

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
GARFIELD WATER DISTRICT
April 23, 2024**

1. President Pat Ricchiuti called the meeting to order at 12:55 p.m. In attendance were Directors Karl Kienow and Mark Johnson. Attorney Douglas Jensen, Engineer Nick Keller, and Secretary Paul Woodworth were also present. Directors William Smittcamp, Palmer Lien, and Watermaster Aram Azadian were absent.

2. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Karl Kienow and seconded by Mark Johnson to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2024 meeting. The Directors present unanimously approved the motion, with two members absent.

3. Business and Presentations from the Floor

None.

4. Additions to the Agenda

None.

It was moved by Mark Johnson and seconded by Karl Kienow to approve the agenda. The Directors present unanimously approved the motion, with two members absent.

5. Potential Conflicts of Interest - Board members were asked if any conflicts of interest existed.

No conflicts were identified.

6. Correspondence

A. CRWRMA – Notice of Update To Memorandum of Coverage - Mr. Woodworth presented the notice to the Board. Mr. Woodworth and Director Johnson discussed the notice and that it does not apply to the District's coverage.

B. FMFCD Contact Verification List – Mr. Woodworth presented the requested contact list to the Board. Mr. Keller agreed with the contact information as listed. Mr. Woodworth will submit to FMFCD.

C. Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District- Spray Notice – Mr. Woodworth presented the spray notice.

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7. Financial Reports

A-I. Mr. Woodworth presented the monthly financials. Mr. Woodworth updated the Board on the District's operating funds cash balance, bank reconciliations, and profit and loss statement. Mr. Woodworth reviewed the 2024-2025 budget.

Mr. Woodworth noted that Mr. Bethke continues to make timely installment payments on his past due assessment agreement.

Mr. Woodworth notified the Board that Fresno County's second bulk property assessment payment is scheduled for issuance in late May or June. Mr. Woodworth discussed the County's late fee collection process with the County. Director Kienow notified Mr. Woodworth that the Vern Nelson property was sold. Mr. Woodworth was not notified by the escrow company or property owner of the sale. Mr. Woodworth will work with the County to obtain the new owner's contact information.

Mr. Woodworth provided an update on the water order receivables.

Mr. Woodworth provided an update on the water order forms received. Mr. Woodworth will update the Class 1 Allocation schedule based on the water orders received and the final BOR allocation percentage.

It was moved by Mark Johnson and seconded by Karl Kienow to accept the monthly financial reports. The Directors present unanimously approved the motion, with two members absent.

8. Bills to Pay

Mr. Woodworth provided the Board with the monthly bill payment report for approval.

It was moved by Mark Johnson and seconded by Karl Kienow to approve the bill payment checks. The Directors present unanimously approved the motion, with two members absent.

9. Water Master Report

A. Mr. Keller noted Mr. Azadian charged the system to start deliveries. Mr. Keller reported no usage for March 2024. Mr. Keller noted that Friant Water Authority (FWA) also reported no usage for the month.

Mr. Keller informed the Board that Mr. Azadian may be out for an extended period of time due to health issues. Mr. Keller recommended that the Board begin to look at potential replacements for Mr. Azadian in the event he is unable to return.

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Mr. Keller reported that a new leak occurred on Lateral 4 near the prior repair after the system was charged. Steve Dovali Construction, Inc. (Dovali) performed an emergency repair on the leak using existing materials remaining from the prior project. Mr. Keller recommended that the Board replace the remaining 600 feet of original concrete pipe on Lateral 4 at the end of the watering season.

Mr. Woodworth discussed the cost of the additional pipe replacement and the potential need to finance the costs. President Ricchiuti stated he preferred the District not borrow funds to finance the project.

At the direction of the Board, Mr. Keller will prepare a bid packet and project plan for the additional 600 feet of pipeline replacement on Lateral 4 for review and approval by the Board at its next meeting.

B. Mr. Keller notified the Board that the District has 344 AF of carry-over plus 327 of exchange water from Lindsay-Strathmore Irrigation District. Mr. Keller stated the District must use 41.28 AF (12%) of the carry-over by April 30, 2024. Mr. Keller also noted the BOR increased the Class 1 allocation to 100%.

Mr. Keller noted the market is soft for water sales, but stated Hills Valley Irrigation District will purchase available water for \$300 AF. Mr. Keller provided the Board with its projected annual use and suggested selling up to 1500 AF of its Class 1 allocation.

After additional discussion, Mr. Keller requested a motion to sell up to 1000 AF of the District's water allocation to Hills Valley Irrigation District for \$300 AF.

It was moved by Mark Johnson and seconded by Karl Kienow to sell 1000 AF to Hills Valley Irrigation District for \$300 AF. The Directors present unanimously approved the motion, with two members absent.

10. Continuing Business to consider and take action

A. North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Mr. Keller stated the Board meeting was cancelled.

Mr. Keller attended both the Technical Committee and its subgroup weekly meetings. The Committee and its subgroup continue to work on the well mitigation policy. Mr. Keller noted that the agency's excess budget reserves will roll-over to the next year's budget. The projected well mitigation budget through 2040 is \$12 million dollars.

Mr. Keller stated the Advisory Committee met to approve bills and for public outreach.

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No action taken. This item will be added to the next Board meeting agenda.

11. New Business

A. Central Valley Community Bank Line of Credit

Mr. Woodworth received the loan documents. Mr. Woodworth provided to legal counsel for review. Legal counsel requested changes to the Security Agreement. Mr. Woodworth provided the comments to Ms. Salas for discussion with the Underwriter. Mr. Woodworth will follow-up with Ms. Salas on the status of the requested changes.

No action taken. This item will be added to the next Board meeting agenda.

B. Streamline – District Website Hosting Service

Mr. Woodworth discussed the District's current website and additional compliance requirements issued by the State of CA including ADA compliance. Mr. Woodworth stated the current website designer and hosting platform cannot meet the additional ADA compliance requirements deadline. Mr. Woodworth recommended that the District move its website to Streamline, a digital service provider that specializes in Special Districts website hosting. Mr. Woodworth informed the Board that Streamline is able to convert the existing site for a fee of \$500. The monthly service fee for hosting and compliance monitoring is \$350.

Mr. Woodworth requested a motion to approve the transfer of the District's website to Streamline for a fee of \$500 and to approve the recurring monthly hosting fee of \$350.

It was moved by Karl Kienow and seconded by Mark Johnson to approve the transfer of the District's website to Streamline for \$500 and to approve the monthly recurring hosting fee of \$350. The Directors present unanimously approved the motion, with two members absent.

12. Public Hearing

None.

13. Closed Session

The Board went into closed session at 2:17 p.m. to discuss anticipated litigation with legal counsel. The Board came out of closed session at 2:34 p.m. with no reportable action.

14. Next meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2024 and it will be held at P-R Farms, 2917 Shepherd Avenue, Clovis, California at 12:30 p.m.

15. The meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.