

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
RICHVALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT
HELD ON THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2024**

The Regular meeting of the Richvale Irrigation District was called to order at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 15, 2024, by President Job. All Directors were present. 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 January 18, 2024, regular meeting. Upon a motion by Director Meyer seconded by Director Sheppard 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 \$533,538.11. During the month of January 2024 there were disbursements of \$728,777.16, including payroll disbursements of \$48,636.27, payroll taxes of \$3,939.05 and bank charges of \$31.95. Cash Receipts during January were \$56,006.34, and the District's ending balance in the General Account at the end of January 2024 was \$166,114.22. President Job questioned Mr. Earley on the local agency investment fund line item for reclamation for the Vance Avenue Pit 1 and Pit 2 Mine Sites and Mr. Earley responded that this is a reclamation obligation and will continue for so long as the Mine is an active operation. Director Meyer observed a continued concern with 2/3 of the cold water revenue are going towards expenses and are only distributing about 1/3 of cold water impacts to affected landowners and Mr. Earley reported that he continues to try to reduce those costs. After further discussion with question and answer a motion was made by Director Meyer seconded by Director Sheppard and unanimously carried to accept the treasurers report and authorize payment of the bills.

Mr. Earley provided an update on the Joint Water Districts Board meeting. Tito Cervantes of DWR attended as well as his team in the Northern Region Office of DWR. The Joint Districts discussed operations at Lake Oroville. Mr. Earley reported that Mitch Renfree, the Joint Districts Manager received a deprecation permit to remove beavers from a location within the Joint Districts. The Board received an update on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. All other matters will be covered later in the Richvale Irrigation District closed session items.

Turning to the Manager's report, Mr. Earley commented on Oroville storage and that of other reservoirs throughout the state all are average or above average for the most part. Mr. Earley also updated the Board on the February 1, Bulletin 120 update which would suggest that the Districts will not be drought reduced.

Mr. Cooper offered an Attorney's report updating the Board on the Governor's office release of the Salmon strategy.

Turning to other business, the Board received a Proposition 218 water rate increase update from Mr. Earley. Notices have been sent out to all effected landowners and thus far the District has not received any protests or really any inquiries concerning the proposed rate change.

The Board next received an update on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Mr. Earley reported that the manager group has approved a concept the second amendment to the corporation agreement to identify how cost sharing will occur for the foreseeable future amongst the GSAs. Mr. Earley also reported that he was included in a committee on the corrective actions that were suggested by DWR in their approval of the plan.

Mr. Earley reported on a proposed online water application process. Staff is looking to make the application process easier for affected landowners. After discussion with question and answer, the Board provided direction to Mr. Earley to move forward with the concept including working with Minasian Law to prepare a form for landowners to sign, authorizing tenants to execute the application on the landowner's behalf.


The Board next considered an employee floating holiday policy. The language in the agenda was drafted by legal counsel. Mr. Earley has expressed a concern that certain employees are banking hours at a lower hourly rate than a future pay out, and if the policy were to be implemented the District would pay out all affected employees that have an excess of 88 hours in floating holiday occurred. The payout would be around \$10,000. After further discussion with question and answer a motion was made by Director Sheppard seconded by Director Meyer and unanimously carried to authorize the new employee handbook language and to authorize the payment to the two effected employees in the approximate amount of \$10,000.

There being no further open session business the meeting was adjourned into closed session at 2:49 p.m. and reconvened into open session at 3:09 p.m. President Job announced that direction was Legal Counsel and Real Property Negotiators.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 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.

