

**Minutes of Meeting
Held
September 7, 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, Director, Division 4
Blake Vann, Director, Division 5 (via teleconference pursuant to AB 2449)

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:

Tara Bravo Mulally, CV Strategies (via teleconference)
Shasta Banchio, Associate Engineer (via teleconference)
Tomas Loera, Engineering Technician (via teleconference)
Sid LaGrande, Water User
Rob Shadley, Water User
Lane Davis, Water User
Sarah Reynolds, Water User (via teleconference)
Jamie Traynum, Water User (via teleconference)

Public Participation

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Authorize Payment of Claims

Director Dennis moved to approve the payment of claims #23 10290 through #23 10294, and #23 13413 through #23 13470, in the amount of Five Hundred Seventy-Six Thousand, Fifty-Five Dollars and Seven Cents (\$576,055.07) and approve the August 21, 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

Staff Response to Public Comment from August 21, 2023 Board Meeting

Water Operations Superintendent Ed Henderson reviewed his written responses to the Public Comment from August 21, 2023. In response to a comment that all gates on laterals throughout the District were going to be locked, he explained it is not, nor has it ever been, GCID's policy to lock up all the gates within the District. GCID has stated to its Water Operators, at numerous meetings, that the Water Operators will be operating the gates everywhere within the District, not the growers or their irrigators. The Water Operators have also been instructed that if there is a situation where a grower needs to operate a gate, they can let the grower proceed but a Supervisor must be notified. Enforcing the rule of Water Operators operating gates is a significant part of our measurement program. We cannot accurately measure what we do not operate. Certain Main Canal gates have been locked up to ensure the efficient delivery of water down to the bottom end of the District.

He then responded to the statement that the District cannot operate without allowing growers to operate their gates because Water Operators do not have enough time to make it to all the gates every day. Mr. Henderson explained that the District will in fact operate more efficiently when only the Water Operators are adjusting the gates. In this scenario, the water delivery timing is on the Operator so that less water is spilled out the bottom of the conveyance system and water levels are maintained. When growers operate gates prior to requesting or notifying (or never informing) the Water Operator, there is a loss of water level control on the lateral that impacts all other deliveries. This creates situations where the Operator must stop what they are doing, travel to the changed gate to pull or drop boards, and/or make other adjustments to keep the canal level. At times this has impacted the Main Canal and downstream deliveries. GCID is enforcing these rules with "rigid flexibility", meaning that if a grower has a circumstance where a gate cannot be manipulated by the Operator, the grower will be allowed to make the adjustment. When this happens, the Operator and grower need to agree on how to work the adjustment and a Supervisor must be made aware beforehand.

There was another question asked at the previous Board meeting about why management changed water policy mid growing season. Mr. Henderson explained that no changes to policy were made. He added that consistent application of existing management rules and regulations are being implemented.

The next question addressed was whether growers need to wait for Water Operators to unplug their gates. Mr. Henderson explained that it has been stressed to the Water Operators to flush any gates clogged with debris during their first morning trip around their area. Growers are authorized to flush an outlet themselves and return their gate to its pre-flush level.

Lastly, a Water User mentioned that this is the first time in years that water has made its way to the bottom of the District in a timely fashion and this was due to one employee. Water Operations Superintendent Henderson explained that the GCID Water Department did an excellent job this year of moving water to where it was needed, as it was needed. Many factors contribute to this effort including timing, rain events, dry/wet fields, etc. The two most important components were an overall team effort by dedicated employees to get the growers of GCID their needed water and consistent application of GCID Rules and Regulations

regarding delivery management. No one person accomplished this feat, it was truly a team effort.

Review and Consider Alternatives for Private Drain Siphon Under the GCID Main Canal at Mile Post +43.45

Maintenance Superintendent Richardson reported that, in February 2017, District staff discovered a failed drain siphon under the Main Canal at milepost 43.45 where water was leaking out of the canal into the failed drainpipe, then flowing easterly in the drain. Given the short amount of time during the maintenance season, District staff removed the siphon quickly so that frost water could be provided. On February 27, 2017, Engineering Department staff surveyed the existing 0.8 miles of drain located on the west side, paralleling the canal bank running south from MP-43.21 to MP-43.85 that would convey water to the south. After evaluating the results of the survey, it was concluded that the existing drain siphon located at milepost 43.85 would adequately convey field drain water. The private drain was cleaned with District equipment and personnel to remove any vegetation and sediment that could cause flow constraints. To date, no documentation has been identified to support when the failed siphon was installed and no easements are present or recorded.

The tenants (Mr. Sites and Mr. Vierra) of the adjacent land contacted District staff in March of 2022, with claims that the private drain was again full of vegetation and sediment and would not adequately convey drain water to the south, also citing when both growers were draining their fields in the fall of 2021 in preparation for harvest, the bottom checks in the fields that Vierra's farm were unable to drain due to elevated water levels. On March 21, 2022, the District Maintenance Superintendent met with Mr. Sites and Mr. Vierra to discuss the drainage issue and what the District could do to assist. GCID agreed to spray the vegetation and then remove sediment and tule remnants at no cost to the landowner or tenants with the understanding that any further maintenance is the sole responsibility of the landowners or tenants.

On May 23, 24, and 28, 2023, vegetation and sediment were removed by District equipment and personnel after being surveyed by District engineers. A laser level and receiver were used on the equipment to maintain a falling slope to the south. Once the District completed the drain cleaning, water was conveyed south to the drain siphon (milepost 43.85) with no impediments except for a landowner's private road crossing the drainage ditch with a partially collapsed and sedimented culvert. Therefore, the District staff indicated the District had no more obligations to maintain the private drain per the District's letter sent to the Sites' and the Vierra's in April 2022, and no obligation to maintain or repair their culverts.

On multiple occasions, District staff has inspected and photographed the drain functioning throughout the season. There was further discussion about the history of the structure that was removed, when it was thought to have been installed (no record), and who should bear the responsibility of putting the structure back in. The Board ultimately agreed that, in this instance, the District should install a new structure to replace the siphon that was removed in 2017, at no cost to the landowner or tenants. The approximate cost of the project, if performed by District staff, is \$50,000. The landowner will be responsible for maintaining the private drain.

Director Bransford moved to approve the installation of a new siphon to replace the siphon with District personnel and that the landowner will be responsible for maintaining their own private drain. Director Knight seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following vote:

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

Review and Consider Approval of Replacement Gate Hoists and Actuators for Willard Check
Water Operations Superintendent Henderson reported that Willard Check was constructed in the early 2000s and mechanical problems began about 10 years ago with the Rotork actuators. Around the middle of this water season, two of the three gates at Willard Check lost the ability to incrementally move down. Whenever staff attempt to lower either of the malfunctioning gates, they close completely. The District has had two companies inspect the gates and provide quotes and advice to rectify the issues. Motion Industries quoted cone-drive gear units for \$64,000. This option has a much larger footprint than the current units and would require extensive infrastructure modifications to install. Instream Water Control Projects provided a higher cost solution, but with minimal physical modifications which will ultimately save the District money and time as the cost to significantly modify or replace a structure is both costly and time-consuming.

Staff recommended ordering three replacement radial gate hoists and actuator drive units from Instream Water Control Projects at a cost of \$179,271. Murray McCaig with Instream Water Control Projects has worked with many water districts all over the world and came highly regarded by Kyle Feist with ITRC/Cal Poly.

Director Knight moved to approve the purchase of three replacement radial gate hoists and actuator drive units from Instream Water Control projects. Director Bransford seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following vote:

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

ADMINISTRATION

Department Reports

Maintenance

Maintenance Superintendent Richardson reported that the Maintenance Department has repaired damage to the conveyance system including holes and erosion, graded and sloped spoil material along the intake channel, sprayed and mowed along laterals and drains, built seven-foot precast headwalls, conducted private work for growers and landowners, and fabricated walkways for access to measurement sites. He also reported that the recent trial application of a new microorganism-based aquatics treatment proved to be unsuccessful in the test lateral where it was applied. Lastly, he reported that coordination continues on the modernization projects for Laterals 21-4 and 48-1.

Water

Water Operations Superintendent Henderson reported that the Main Canal is maintaining 750 cubic feet per second (cfs) with refuges taking approximately 111 cfs. He also provided a handout in the Board packet reflecting the District's estimated versus actual water use for the summer months.

Engineering

Associate Engineer Privitera reported that the Engineering Department has been working to complete modernization plan sets for Lateral 21-4 and Lateral 48-1. He also reported that the Ranch Weir project will be getting started soon. The Engineering Department is also working through new requests, purchasing new survey equipment and laptops, and coordinating with other departments on various activities.

Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 10:16 a.m. to discuss Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation, Existing Litigation, and Labor Negotiations:

- A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Potential Initiation of Litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of Subdivision (d) of Gov. Code sec. 54956.9: One Potential Case
- 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 LEGAL COUNSEL - ANITICPATED LITIGATION
Significant Exposure to Litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d) of Gov. Code sec. 54956.9: Three Potential Cases
- D. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS
(Government Code Section 54957.6)
Agency Designated Representatives: Donald Bransford; Peter Knight; Louis Jarvis; Karen Alves
Employee Organization: UPEC 792

The Board reconvened to open session at approximately 11:48 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 an update on *Anticipated Litigation*, and took no action.

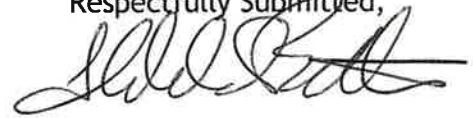
President Amaro reported that the Board met in Closed Session, pursuant to Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Gov. Code sec. 54956.9, during which the Board heard updates on *Existing Litigation* and took no action.

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 paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d) of Gov. Code sec. 54956.9, during which the Board heard updates on *Anticipated Litigation*, gave direction to counsel and took no reportable action.

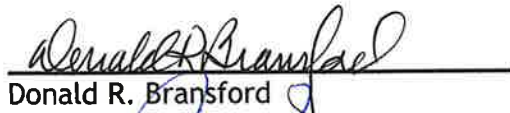
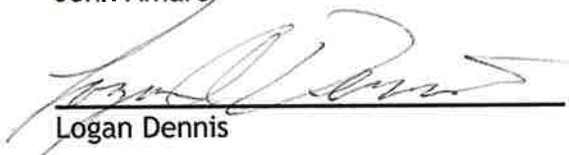
The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

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