

**Minutes of Meeting
Held
June 20, 2024**

President Amaro called the meeting of the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Board of Directors to order at 9:04 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 agendized remote location)

Absent:

None.

Staff Present:

Jeffrey P. Sutton, General Manager
Greg Krzys, Assistant General Manager
Kayla Mendonca, Executive Assistant
Jeremy Richardson, Maintenance Superintendent
Ed Henderson, Water Operations Superintendent
Jake Hancock, Assistant Water Operations Superintendent
Chris Privitera, Interim District Engineer
Ali Stevens, Somach Simmons & Dunn (via teleconference)
Andy Hitchings, Somach Simmons & Dunn (via teleconference)

Others Present:

Kelly Ornbaun, Water User
John Cecil, Water User
Tim Sanchez, Water User
Mike Lux, Water User
Sid LaGrande, Water User
Rocky Sandoval, Water User
Rogelio Sandoval, Water User
Katie Chamberlin, Anchor QEA (via teleconference)
Robert Montgomery, Anchor QEA (via teleconference)

Public Participation

Water Users Rocky and Rogelio Sandoval addressed the Board regarding a private ditch that was recently damned by a neighboring landowner, impeding Sandoval's ability to receive water to his property. The Sandovals offered to clean the ditch for the owner of the private ditch, but the offer was rejected. Rogelio Sandoval applied for water through the district for his pasture, and plans to irrigate in September. He requested assistance in identifying a solution. Staff committed to gather more information and explore possible paths for resolution. There was mention of a possible prescriptive easement, which would solely be a remedy pursued by the landowner, without District involvement.

Water User Kelly Ornbau first thanked District staff for spraying various ditches. He then addressed the Board regarding private Lateral 54-1. He explained he purchased his farm in 2000 and stopped spraying the ditch in 2020. This year it overflowed into his fields because water was being conveyed down to 51-1 and then to Salt Creek. Mr. Ornbau would like to invite staff to revisit private Lateral 54-1 and try to obtain an easement agreement from all landowners along the lateral so that the District can take over operation and maintenance.

Water User Bob Keegan addressed the Board regarding a small 4-acre pasture off private Lateral 59-1C. He is having issues with communication with his Water Operators. He feels he is getting the runaround and has been trying to irrigate for 8 or 9 days. One Water Operator also said he would bring Mr. Keegan new boards but has not done so. He also noticed a neighbor had placed boards, taking the water that Mr. Keegan had ordered for himself. Water Operations Superintendent Ed Henderson described the operational issues on Mr. Keegan's stretch of 59-1C, explaining that it is so overgrown with weeds that there is a risk, and it has happened before, of water going into people's yards and dwellings. Mr. Keegan also reported that neighbors have drained their gray water and septic into the lateral as well. Staff asked for Mr. Keegan's contact information so that they can follow up on the issue following the Board meeting.

Water User Sid LaGrande addressed the Board regarding the upcoming Lurline Check project. He missed the previous meeting where it was discussed in greater detail but asked if water would be unavailable or restricted as it was during previous main canal construction projects. General Manager Sutton explained that staff have already begun planning outreach for the 37 landowners/water users who will be most affected by the construction shutdown period. Staff will aim to coordinate early planting and decomposition for the affected water users. A combination of letters, postcards, phone calls and meetings are among the communication efforts that will be undertaken beginning this summer leading up to implementation of the project, that is scheduled to begin in mid-October 2026 through early-April of 2027.

CONSENT AGENDA

Authorize Payment of Claims

Director Dennis moved to approve the payment of claims #24 14552 through #24 14633, in the amount of Two Million, Nine Hundred Thirty Thousand, Eight Hundred Eighty-One Dollars and Zero Cents (\$2,930,881.00) and approve the June 6, 2024 meeting minutes. Director Bransford 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 Appointing General Manager Jeff Sutton as the Alternate Director for the Glenn Groundwater Authority

President Amaro has requested that General Manager Sutton serve as the alternate Director for the Glenn Groundwater Authority. General Manager Sutton added that, after speaking with GCID Director Blake Vann, it was suggested that he also serve as the alternate Director for the Colusa Groundwater Authority.

Director Bransford moved to approve General Manager Sutton as the alternate Director for the Glenn Groundwater Authority and the Colusa Groundwater Authority, as suggested. Director Knight seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following vote:

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

Discuss and Consider Approval of Corning Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Use of the GCID Main Pump Station Conference Room

President Amaro reported that the Corning Subbasin GSA has utilized the GCID Main Pump Station conference room to meet for several years without charge. Legal requirements dictate these meetings occur within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Subbasin. The Corning Subbasin recently received funding allowing for a budget item to compensate for the use of meeting place. The Corning Subbasin GSA have inquired if the District would like to continue to “donate” the use of the meeting space or charge the Corning Subbasin GSA for its use.

Director Knight moved to allow continued use of the GCID Main Pump Station conference room by the Corning Subbasin GSA for its meetings free of charge. Director Dennis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following vote:

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

Presentation by Anchor QEA - Gradient Facility Project

Director Bransford provided an historical account of the of the Gradient Facility Project and the litigation with the Army Corps of Engineers, who designed the project, eventually resulting in a \$10.5 million settlement to make the necessary repairs. Since the settlement, the proposed remediation effort related to the Gradient Facility Project cost estimate has increased to a range of \$21-29 million. Moreover, several questions and concerns were raised regarding the proposal, resulting in a request for the Consultant to provide an overview of the design, and a reconsideration of the approach to address the concerns related to approach and cost.

Anchor QEA Environmental Planner Katie Chamberlin and Principal Water Resources Engineer Robert Montgomery provided a presentation via teleconference regarding the project details and cost reduction opportunities. The Board, District staff, and Anchor QEA then collaboratively worked to develop a phased project implementation concept. Ultimately, the Board direct Anchor QEA to focus its efforts going forward, on the design, permitting, and construction of a project that would include the following: Eight East Bank spur dikes; three to six West Bank spur dikes; remediation of the mid channel sand bar; revetment to protect the southernmost sheet pile wall on the East Bank; and revetment to stabilize the bypass channel outlet.

Counsel Stevens requested that she and Kelly Taber from Somach Simmons & Dunn be included in all permitting and CEQA discussions moving forward to ensure this does not affect the District’s existing permits.

Discuss and Consider Gradient Facility Options

This item was tabled as the Board provided direction to staff following the Gradient Facility presentation by Anchor QEA.

ADMINISTRATION

Department Reports

Maintenance

Maintenance Superintendent Richardson reported that the Maintenance Department repaired a hole in the Main Canal at Road 39 and P. As a result, water seeped into a nearby hay field. . Maintenance staff are also removing sediment from the Main Pump Station Intake Channel and are working to condense rubble piles to make more room in the pit. He also reported that he participated in discussions regarding the WaterSMART grant and attended the GCID employee barbeque.

Water

Water Operations Superintendent Henderson reported that the main canal is running at maximum capacity pushing 2,850 cubic feet per second (cfs). The District is also getting assistance from the Tehama-Colusa Canal with 250 cfs. Water Operators have been using drain water to help reduce waitlists as well. There have been a few sporadic electrical glitches at the Pump Station that staff have been working through.

Engineering

Interim District Engineer Privitera reported that the Engineering Department has been monitoring the Electric Control Room project at the Main Pump Station where contractors will begin pouring the floor for the main structure. Staff met with the Operations & Maintenance Committee to further discuss the Resolution and protocols related to Category 5 private laterals and efforts to obtain easement agreements. He provided an update on the GIS interns inventory efforts. General Manager Sutton suggested that the Board review the entire Operations & Maintenance Policy to identify any necessary updates, amendments, or revisions they would like to propose.

Treasurer's Report

Finance Director Jarvis was absent from the meeting, thus no verbal report was provided. Financial reports were included in the Board meeting materials. No questions or concerns were raised related to the District Financials.

INFORMATION REPORTS

Board Member Reports

Director Bransford provided an update on NRDC activities that will be talked about in more detail during closed session.

Manager's Report

General Manager Sutton reported that Mary Spooner and Kayla Mendonca organized an employee luncheon for all District employees. He thanked GCID employees Sal Covarrubias and Tomas Mendiola for helping prepare the food and Board members John Amaro, Don Bransford and Pete Knight for their attendance. It was a great opportunity to show appreciation for our staff.

General Manager Sutton reported that he and Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority General Manager Bill Vanderwaal had lunch with the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Executive Director Dave Eggerton. They spoke about various things including concerns about the missing emphasis on the agricultural community.

General Manager Sutton reported that a group of Sites experts toured the GCID Main Pump Station.

General Manager Sutton reported that staff are planning to meet with the Labor Committee.

General Manager Sutton reported that he participated in meetings with Sites staff and Jacobs Engineering will be assisting with helping identify potential facility upgrades necessary to facilitate deliveries for Sites Reservoir. There is a Sites meeting tomorrow at 9 a.m. in Maxwell.

Communication's Update

Executive Assistant Mendonca reported that she worked with CV Strategies to review and schedule the District's social media for the month of July.

Attorney's Report

None.

Other Business

None.

Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 11:21 a.m. to discuss Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation, Existing Litigation, and Conference with Real Property Negotiators.

- 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. *NRDC v. Haaland* (Case No. 21-15163 (9th Cir. 2021) [Contract Renewal Litigation]
 - ii. *TCCA v. CA DWR* (CJC-20-005117 JCCP NO. 5117) [2020 CEQA Litigation]
 - iii. *PCFFA v. Raimondo* (USDC E.D. Cal. Case No. 1:20-cv-00431-JLT-EPG);
 - iv. *CNRA v. Raimondo* (USDC E.D. Cal. Case No. 1:20-cv-00426-JLT-EPG) [2019 BiOps Lawsuits]

- C. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR
(Government Code Section 54956.8)
Property: Acquisition of water supplies from Sites Reservoir Project
GCID Negotiators: Logan Dennis, Jeffrey P. Sutton and Counsel
Alexis Stevens
Negotiating Parties: Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District and Sites Reservoir Project
Under Negotiation: Terms of payment, and other transactional details

The Board reconvened to open session at 12:10 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 the Board met in Closed Session, pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8, during which the Board heard an update regarding Conference with Real Property Negotiators, and took no action.

The meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Jeffrey P. Sutton
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