

**RAISIN CITY WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING**

MINUTES

Meeting Date:
Tuesday, February 21, 2023
1:30 p.m.

Meeting Location:
455 W Fir Ave
Clovis, CA 93611

1. *Internet:* [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)
2. *Phone:* 1-559-512-2821
Meeting conference ID# 181 457 652#

If you experience any difficulty connecting to the meeting, please call the District Office (559-449-2700). EMAIL: You may submit comments on a specific Agenda Item via email to Isales@ppeng.com. Please send your email at least one hour prior to the start of the meeting.

Requests for a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to attend or participate in this meeting should be made to the District Office (559-449-2700) in advance of the meeting to ensure the availability of the requested service or accommodation.

Called to Order 1:32 pm

Directors Present: Gere Gunlund
Gagan Batth – called in
Don Cameron
Jonathon DeGroot
John Verwey

Other Attendees: Randy Hopkins, Provost & Pritchard
Laurie Sales, Provost & Pritchard
Rick Besecker, Provost & Pritchard
Lynn Moeller, Provost & Pritchard

Matt Hurley
Jalone Ranches
Marjorie Bookout
Lori Daniele
Alfredo Martinez
Jerry Rai
Daniel Babshoff
Marvin Scheidt

Joe Porta
Ryan Porta
Bradley Abercrombie
Sal Rodriguez
Jerry Radinoff
Scott Toste
David Britz

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** (*Gunlund*)
No changes to the agenda

2. **RECOGNITION OF ATTENDEES** (*Hopkins*)
Mr. Hopkins asked the attendees to sign in as we had a large number in attendance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT (*Gunlund*)

The first fifteen minutes of this portion of the meeting are reserved for members of the public to address the Board of Directors. Speakers shall be limited to three minutes. Speakers will be asked to identify themselves and state the subject of their comment. The Board is prohibited by law from taking any action on matters discussed that are not on the Agenda, and no adverse conclusions should be drawn if the Board does not respond to public comment at this time.

Jerry Radinoff, speaking in place of Matt Abercrombie and the white area and annexation indicated he would like to reserve the right to speak at that time in the meeting where the annexation is on the agenda.

4. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (*Gunlund*)

Any Board Member who has a potential conflict of interest may now identify the item and recuse themselves from discussing and voting on the matter. [FPPC §87105]

None Noted.

5. MINUTES (*Hopkins*)

A. Discussion / possible action to approve minutes for:

- i. January 17, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

Director DeGroot made a motion to approve the January 17, 2023 minutes. Director Verwey seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

6. FINANCIAL (*Besecker*)

A. Discussion / possible action to approve the financial report and District bills.

Mr. Besecker presented the bills to be paid and indicated that the district had received the county's first installment of the taxes.

Director Verwey made a motion to approve the payment of bills and the financial report. Director Cameron seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

7. AD-HOC COMMITTEES

A. The Board of Directors will hear reports and possible action from the following Ad-Hoc Committees:

- i. Fresno ID Committee (*Cameron/DeGroot*)

Director DeGroot reported they have a meeting scheduled today to meet with FID staff and will have a report next month.

- ii. Grantland/Stinson (*Gunlund/Verwey*)
Still working on it. They are looking for board members they might be able to meet with.

8. ANNEXATION (*DeGroot/Gunlund/Hopkins*)

A. Discussion / possible action to consider annexation requests and initiate the annexation process.

Mr. Hopkins reported that last year there was a workshop to discuss annexation. He reviewed the map showing the Spheres of Influence for both Mid Valley and Raisin City WD. Various options showing the potential annexation were shown.

Directors Gunlund and DeGroot are on the annexation ad-hoc committee, and recently met with Mid Valley's ad-hoc committee. The understanding is that Mid Valley isn't interested in annexation.

Director DeGroot made a motion to initiate the annexation process to include the SOI of RCWD and the SOI of Mid-Valley, contingent on their approval, along with any lands not covered by one of the District's current SOI and within the McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency. The motion was seconded by Director Verwey.

Director Batth voiced that he would vote no on this because Raisin City doesn't have enough water for itself to add more acreage. He stated he **thinks** that board members who also have land in the white area should be conflicted out.

Director Batth also mentioned there is an oil field that is located in the white area and questioned whether an environmental study be needed? Mr. Hopkins replied that the District wouldn't have a responsibility for that as the oilfield issues are under the State's jurisdiction.

Director Gagan was concerned with potential water contamination due to the oil field.

Mr. Radinoff indicated they already have money set aside to help finance this process. He did ask about an area of the MVWD SOI that protrudes into the Delta-Mendota sub-basin. He indicated it might make it easy to access the Mendota Pool.

Mr. Cardella from Wanger Jones was available to answer questions.

Mr. Rai asked what the strategic purpose behind this is. What is the benefit? He feels the small growers in the district will be overwhelmed by the corporate large farmer(s) in the white area. He feels the annexation will devalue the Raisin City WD.

Director Verwey wanted to know how it would devalue the current landowners. Only that there would be an increase in those joining the district.

Director DeGroot replied that it would increase the ability to raise funds for the projects the District and GSA need to meet sustainability goals. It could help the district with access to the various neighbors and water supplies.

Regarding the conflict of interest question raised by Director Batth, Mr. Cardella indicated that he does not believe a conflict of interest for a board member with land in the white area exists on this matter.

After public discussion, a vote was held. The vote was four in favor with Director Batth voting against. The motion passed.

9. McMULLIN EXPANSION PROJECT (Hopkins/Hurley)

A. Report on the status of the project.

Ms. Moeller reported that they are working towards 90% design to send to NRCS in mid-March. NRCS will likely need another one to two months to review. NRCS required detail on what their money was being spent on so the plans and specifications address that. The plan is to release the project for public bidding in late summer, early fall.

10. MAGSA ACTIVITIES (Cameron/DeGroot/Hurley/Hopkins)

A. Report on MAGSA activities.

Mr. Hurley reported that the Bureau of Reclamation is working with MAGSA on the water bank and will acknowledge them as place to store Central Valley Project water supplies. A cultural survey is currently in progress to satisfy the federal environmental review requirements.

MAGSA's consultant, TetraTech has staff walking the areas of potential impact, looking for any evidence of cultural activity (pottery, arrowheads, etc). Once the cultural resources study is complete, the environmental document will be prepared for public review. .

Serious negotiations with potential partners are on-going.

March 31 is the date that DWR has indicated they will be releasing results from the review of the GSPs. MAGSA feels they are in good shape.

Mr. Hurley also reported that the Prop 218 voted on in 2018, is coming to a close. They would like to remain the same or even bring it down.

11. DISTRICT WEBSITE (Hopkins)

- A. Discussion / possible action to approve the upgrade to the District website

The software used for the website posting is outdated. It will be \$300-400 to upgrade. The board is ok with proceeding to upgrade.

12. CORRESPONDENCE (Hopkins)

- A. Correspondence since the previous Board of Directors meeting may be presented.

None noted.

13. NEXT REGULAR MEETING (Hopkins)

- A. Discussion / possible action regarding the date of the scheduled regular meeting of the Board of Directors, currently scheduled for March 21, 2023.

The board requests a new time for the meeting. The March meeting will be at 8:30, same day.

14. UPCOMING EVENTS (Hopkins)

- A. Family Farm Alliance is February 23-24, 2023 in Reno, NV.
- B. ACWA Spring 2023 – May 9 – 11, 2023 in Monterey, CA
- C. ACWA Fall 2023 – November 28 – 30 in Indian Wells, CA

15. ADJOURNMENT (Gunlund)

In addition to the District office location, the following location will be used for this meeting to access via teleconference.

5434 W Kamm; Caruthers Ca 93609