

**Minutes of Meeting
Held
August 21, 2023**

President Amaro called the meeting of the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Board of Directors to order at 9:00 a.m. with the flag salute. The meeting was held at the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Board Room, 344 East Laurel Street, Willows, California.

Present:

John Amaro, President, Division 2
Logan Dennis, Vice-President, Division 3
Peter Knight, Director, Division 1
Donald R. Bransford, President, Division 4
Blake Vann, Director, Division 5

Absent:

None.

Staff Present:

Thaddeus L. Bettner, General Manager
Greg Krzys, Assistant General Manager
Kayla Mendonca, Executive Assistant
Louis Jarvis, Finance Director
Karen Alves, Administrative Services Manager
Jeremy Richardson, Maintenance Superintendent
Ed Henderson, Water Operations Superintendent
Jake Hancock, Assistant Water Operations Superintendent
Chris Privitera, Associate Engineer
Andy Hitchings, Somach Simmons & Dunn
Ali Stevens, Somach Simmons & Dunn (via teleconference)

Others Present:

Larry Mandelberg, Facilitator
Tara Bravo Mulally, CV Strategies (via teleconference)
Courtney Hamilton, CV Strategies (via teleconference)
Sam Rivera, Water Supervisor (via teleconference)
Shasta Banchio, Associate Engineer (via teleconference)
Tomas Loera, Engineering Technician (via teleconference)
Seth Fiack, Water User
Sid LaGrande, Water User
John Cecil, Water User
Mike Lux, Water User
Rob Shadley, Water User
Lane Davis, Water User
Sarah Reynolds, Water User (via teleconference)

Public Participation

Water User Sid LaGrande addressed the Board regarding concerns about management and the treatment of Water Operators. He would like to see greater transparency. He asked questions about why landowners are not allowed to make gate adjustments, is concerned Water

Operators will not have the time to make all the adjustments needed, is concerned about the treatment and turnover rate of water operations staff, and is concerned about new Water Operators not knowing how to operate their areas as there is a learning curve. Largely he feels there is a disconnect between management and Water Operators.

Water User Lane Davis expressed similar concerns as Mr. LaGrande explaining that he feels Water Operators are being sent out to areas with little training or support from management. Feels management should be out in the field with the new Water Operators but instead is spending his own time teaching water operators about his area(s). He said this is the first time in years that there has been water successfully conveyed to the lower end of the District. Former Water Operations Superintendent Pat Kennedy used to drive the canal each morning to look for issues, but nobody does that any longer. He also brought up issues about moss and scum clogging up gates.

Water User Rob Shadley explained that he has a hard time getting ahold of management staff when he has issues in his area. He has experienced some issues this year and believes it is due to new Water Operators lacking experience and believes the current schedule for Water Operators isn't working. He also touched on the scum issue and suggesting water users have the ability to open gates to flush out moss.

Water User Seth Fiack explained that he has had a fantastic water season and feels his water operators have been fantastic, with some issues but nothing that couldn't be resolved. He said after talking to his Water Operators, morale is poor because Water Operators are uncertain of what to do. He feels the change that has been happening in the District is too great and happening too quickly.

He also asked how voting is weighted in the District; is it by APN or entity? Director Bransford explained that Directors used to be elected by residence in the District whether they owned land or not. The District went to Chris Chandler to carry legislation to change voting and there were options for weighted voting by acres owned. Opposition came from Family Water Alliance who said they would oppose that, so the voting ended up by entity. The only way to get that changed is to bring legislation again.

CONSENT AGENDA

Authorize Payment of Claims

Director Dennis moved to approve the payment of claims #23 10268 through #23 10285, and #23 13312 through #23 13412, in the amount of Two Million, One Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand, Two Hundred Two Dollars and Seventy-Five Cents (\$2,167,202.75) and approve the June 24, 2023, meeting minutes. Director Knight seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Directors Amaro, Bransford, Dennis, Knight and Vann

BUSINESS ITEMS

Review and Consider Approval of Declaring Certain District Equipment as Surplus and Authorize Disposal

Maintenance Superintendent Richardson reported that once a year after all budgeted equipment has been purchased the District reviews its inventory and declares certain equipment, that is no longer needed by the District, as surplus. District staff is requesting approval to dispose of surplus equipment through either public auction or individual sale. The

individual sale request is for the 2008 Cat Long-Reach Excavator, which will be advertised on the District website as well as other channels. If a fair price cannot be negotiated, the excavator will be sold at a future auction.

Director Bransford moved to approve declaring certain District equipment as surplus and authorized disposal. Director Vann seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Directors Amaro, Bransford, Knight, Vann and Dennis

Review and Consider Setting Water Rates for Rice Decomposition and Habitat Uses

Finance Director Jarvis explained that staff anticipates being able to deliver water for rice decomposition and habitat uses as requested by water users through the start of the winter maintenance shutdown period. At this time, Term 91 curtailment is not anticipated to impact District diversions during the period that the District diverts water under its winter water permit.

It is typical for the water rate for rice decomposition and habitat uses to be the same as for crops irrigation during the irrigation season (Currently \$8.62 per acre-foot). However, at the Board meeting held on November 17, 2022, the Board determined to set the winter water rate during 2022 at \$5 per acre-foot to encourage usage for groundwater recharge and wildlife habitat.

There is no applicable deadline for water applications for winter water. Water users may apply whenever they like. Maintenance projects may limit the ability to deliver water to certain parts of the District. Staff will ensure that applications for winter water are not accepted for parcels where maintenance projects will not allow for deliveries and will also work to deliver winter water to potentially impacted parcels either before maintenance projects begin or after they conclude, if possible.

Director Bransford mentioned that this year there would be virtually no rice straw bailing, and because of this, many more rice growers will likely need decomposition water.

Director Bransford moved to set the water rates for rice decomposition and habitat use for \$5 per acre-foot. Director Knight seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Directors Amaro, Bransford, Knight, Vann and Dennis

Review and Consider Authorizing Purchase of Service Truck

Finance Director Jarvis reported that \$50,000 was included in the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget for the purchase of a 1-ton service truck with a service body. During the mid-year budget review process, the \$50,000 was removed from the budget as staff was unable to order a new truck through the state fleet vehicle contract and regional dealerships had no suitable trucks on their lots.

Staff recently became aware of a new (model year 2022) ¾-ton truck with a service body from a regional dealership for \$49,000 plus taxes and fees. This vehicle meets the District's needs and staff requests authorization to purchase the vehicle.

Director Bransford moved to authorize the purchase of the service truck. Director Dennis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Directors Amaro, Bransford, Knight, Vann and Dennis

Review and Consider Approval of the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Pump Station Electrical Control Building Bid Proposal

Assistant General Manager Krzys reported that this item was presented at the July 24, 2023, Board meeting where the Board requested that staff gather additional information on both companies whose bids were being considered, due to the similarity in bid figures.

Since the July 24 Board meeting, staff researched as requested and still recommend moving forward with Koch & Koch, and Jacobs Engineering, to perform the work and construction management for the Pump Station Electrical Control Room.

Director Dennis moved to approve the bid proposal from Koch & Koch and Jacobs Engineering. Director Bransford seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Directors Amaro, Bransford, Knight, Vann and Dennis

ADMINISTRATION

Department Reports

Water Operations Superintendent Henderson and Assistant Water Operations Superintendent Hancock provided a brief report explaining that the Water Department is continuing to measure. They also reported on the 2023 GCID projected and actual water use, reporting that water usage is tracking on schedule.

Maintenance Superintendent Richardson reported that, as mentioned during public participation, the scum and moss issues have been widespread throughout the District and exceptionally bad this year. Nutrien Ag Solutions provided 12 gallons of a new product called PWC-1 for the District to test on one of its laterals, 24-1. This product is a microorganism that is said to consume the moss and scum, and should remain living in the applied area for years to come as long as there is water available. After approximately 10 days, the District should begin to see a significant reduction in moss and scum.

Lastly, Maintenance Superintendent Richardson provided a report on a private drain issue with a landowner. The Board discussed a few options and asked staff to do more research and bring the issue back to the Board for further discussion and consideration.

Associate Engineer Chris Privitera reported that, since District Engineer Dickens resignation, the Engineering Department has been focused on prioritizing their task load and delegating tasks to various staff.

Treasurer's Report

Finance Director Jarvis reviewed the Treasurer's Report, Financial Report, and Damage Claims Report for the month of July.

Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 10:31 a.m. to discuss Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation, Existing Litigation, Labor Negotiations, and Performance Evaluations:

- A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Potential Initiation of Litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of Subdivision (d) of Gov. Code sec. 54956.9: Two Potential Cases
- B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Gov. Code sec. 54956.9) Name of Cases:
 - i. *PCFFA v. Raimondo* (USDC E.D. Cal. Case No. 1:20-cv-00431-JLT-EPG);
 - ii. *CNRA v. Raimondo* (USDC E.D. Cal. Case No. 1:20-cv-00426-JLT-EPG) [2019 BiOps Lawsuits];
- C. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS
(Government Code Section 54957.6)
Agency Designated Representatives: Donald Bransford; Peter Knight; Louis Jarvis; Karen Alves
Employee Organization: UPEC 792
- D. Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release pursuant to Gov. Code section 54957(b)
- E. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
(Government Code Section 54957)
Title: General Manager

The Board reconvened to open session at 1:58 p.m.

President Amaro reported that the Board met in Closed Session, pursuant to paragraph (4) of Subdivision (d) of Gov. Code sec. 54956.9, during which the Board heard updates on *Anticipated Litigation*, and took no action.

President Amaro reported that the Board met in Closed Session, pursuant to Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Gov. Code sec. 54956.9, during which the Board heard updates on *Existing Litigation* and took no action.

President Amaro reported that the Board met in Closed Session, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6, Conference with Labor Negotiators, where the Board heard an update and provided direction to staff.

President Amaro reported that the Board met in Closed Session, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b), where the Board heard an update and took no action.

President Amaro reported that the Board met in Closed Session, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957, Public Employee Performance Evaluation, during which the Board took no reportable action.

Review and Consider Approval of Compensation for General Manager

This item was tabled.

Discuss and Consider GCID Board of Directors Governance Issues including Board Member Roles and Responsibilities, Board Goals, Board Committees, and Related Matters

This item was tabled.


The meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Thaddeus L. Bettner
Secretary

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


Donald R. Bransford
Peter Knight
John Amaro
Logan Dennis
Blake Vann