MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
OF THE TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT  

Turlock, California  
26 January 2021

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Turlock Irrigation District was called to order at 9:00 a.m. in regular session on the 26th day of January 2021. Present (via Zoom) were: Directors Rob Santos (President), Michael Frantz (Vice-President), Ron Macedo (Secretary), Charles Fernandes and Joe Alamo, General Manager Michelle Reimers and Executive Secretary to the Board Tami Wallenburg.

Board President Rob Santos read the following statement:
“This meeting is being conducted via webinar, pursuant to Executive Orders signed by Governor Newsom related to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, including provisions regarding the Brown Act. Members of the public will have the opportunity to provide public input via the webinar or phone features.”

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

MOTION APPROVING CONSENT CALENDAR

Moved by Director Fernandes, seconded by Director Macedo, that the consent calendar consisting of the following be approved:

1. Minutes of the regular meeting of January 12, 2021.
2. Demands against the District represented by check numbers 399454 to 399863, inclusive, in the amount of $34,226,347.72.
5. Approval of the following sidegate applications:
   - Application of 15-Inch Sidegate in Ceres Main Canal by Andrea Bilson
   - Application of 18-inch Sidegate in Lower Lateral 2 Canal by Rick Nutcher

All voted in favor with none opposed. The President declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Customer Milt Treiwieler questioned whether the approved sidegates listed under the Consent Calendar will have flow meters to which Water Distribution Department Manager Mike Kavarian conveyed that all new sidegates are required to have flow meters installed.
WEEKLY REPORT

Utility Analyst/Hydrology Olivia Cramer reported on current water conditions. Accumulated precipitation measured at the three mountain stations in the Tuolumne River watershed from September 1, 2020 to present total 6.29 inches, or 35.4 percent of normal to date (Note: The precipitation water year begins on September 1 each year). Forecasted precipitation for the next 6-days is showing up to 8.9 inches at Hetch Hetchy, 7.5 inches at Don Pedro and approximately 3.6 inches in the Modesto area. The US Model predicts up to 13 inches in the next 16-days while the European model shows up to 10-inches. Another atmospheric event is expected in February though it will be weaker than the upcoming storm over the next few days. Forecasted temperatures show the highs averaging 5-6 degrees below average for this time of year ranging from 50-59 degrees, and lows averaging lower than normal between 33-47 degrees. San Francisco reservoirs contain 401,068 acre-feet and the Water Bank is at 544,878 acre-feet of credit. CCSF releases for the past 7-days averaged at 435 cfs with 238 cfs in diversions. Don Pedro contains 1,364,917, acre-feet and is currently at 770 elevation. Average combined releases were 203 cubic feet per second with 01 cfs to TID canals, 23 cfs to Modesto Irrigation District and the remaining 178 cfs going to the Tuolumne River. Computed natural flow for the current water-year is averaging 109 cfs, and computed natural flow to date is 21,833 af or 7.1 percent of average. Turlock Lake contains 7,675 acre-feet of water. The updated weekly watershed report shows Don Pedro elevation remained steady when compared to the previous week. Board President Rob Santos asked how the precipitation numbers are calculated with Ms. Cramer responding the data is received from three station indexes in Sonora, Yosemite and Hetch Hetchy. The Board President asked for comments from the public, with Customer Milt Treweiler asking about snowpack figures to which Ms. Cramer responded.

IRRIGATION UPDATE

Water Distribution Department Manager Mike Kavarian presented an update on the upcoming irrigation season. Staff received a few calls from growers the first part of January but these have decreased with the current precipitation forecast. Canal maintenance projects have been put on hold due to the atmospheric event over the next few days. Mr. Kavarian recommended not implementing an early irrigation period which will allow crews to finish repairs on the Main Canal and various laterals after the storm passes.

POWER REPORT

Trading and Scheduling Department Manager Bill Bacca reviewed power operations for the month of December. The Balancing Authority Area daily estimated system peaks averaged 353 megawatts for the month. The load was met with Thermal at 37.2 percent, ACS Specified at 31.4 percent, Spot purchases at 9.5 percent and Wind Exchange at 6.9 percent. The Tuolumne Wind Project (TWP) generated 25,028 MWh’s during the month of December at the Willis Substation, averaging at 25 percent of capacity. Natural gas prices at Pacific Gas & Electric Company’s Citygate averaged out at $3.61/mmBTU. Thermal generation and implied heat rates for December show Walnut Energy Center at 36,750 MWh and Almond 2 Power Plant at 32,166 MWh. Mr. Bacca also reviewed Powerdex pricing for the month using the hour-ahead market index and CAISO’s day-ahead and hour-ahead market selling prices. Electric operations for this period show all of Walnut Energy Center out of service November 26 to December 13 for the annual inspection; WEC
Unit 1 was online December 16-31 and Unit 2 remains out of service through January 4, 2021 for extended maintenance; Almond ran for 29 days, a combination of operations and economics; Upper Main Canal will be out of service from December 11 to February 28; EMS cutover was the week of December 15; and Rosamond Solar was reduced to 78 percent capacity. Director Frantz questioned if the executive order by the new Biden administration to halt drilling on federal property would have an impact to the District with Mr. Bacca noting he would discuss with Resource Planning Department Manager Willie Manuel and would respond at that time. The Board President asked for comments from the public, and there were none.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021 - 3

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH RANDY FIORINI FOR WATER RESOURCES RELATED CONSULTING SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Turlock Irrigation District (“District) is in the process of relicensing Don Pedro Dam and is simultaneously obtaining its first ever license for La Grange Dam from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”); and

WHEREAS, a requirement for a FERC license is a water quality certification from the State Water Resources Control Board (“Water Board”) pursuant to Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS, in issuing a water quality certification, the Water Board will require that Turlock Irrigation District and Modesto Irrigation District (“Districts”) comply with the 30-50% unimpaired flow requirements of their adopted Bay Delta Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Water Board has authorized a Voluntary Agreement process as an alternative means for water agencies to comply with the Bay Delta Plan; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Randy Fiorini is vastly experienced in California water resources having been a 10-year member of the Delta Stewardship Council, a past president of ACWA, and a past president of the California Farm Water Coalition. Mr. Fiorini’s connections, knowledge and acumen have proven vital in the Districts obtaining direct access to those engaged in the Voluntary Agreement process, including members of the Governor’s cabinet; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fiorini also provides a number of other consulting services under this contract including, but not limited to: FERC Licensing / Relicensing, strategic water partnerships, comprehensive water planning, and mentoring to TID’s management team.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Turlock Irrigation District that a professional services contract with Randy Fiorini for water resources related consulting services is hereby approved.

Moved by Director Macedo, seconded by Director Frantz, that the foregoing resolution be adopted.

Upon roll call the following vote was had:
MOTION ACCEPTING TREASURER’S REPORT ON TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT’S INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO AND SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

Moved by Frantz, seconded by Fernandes, that the Investment Portfolio dated December 31, 2020 which was prepared by Public Financial Management, Inc. for the Turlock Irrigation District (District) and reviewed by the Board of Directors be hereby accepted, and that the Board of Directors hereby acknowledges the opinion of Treasurer Brian Stubbert, confirming the Investment Portfolio is in compliance with the District’s Investment Policy and verifying the District has the ability to meet budgeted expenditures for the next six months.

All voted in favor with none opposed. The President declared the motion carried.

MOTION CANCELING THE TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 2, 2021

Moved by Director Alamo, seconded by Director Macedo, that the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Turlock Irrigation District scheduled for February 2, 2021, be canceled.

All voted in favor with none opposed. The President declared the motion carried.

AGRICULTURAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN WORKSHOP

Water Planning Department Manager Debbie Montalbano presented information regarding proposed revisions to the District’s Ag Water Management Plan (AWMP). The purpose of the Plan is to evaluate the water suppliers system and operations to ensure the most efficient use of available water supplies. The current AWMP was updated in 2015 and requires an update every five years. She reviewed Water Budget Boundaries which gives an accounting of all water flowing into and out of a defined area over a specified period of time (months or years). Staff analyzes changing patterns such as irrigation methods, cropping patterns and water supply/demand. Ms. Montalbano then reviewed the amount of acres for specific crop types with trees/vineyards being the highest, followed by corn. Irrigation types show flood irrigation remaining predominate though there is a slight increase in micro drip systems. She continued reviewing data on water supply, agricultural pumping (TID, private and rented pumps) and recharge (seepage and deep percolation). Another area staff takes into account is Climate Change and staff continues to evaluate potential impacts based on available studies while acknowledging wet years will be wetter, and dry years will be drier. The implementation of SBX7-7 requires districts to evaluate and implement two types of Efficient Water Management Practices (EWMPs): 1) Delivery Management, and 2) Volumetric pricing, and 14 Conditional EWMPs (if locally cost effective and technically feasible) including canal automation, conjunctive use, recycled water use, ordering flexibility, and spill/tail water recovery to name a few. Drought impacts on water
supply and demand were experienced from 2012-2016 which resulted in reduced available supplies, increased Grower outreach and resources, and use of the Adaptive Management Program. Ms. Montalbano concluded noting the revised AWMP is currently being finalized and plans to return to the Board on February 9th to set a public hearing date of March 23 at 9 a.m. to receive comments from the public. Board members had several comments regarding recharge, pumping and potential impacts to the SRWA Regional Surface Water Project agreement during dry year scenarios. The Board President asked for comments from the public, with Customer Milt Treiwieler asking questions regarding the 48-inch irrigation water allocation in normal years and the cost of the Tier 4 water rate within the SRWA Agreement to which staff responded.

GENERAL MANAGER’S UPDATE

General Manager Michelle Reimers asked Director of Water Resources Michael Cooke to comment on the recent denial by FERC on the District’s waiver petition. The District will now need certification from the State Water Board and staff plans to meet with the legal team the following week to discuss best options in moving forward.

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

Director Frantz stated he is excited about the incoming precipitation.

MOTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Director Fernandes, seconded by Director Frantz, that the regular meeting of the Board of Directors be adjourned to closed session:

1. **Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation**
   California Government Code Section 54956.9(d)
   Anticipated Litigation – one potential case
   - Michael Cooke, Director of Water Resources and Regulatory Affairs
   - Art Godwin, Legal Counsel

All voted in favor with none opposed. The President declared the motion carried.

REPORT OF ANY ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

The President announced no action was taken in closed session.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Hearing no further business, Director Alamo motioned, seconded by Director Frantz, that the regular meeting of the Board of Directors be adjourned.

All voted in favor with none opposed. The President declared the motion carried.

*Tami Wallenburg*

Executive Secretary to the Board of Directors