# BOARD OF TRUSTEES BOARD MEETING

February 9th, 2022

1:30 p. m.

MINUTES

Board of Trustees present Ed Hulbert, Gary Bailey, Leanne Mord and Hans Herkert, District Manager Terry Bressler, Secretary to the Board of Trustees Barbara Sachs, Assistant Office Manager Lynda Reische, Kurt Richter and Deryl Phy.

Attending by teleconference Trustee Larry Borrelli, Jack & Audra Baber, West Water Research.

1:40 p.m. Chairman Hulbert opened the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting.

**Agenda:**

M/S/C (Herkert, Mord) approve February 9th agenda.

Vote: Unanimous

**Minutes:**

M/S/C (Mord, Herkert) approve January 12th Regular Board meeting minutes as amended.

Vote: Unanimous

**Public Comment:**

None

Chairman Hulbert discussed the Brown Act rules regarding zoom meetings, teleconference meeting and in house meetings with the Board. It was decided to return to in house Board meetings and offer teleconference.

**Financials:**

**Treasurer’s Report:**

M/S/C (Borrelli, Mord) approve Treasurer’s report as presented.

Vote: Unanimous

Barbara Sachs presented the Cash report and designation of financial accounts.

M/S/C (Herkert, Borrelli) approve cash report and designation of financial accounts as submitted

Vote: Unanimous

Barbara presented interim transactions in the amount of $12,125.95.

M/S/C (Herkert, Mord) approve interim transactions in the amount of $12,125.95

Vote: Unanimous

Barbara presented accounts payable in the amount of $92,665.96.

M/S/C (Borrelli, Herkert) approve accounts payable in the amount of $92,665.96

Vote: Unanimous

Barbara presented the accounts receiveable.

Barbara requested a transfer from Fund One to Fund Three in the amount of $10,000.

M/S/C (Mord, Herkert) approve $10,000 transfer from Fund One to Fund Three.

Vote Unanimous

Barbara presented the balance sheet.

Barbara presented the employees sick and vacation leave balance. There were no comments.

Barbara said the Bureau of Reclamation hasn’t finalized the transfer of 500 acre-feet of water to Orland Artois Water District. The accountants said it needed to be finalized before the 2021 audit would be completed. The Board gave Barbara direction to contact the Bureau to get the transfer finalized.

Barbara said the accountants are requesting to know if the Board feels a $10,000 transfer from Fund One to Fund Three for the Princeton Pumping Facility is enough or would they be increasing the transfer amount. The Board agreed to leave the transfer amount at $10,000.

Chairman Hulbert reported he received the accountants letter saying the books were in good shape and the audit would be conducted soon.

**New Business:**

1. The Board discussed the costs for well production. Terry said the Pearl well costs $40 per acre-foot of water, East Princeton Well $59 per acre-foot of water, West Princeton Well $56 per acre-foot of water. Terry said $13,000 a year cost to repair a motor and other than that maintenance would cost $5.00 per acre foot of water.
2. The Board discussed completing the Middle Well at Princeton. Terry said he recommended installing the pump and motor and get it hooked up to PG&E in April.

M/S/C (Herkert, Mord) approved completion of the middle well at Princeton.

Vote: Unanimous

Trustee Borrelli said we need to seriously look at using all our water allocation with the Bureau of Reclamation. He said this is just opening the District up to lose their water. Gary asked how much was left on the books and Larry replied 30%, 10,224 acre-feet. Terry said we did it to save money. Gary said we shouldn’t leave water on the table because we would have to prove beneficial use and he doesn’t think we could do it.

1. The Board declined nominating a representative to the Integrated Regional Water Management Board.

**Chairman’s report:**

1. Chairman Hulbert reported the Sacramento River Settlement Contracts meeting was held and they reported hydrology was very low. The inflow right now is 3.2 ml. With MBK Engineers model, the projected inflows of 4 ml acre feet into Shasta Dam cannot reached. He said we were 10% behind where we were at this time last year. Our contract calls for 75% but if everyone took their 75% Shasta would be at zero. Trustee Bailey said if the Governor declares a State of Emergency, it could be worse and he felt that could happen. Chairman Hulbert said he hasn’t heard anything regarding riparian rights.

**Manager’s Report:**

1. Terry recommended completing paperwork with Glenn County for ground water substitution to begin in July and run wells for a transfer to San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority.

The Board directed Terry to start paperwork with Glenn County.

1. Terry said the FSA maps were collecting will be for farming and those who have habitat will use the current numbers we have unless there’s a dispute. Trustee Bailey asked what the ratio of rice/habitat/trees are in the District. Terry said we just lost 400 acres to trees. In a normal year we will have less water sales. Chairman Hulbert directed Barbara to agenize this item for the next Board meeting to determine ratio between rice, habitat and trees in the District. He said 71% is farming/rice, 26% habitat and 3% orchards.
2. Terry said PG&E cost for Hydro Electric Plant will be approximately $45,000 with a 3 year payback with no head differential. Chairman Hulbert said the discussion has been to try one and see how it works below the East Well on the Concrete Ditch.
3. Terry said he talked with Virginia of Ducks Unlimited regarding the project at Butte Creek/White Mallard Dam and she said there’s some interest.
4. Terry said we should have on the agenda for next month 2022 water delivery logistics and maybe an incentive program to idle fields if they qualify.
5. Terry said he thinks the Board should consider a new water accounting system to track the water usage, the growers can know instantly how much water they’ve purchased and their balance to use.

He said Western Canal and Richvale Water District is currently using these programs. Chairman Hulbert said it sounded like a project for Lynda. Barbara said my vote would be no. The program I’ve used for 17 years continues to work very well. With transferring water, using wells, water allocations the system has to be able to accommodate these different scenarios. Leanne said programs have been updated and it could be beneficial to look at it. Barbara said only two growers have asked how much water they have left to use at a certain time. She accommodated this by dropping the water statement into excel. Chairman Hulbert asked Terry how often they read the meters. Terry replied every two days. Barbara said she only receives reports April and May once a month, June, July, August every two weeks, September at the end of the month. If the meter reader is reading meters every two days why aren’t these reports coming to the office at the end of the day and she can update them first thing in the morning. When Dennis reads the meter, he has the ability to email the meter report to the water user if the water user calls him and asks how much water they have left to use. She asked why would the District pay over $100,000 for a water program when Terrys been asking for a long reach excavator to control the weeds in the District canals. In the budget there’s $70,000 allocated to aquatic weed control. Why wouldn’t the Board apply some of that money and money for a new software program towards the long reach excavator? We should be looking to benefit every grower and landlord in the District and not just a few because they want to know how much water they have left on the books by logging into the website to see it. She said she just needs to be provided the information on current time. She said with a year we’re looking at, why would the Board spend money for a new accounting system. Trustee Herkert, Trustee Mord and Chairman Hulbert said it would be beneficial for the Board to accommodate a presentation of the accounting system Terry is referring to. The Board gave Terry direction to schedule a presentation.

1. Terry said he delivered 51,215 acre feet of water this year and 9,261 acre fee came after October 1st.

**Old Business:**

1. The Board reviewed the reports for all water transfers. She said she was waiting for the final report from the Bureau regarding Orland Artois Water Transfer.
2. Chairman Borrelli said the Board needed to look at prioritizing Sacramento River Water when Butte Creek gets to a certain level at the outfall gates. At a level of 39 feet Rancho Caleta can’t run their north pump and their south pump can barely run. His statement before was what do the growers do when you can’t get water down to them on Butte Creek. It’s getting worse. He said the District pumped Butte Creek dry this year but left Bureau water on the books. Larry said when the water on Butte Creek at the outfall gates gets to 39 feet, it should then be maintained at 39 feet and the Sacramento River water should be prioritized.

Terry said he could send all the water they want down Butte Creek but depending on what others take along the way it might not get down to Rancho Caleta. Larry said you need to consider all landowners in the District. He said by not using our water allocation it’s putting our water rights at stake. Chairman Hulbert directed Terry to look at the flows, allocations, Butte Creek water etc., and see if he can come up with a better plan for water distribution.

1. Terry said the Bureau may be able to do something on White Mallard Dam this year but it will be August/September before we hear. The Board requested Terry to rework the numbers for a current cost.
2. Terry said he would review the 2022 Capital Projects.

**4:45 p.m. went into closed session**

**5:10 p.m. Back into open session**

The Board presented Barbara with the 2022 employee compensation schedule.

The Board approved retirement to be 8% of the employee’s annual salary.

M/S/C (Borrelli/Bailey).

Vote: Unanimous

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p. m.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ed Hulbert Barbara J. Sachs

Chairman of the Board Secretary to the Board of Trustees