

**Minutes of Meeting  
Held  
October 19, 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

**Absent:**

Blake Vann, Director, Division 5

**Staff Present:**

Greg Krzys, Interim 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 (via teleconference)  
Ali Stevens, Somach Simmons & Dunn

**Others Present:**

Courtney Hamilton, CV Strategies (via teleconference)  
Tomas Loera, Engineering Technician (via teleconference)

**Public Participation**

None.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Authorize Payment of Claims

Director Knight moved to approve the payment of claims #23 13583 through #23 13649, and, in the amount of Five Hundred Sixty-Nine Thousand, Six Hundred Seventy-Eight Dollars and Eighty-Six Cents (\$569,678.86) and approve the October 5, 2023, meeting minutes. Director Dennis seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Directors Amaro, Bransford, Dennis and Knight

Absent: Director Vann

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

Review and Consider Potential Need for an Increase in Water Rates for the 2024 and 2025 Water Years, and Provide Direction to Staff

Finance Director Jarvis reported that Proposition 218 was passed by voters in 1996 and added Article XIII D (Assessment and Property-Related Fee Reform) to the California Constitution. The District's rates that it charges for irrigation water service are considered 'Property-related charges' under the terms of Article XIII D and changes to the District's water rates must comply with both the substantive and procedural requirements for 'property-related charges' identified in Article XIII D.

The District last undertook the process required for increasing water rates in 2020. During that process, the District proposed up to 5% increases to water rates for both 2020 and 2021. The District satisfied the requirements of Article XIII D and imposed the rate increases in both those years. The water rates were unchanged for 2022 and 2023, and to increase water rates above their current level, the District must again comply with the requirements of Article XIII D.

The District's recurring expenses exceed the District's recurring revenues by a substantial margin. Though the District will start Fiscal Year 2023-24 with significant reserves, absent action to increase water rates, it is likely that the recurring deficit will grow larger, and when combined with the capital expenses planned for the next several years, reserves will quickly be reduced below a prudent level. Also, water rate increases much larger than those proposed will be necessary in future years.

Finance Director Jarvis prepared a draft Cost of Service report that supports a decision to impose a water rate increase up to 5% above the current maximum for 2024 and up to 10% above the current maximum for 2025. The Cost of Service report also addresses the substantive requirements of Article XIII D. One of those requirements is that revenues from the proposed water rates shall not exceed the funds required to provide the service. The report summarizes how this requirement is met and also underscores the need to increase water rates.

The Board currently has one meeting scheduled for December 7, 2023. Article XIII D requires that the public hearing be held a minimum of 45 days after the distribution of the public notice materials. If the public notice materials are distributed on December 11, 2023, the public hearing could be held on January 25<sup>th</sup> or thereafter, potentially at the regularly scheduled February 1, 2024 Board meeting.

Conducting the process to comply with Article XIII D for an increase to water rates and the lack of majority protest only results in the Board being provided the authority to impose a water rate increase. Typically, during February or March each year, the Board separately considers whether to actually impose any authorized increase to the water rates (up to the maximum rates approved during the Proposition 218 process).

Additionally, during this past July and August, staff held a series of four meetings with a group of landowners focused on the District's budget and the charges and rates paid by landowners. Staff intends to meet with the landowner group prior to finalizing the proposal and bring the group's feedback to the Board for consideration.

A 5% water rate increase yields approximately \$590,000 in additional revenue in a 100% water supply year and approximately \$680,000 in additional revenue in a Shasta Critical year based on the existing water rate structures.

Finance Director Jarvis added that the Cost of Service document has not yet been reviewed by the District's legal counsel, and Director Bransford asked for verbiage to be added explaining where/how the current reserves are being spent so that landowners have a better understanding.

The Board directed Finance Director Jarvis to continue the conversations with the 218 Landowner workgroup and have legal counsel review the current report detailing the cost of service.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### Department Reports

#### *Water Department*

Water Operations Superintendent Henderson reported that the Pump Station is currently pumping 900 cubic feet per second (cfs) and the water is mainly for refloods and duck clubs. He also reported that pump motor #7 is at Koffler for repair and pump motor #10 will be pulled in a couple of weeks for maintenance as well. He reported that a few supervisors are participating in the Professional Development Academy which includes approximately 3 months of leadership courses. He said the Water Department is planning for next year by developing operating procedures.

#### *Maintenance*

Maintenance Superintendent Richardson reported that the Ranch Weir project is progressing. The Lateral 21-4 modernization project was very positive and they received little-to-no complaints over the duration of the project. The District will likely aim to perform a similar lateral modernization project each year on a lateral primarily serving rice since the need for water is more predictable which makes it easier to plan the project and necessary delivery shutdown.

#### *Engineering*

Associate Engineer Privitera reported that the Engineering Department is performing site inspections and assisting with the County Road U culvert replacement project. He also reported that the District will be seeking external assistance with the private lateral easement acquisition process.

### Treasurer's Report

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

## **INFORMATION REPORTS**

### Board Member Reports

Director Knight reported that he attended the Corning Subbasin meeting where they conducted interviews for Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) process. After the interviews, they came up with a recommendation for the Board to consider at the next Corning Subbasin meeting. Director Knight said the whole GSP process is estimated to cost \$14 million to \$15 million.

Director Bransford reported that he participated in the Northern California Water Association (NCWA) Executive meeting where they discussed the budget. The NCWA Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2024, and they are going to try to have Senator Padilla as a speaker.

Also, the NCWA annual event at the Matchbook Winery is tonight at 4 p.m. and everyone is welcome.

#### Manager's Report

Interim General Manager Krzys reported that he is still coming up to speed on external matters.

#### Communication's Update

Courtney Hamilton from CV Strategies reported that they are working with staff on developing the November newsletter and also planning for November social media.

#### Attorney's Report

None.

#### Other Business

President Amaro reported that employees have expressed interest in having a holiday party for staff and their spouses as the District used to have many years ago. They have also expressed interest in starting up the family picnics again which used to happen in past years. The Board gave their blessing to plan both events.

#### Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 10:01 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 LABOR NEGOTIATORS  
(Government Code Section 54957.6)  
Agency Designated Representatives: Donald Bransford; Peter Knight; Louis Jarvis; Karen Alves  
Employee Organizations: UPEC 792
- D. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS  
(Government Code Section 54957.6)  
Agency Designated Representatives: Donald Bransford; Peter Knight; Louis Jarvis; Karen Alves  
Employee Organization: Office Unit
- E. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS  
(Government Code Section 54957.6)

The Board then reviewed a list of potential Consulting firms to assist with the General Manager recruitment efforts. After much discussion, Counsel Ali Stevens recommended sending a request to all firms on the list to gauge their interest, and request information such as the firm's success rate, where candidates were placed, and a budget. Based on their responses, the Board would then choose which firms they would like to interview. Once a firm is selected and a contract is awarded, the Board and the selected firm would work collectively to develop a final job description for the General Manager and the recruitment process would commence.

It was suggested that a Board Subcommittee be put in place to handle the development of the job description and to streamline the process. Directors Bransford and Vann were selected to serve as the subcommittee members.

The Board took a break for lunch at 11:53 a.m.

#### Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 12:16 p.m. to discuss the agendaized closed session items:

#### A. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

(Government Code Section 54957.6)

Agency Designated Representatives: Donald Bransford; Peter Knight

Unrepresented Employee: Interim General Manager

The Board reconvened to open session at approximately 1:06 p.m.

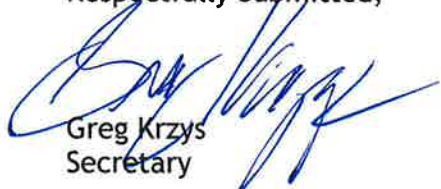
President Amaro reported that the Board met in Closed Session, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6, during which the Board gave direction to Counsel regarding the draft Interim General Manager designation letter agreement.

#### Other Business

None.

The meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Greg Krzys  
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




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Peter Knight



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Blake Vann



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John Amaro



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Logan Dennis