

**Minutes of Meeting
Held
September 19, 2024**

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

Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Jeffrey P. Sutton, General Manager
Louis Jarvis, Finance Director
Jeremy Richardson, Maintenance Superintendent
Ed Henderson, Water Operations Superintendent
Chris Privitera, Interim District Engineer
Jake Hancock, Assistant Water Operations Superintendent
Karen Alves, Administrative Services Manager
Mary Spooner, Office Specialist
Andy Hitchings, Somach Simmons & Dunn (via teleconference)
Ali Stevens, Somach Simmons & Dunn (via teleconference)

Others Present:

Katie Chamberlin, Anchor QEA
Meghan Collins, Anchor QEA Project Manager
Sid LaGrande, Water User
Kelly Ornbaun, Water User
Les Marsh, Water User (via teleconference)
Tomas Loera, Staff (via teleconference)
Sandra Rincon, Staff (via teleconference)

Public Participation

Kelly Ornbaun, landowner, expressed interest in participation in the Northern California Water Association Water Leadership Program. The deadline to submit nominations is November 15, 2024.

CONSENT AGENDA

Authorize Payment of Claims

Director Bransford moved to approve the payment of claims #24 14902 through #24 14979, in the amount of Six Hundred Seventy-Two Thousand, Two Hundred Twenty-One Dollars and Ninety-Nine Cents (\$672,221.99); claims #24 15116 through #24 15117 and #24 15119 in the amount of Twenty-Three Thousand, Sixteen Dollars and Forty-Eight Cents (\$23,016.48); claims #24 08782 through #24 808791 in the amount of One Thousand, Six Hundred Thirty-Four Dollars and Seventy-Three Cents

(\$1,634.73) and approve the September 5, 2024, meeting minutes. Director Vann seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following vote:

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

BUSINESS ITEMS

Discuss and Consider Gradient Facility Options

Katie Chamberlian and Meghan Collins of Anchor QEA provided an overview of their revisions and a cost update to the Gradient Facility Project consistent with prior Board input. The current concept proposes to implement the Project in stages. Phase One will focus on bank stabilization, the reduction of the mid channel sand bar and protection of the oxbow outfall channel. The plans call for installation of eleven spur dikes (eight on the east bank and three on the west bank), installation of revetment along the upstream portion of the west bank oxbow outfall channel, and revetment on the east side, downstream sheet pile wall to stabilize that infrastructure. These activities will be prioritized, along with continued assessment and monitoring by the Engineering department in consultation with Anchor QEA related to the status of the scour hole just downstream of the gradient facility. After completion of Phase One, the effects on the mid channel sand bar, downstream river conditions, and migration of the scour hole will be monitored to determine if a Phase Two project will be necessary. Remediation of the scour hole, additional mid channel bar excavation, additional spur dikes, and additional revetment could be the subject of consideration.

The cost estimate provided by Anchor QEA to complete Phase One is \$11.33 million in 2025 dollars, which included a 15% contingency. This amount does not include costs for permitting, mitigation, or any land acquisition that may be necessary. If work on permits were to begin now, the hope is to start implementation in the summer of 2025.

Director Bransford made the motion to move forward with Phase One as proposed by Anchor QEA and to continue to monitor and assess the scour hole and associated risks. Director Knight seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following vote:

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

ADMINISTRATION

Department Reports

Maintenance

Maintenance Superintendent Richardson reported on the following activities: Removal/treatment of aquatics in laterals and drains; grading of roads and canal banks; preparation for winter projects; repair leaks/holes in conveyance system; repair failed spill on 43-1a; remove spoils from Cortina pump ditch cleaning; and site preparation (material delivery and demolition) for modernization projects.

Water

Water Operations Superintendent Henderson reported on the following activities: The Pump Station is currently diverting 700 cubic feet per second; diversions are ramping down as water users shut off for harvest; the Upper Sacramento Scheduling Team (consisting of various fishery agencies and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation) plan to hold Keswick releases at 7,000 cfs through October to prevent stranding of Chinook Salmon Redds, and then reduce to 4,000 cfs in early November to preserve storage.

Water Operations Superintendent Henderson will send correspondence via MaryGram and a postcard to inform water users of the plan for Keswick releases, as there may be a three to four day wait before receiving winter water. He will request that water users begin flooding as soon as feasible to support the Keswick release schedule through the month of October.

Engineering

Interim District Engineer Privitera reported on the following: The Engineering Department continues to coordinate work on the Lurline Check and Siphon Project, the District inventory update, the lateral modernization projects, the status of the WaterSMART and USDA grant applications, and provided an update on the private lateral easement acquisition process.

Treasurer's Report

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

INFORMATION REPORTS

Board Member Reports

Director Bransford reported he recently attended a Bridge Group meeting. The concept of placing fingerlings into nets to rear them in the oxbow for purposes of imprinting was discussed. Thereafter, the fingerlings would be transported to the Delta for release.

Director Bransford reported that the Rice Leadership tour was held October 18, 2024. Director Bransford hosted a tour for the group at the GCID Main Pump Station and reported that the group was very engaged and interested in the irrigation practices and environmental challenges associated with California rice cultivation.

Committee Reports

General Manager Sutton reported that a Budget Committee meeting was held on September 10, 2024, at which the Committee developed a recommendation for the 2024 District Budget that will be presented at the October 3, 2024, Board Meeting. Further, the Committee plans to reconvene after harvest to further discuss additional Budget policies related to spending, reserves, and the long-term Budget outlook. Manager Sutton reported that he will be working with the Water Transfer Committee to schedule a meeting after the conclusion of harvest. Lastly, it was reported that the Water Users Work Group meeting was cancelled and will be rescheduled for November.

Manager's Report

General Manager Sutton reported on the following activities: Attendance at the Colusa Basin Drain Mutual Water Company Board meeting on September 18, 2024; GCID Fish Screen/Pump Station tour and policy talk when hosting the Water Education Foundation Northern California tour on October 18, 2024; participation on a panel regarding Water Sustainability at the USCID Conference on October 1, 2024; GCID Employee Family Picnic in Willows on October 5, 2024; NCWA Sacramento Valley Celebration at Matchbook Winery in Zamora on October 17, 2024; Water Operations staffing meeting; and Sites JPA activities including the water rights hearing, the CEQA appeal, and status of the wheeling and facility use agreements.

Attorney's Report

None.

Other Business

None.

Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 10:21 a.m. to discuss the following agendized item:

- A. 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]

The Board reconvened to open session at 10:26 a.m.

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.

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.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