counsel and Staff are working on a notice to send to landowners that will then start the minimum 45 day waiting period.

The Board next considered the proposed 2024 budget. Mr. Earley walked the Board through the proposal. There is an increase in revenue to anticipate an expected rate change. Mr. Earley is hoping to replenish the Districts reserves over the next few years. Director Meyer questioned why the difference between the two budgets and Mr. Earley answered that that is showing to the Board the potential budget with revenue increase in the event it passes and then a potential budget without a rate increase. The two budgets also show which expenses would be reduced in the event that rates are not increased. After further discussion with question and answer the Board ultimately decided to table this matter for future consideration and opportunity for Director Sheppard to participate.

The Board next received an update from Mr. Earley on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Efforts continue to revolve around the cost sharing amendment and the managers and various GSAs are still working on that.

The Board next considered an Employee Floating Holiday Policy. Mr. Earley reported on the development of the proposal including a desire to cap the maximum floating holiday and pay out on a more regular basis. Mr. Earley's proposal is to cap floating holidays at 88 hours and then pay for each hour earned after that. This would be a onetime payment by the District to employees who have over 88 hours but there would not be any financial impact of any significance beyond that initial payment.

The Board next discussed an increase in the interest penalty charge for the late payment of water. Mr. Earley reported that many landowners don't pay their water bills until the following year. Currently they are accruing interest at 1.5%. Upon a motion by Director Meyer seconded by President Job, the Board unanimously agreed to increase the late penalty to 2% per month until paid and that amount will compound monthly.

Turning to items 9(f) and 9(g), the Board considered Nomination and Election of Richvale Irrigation District President and Vice President. Upon a motion by Director Meyer second by President Job, the Board unanimously moved to maintain the same slate of President Job and Vice President Meyer.

At the request of President Job, the Board considered financial support to Greg Fischer for Helena Fischer Medical and Funereal expenses. Helena assisted the District for a number of years and has been in the hospital for over 60 days and doesn't have insurance. Mr. Cooper observed that while this is a worthy item and does not want to diminish Ms. Fischer's need for financial support, nonetheless, Mr. Cooper offered the opinion that this is not an appropriate use of public funds and given that advice the Board tabled the matter without any action.

The Board next considered the date for the Richvale Irrigation District Landowner meeting and after discussion the Board settled on a special meeting for March 21st, 2024, beginning at 8:00 a.m. to be followed by the Landowner meeting.


Lastly the Board considered a policy change regarding secondary meters. Mr. Earley reported that it is very important that meters in the secondary area be maintained. This is a requirement of SBX7-7 and also necessary to ensure delivery of Butte Water District water that is purchased by the secondary landowners. Mr. Earley is proposing a policy that would require the meters to be refurbished and recalibrated each year or upgraded to electric meters that would not require such frequent maintenance. After discussion with question and answer a motion was made by Director Meyer seconded by President Job and unanimously carried to adopt the proposed policy change.

The Board adjourned into closed session at 2:41 p.m. and reconvened into open session at 3:16 p.m. President Job announced that direction was given to Legal Counsel and Real Property Negotiators.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHVALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

By: 
SEAN EARLEY, Secretary/General Manager

Attest a true record of proceedings had and taken at the foregoing meeting, our presence thereat and our consent thereto.



