

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
RICHVALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
HELD ON THURSDAY DECEMBER 21, 2023**

The Regular meeting of the Richvale Irrigation District was called to order at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 21, 2023, by President Job. All Directors were present. Also present were District's General Manager Sean Earley, District's treasurer Andy Stone, Legal Counsel Dustin Cooper, Mitch Renfree, the new Joint Water Districts manager and Donnie Stinnett. Members of the public John Davids and Tommy Ostroski were present.

To accommodate Mitch Renfree and Donnie Stinnett the normal sequence of the meeting was adjusted to move up item 9(e), Consider Agreement and Contract with Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group. Mr. Stinnett introduced Mitch Renfree as the new Joint Water Districts Board General Manager. Mr. Stinnett then introduced the topic observing that the Joint District are considering engineering services for various projects to achieve 30% design engineering to then be eligible for grant applications and potential grant funding to complete these projects. Mr. Stinnett then walked through each of the projects under consideration and their value to the Joint Districts and specifically to Richvale Irrigation District. Mr. Stinnett observed that Butte Water District has already agreed to move forward with their respective share and that Biggs West Gridley Water District is going to consider the same at a future special meeting.

With Mr. Stinnett and Mr. Renfree in attendance, the Board also received a report on the Joint Water Districts Board meeting which was item 6 on the agenda. The Joint Districts discussed Oroville operations, the same P&P proposal. The Joint Districts adopted a resolution for bank and signature authority for Mr. Renfree. The Joint Districts approved 2 budget set asides which will be considered later by Richvale Irrigation District in this meeting. Director Meyer was reappointed as the Joint Districts NCWA representative. The Joint Districts discussed SGMA where the Butte subbasin and the Sutter subbasin discussed the same closed session items that will be discussed later in this meeting. Finally, the Joint Districts conducted a performance evaluation for Mr. Stinnett and authorized a one time \$5,000 performance bonus.

Again, to accommodate visitors, item 9(a), System Modernization Project Budget – Presentation by Davids Engineering was moved advanced in the agenda. Tommy Ostroski and John Davids walked through a prepared PowerPoint explaining the delays and implementation of the project and schedule and resulting impacts on cost. Davids Engineering Representatives then presented multiple different options to address cost sharing in this overage. After discussion with question and answer a motion was made by Director Meyer seconded by Director Sheppard and unanimously carried to accept alternative 3 and to memorialize the understanding that RID will pay not more than \$405,316 and Davids Engineering will hold all future invoices for work performed on the project beginning November 1, 2023 until the project is completed pursuant to the contract and specifications. Mr. Ostroski and Mr. Davids on behalf of Davids Engineering accepted and reported that there was no need to formalize this via contract amendment.

The Board next considered approval of the minutes from the November 13, 2023, special meeting. Upon a motion by Director Meyer seconded by Director Sheppard the Board unanimously adopted the minutes as presented.

President Job next allowed for opportunity for public comment on items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the 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 \$508,653.93. During the month of November 2023 there were disbursements of \$115,703.98, including payroll disbursements of \$45,269.81, payroll taxes of \$2,781.89 and bank charges of \$31.95. Cash Receipts during November were \$105,845.62, and the District's ending balance in the General Account at the end of November 2023 was \$499,480.82. Director Sheppard questioned how the financial statements will show how investment returns will come into the District revenue source and Mr. Earley walked through the new formatting of the financial reports to demonstrate investment return. After further discussion with question and answer a motion was made by Director Sheppard seconded by Director Meyer the Board unanimously accepted the treasurer's report and authorize the payment of the bills.

Mr. Earley provided a managers and hydrology report. Lake Oroville is at 2.3 million acre feet which is 66% of capacity. Thus far the participation season has been lackluster roughly about 50% of average. That means statewide we are less historical average in some key reservoirs, but others are at, or slightly above average given good carryover from last year.

Mr. Cooper provided an attorney's report updating the Board on the recent appointment of Eric Oppenheimer to the role of State Water Resource Control Board Executive Director. Mr. Cooper also reported on the Sites Reservoir CEQA lawsuit that was filed by a host of environmental groups.

Returning to other business, the Board received a report on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Mr. Earley reported that there continues to be discussions on the cost sharing approach. Mr. Earley thought there was consensus on the equal split for just one year and then the GSAs revisit that approach in 2025, however, some GSAs are proposing an equal split for 5 years and then revisit after that date. Further discussions are needed to figure out consensus.

The Board next considered the budget adoption for District's share of financial assurance set aside for reclamation of Vance Avenue Pit #1. A motion was made by Director Sheppard seconded by Director Meyer and unanimously carried to move approval of the budget adoption to comply with Richvale Irrigation Districts share of the financial assurance set aside for Vance Avenue Pit#1 approved by the Joint Water District Board Resolution 2023-4 in the amount of \$13,217.25 and to authorize the General Manager to place in the District's budget accordingly.

The Board next considered the budget adoption for District's share of financial assurance set aside for reclamation of Vance Avenue Pit #2. A motion was made by Director Sheppard seconded by Director Meyer and unanimously carried to move approval of the budget adoption to comply with Richvale Irrigation Districts share of the financial assurance set aside for Vance Avenue Pit#2 approved by the Joint Water District Board Resolution 2023-5 in the amount of \$1,437.75 and to authorize the General Manager to place in the District's budget accordingly.

The Board returned to the item of Contract with Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group. That item was already introduced by Mr. Stinnett and Mr. Renfree. A motion was made by Director Sheppard seconded by Director Meyer and unanimously carried to authorize moving forward with the contract with Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group for the Districts share not to exceed \$60,775.47.

The Board next considered the Farm Bureau 2024 lease renewal. Mr. Earley reported on an increase in the rent and that the Farm Bureau is nearing breaking ground on a new facility in Durham. Director Sheppard voiced his desire to abstain from discussion and voting on this item. Consequently, a motion was made by Director Meyer seconded by President Job and carried on a vote of 2 ayes and 1 abstain to authorize execution of the 2024 lease renewal.

The Board next considered donation to the California Farm Water Coalition. Mr. Earley has reported that the District has donated around \$250.00 in the past. A motion was made by Director Meyer seconded by Director Sheppard and unanimously carried donate \$250.00 to the California Farm Water Coalition.

The Board next considered the Draft Proposition 2018 cost of service report prepared by Davids Engineering. Mr. Earley reminded the Board that the proposed figures in the cost of service report are maximums are that the Board of Directors always has discretion to set the rate below those maximums. Mr. Cooper also outlined the legal process should the Board wish to pursue a proposed rate change. The Board engaged in question and answer including setting a future public hearing on March 21, 2024, and the period in advance of that when notices and other supporting documents would need to be sent out. After further discussion with question and answer a motion was made by Director Sheppard seconded by Director Meyer and unanimously carried to receive and file the engineers report and to provide direction to District staff and District counsel to begin that Proposition 218 process by issuing notices to affected landowners.

The Board adjourned into closed session at 3:37 p.m. and reconvened into open session at 4:13 p.m. President Job announced that direction was given to Legal Counsel and Real Property Negotiators and a performance evaluation was conducted for all District employees.

In open session the Board than discussed potential changes in compensation for the General Manager and a motion was made by Director Meyer seconded by Director Sheppard and unanimously carried approved to accept the General Manager's recommended increase to all District employees as set forth in the Agenda Packet including one time bonuses for those employees. For the General Manager, a 6% increase in salary and \$25,000 onetime performance bonus.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 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.

  
  
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