

# LINDMORE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

May 12, 2020

### Roll Call and Acknowledgement of Visitors

This meeting is being held via video conference due to the Governor's Order regarding the Covid-19 pandemic protocol. Public had access via the agenda notice which had the call-in procedures detailed on it.

President Arnold called the meeting to order @ 2:00 p.m.

Directors Present: Arnold, DePaoli, Brownfield, Milanesio, Reynolds

Directors Absent:

Others present: Hagman (GM),

Bennett (SA), Romero (Staff Engineer), Mauritsen (Counsel – via video conference), Kel Mitchel (via video conference)

### Approval of the Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was presented and the following action was taken:

**Motion: To approve the agenda for May 12, 2020 Lindmore Irrigation District Board meeting as provided – 1<sup>st</sup> Milanesio and 2<sup>nd</sup> DePaoli – Motion passed by unanimous vote of those present**

### Public Comment

None provided

### Minutes

The minutes were presented for the April 14, 2020 Regular Board meeting. After discussion, the following action was taken:

**Motion: To approve the minutes of the April 14, 2020 Regular Board meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> DePaoli and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brownfield – Motion passed by unanimous vote of those present**

### Prior/New Action Items

#### **A. Report on Prior Board actions/discussions**

*Operation and Maintenance Report:* Hagman reported on staff operations and maintenance efforts.

*Water Supply Report:* Hagman reported that the USBR has set an allocation of 55%. With this USBR allocation, and the other supplies available (Carryover, URF and Transfers), and assuming a 3% operational loss, the District pro-rate would be about 0.97 AF per acre. There is a good chance that the USBR will increase the allocation to 60% and we will likely get another URF allocation in August. To support the expected allocation, the District needs to agree to terms with the Tulare Irrigation District on a URF transfer. That transfer will give the District 1250 AF of URF from Tulare ID and in return the District needs to return two times the “allocated” Class 2 supply in future years. If the Tulare ID deal is

approved, Hagman recommends setting the grower pro-rate at 1.00 AF per acre. After substantial discussion, the following action was taken:

**Motion: Enter into agreement with Tulare ID to purchase their URF supply – 1<sup>st</sup> Reynolds and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brownfield – Motion passed by unanimous vote of those present.**

**Motion: Set the District water pro-rate at 1.0 AF per acre – 1<sup>st</sup> Reynolds and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brownfield – Motion passed by unanimous vote of those present.**

*District Improvement Projects:* Hagman updated the Board on the status of the Districts authorized improvement projects.

*Status of WaterSMART grant:* Senior Analyst Bennett reported that she contacted the USBR to see what the final amount for the environmental documents cost. Any unused funds can be added to the Agreement and the District can ask for more reimbursement. The USBR is modifying the Agreement and now the final report is due May 31<sup>st</sup>.

*Recharge Basin Development:* Hagman reported that a District grower is willing to use part of a parcel to build a reservoir. He wants to firm up his water supply in the District, yet he needs to work through development costs. Potentially a partnership with the District to help him afford the effort. Those terms and his overall share of the cost of that effort is yet to be determined, but it is safe to say the District should be involved if the ground will take a reasonable amount of percolation. Terms of the arrangement are not yet determined, but some groundwork needs to occur. The District needs to determine percolation rates and the structure of the top twenty feet of earth. District staff would be used to pothole a couple of holes on the property to determine hardpan and see how many layers of hard pan we need to work before it will take water. That cost would be minimal. Additionally, two or three boring holes should be drilled to about 50 feet. The borings would be about \$5,000. If there is a reasonable percolation rate (.25 or better), Hagman indicated that a grower deal could be brokered, and that deal would be brought back to the Board for ratification.

*Personnel Policies and Employment Agreement:* Hagman noted that Special Counsel Berglund has not yet returned his calls. Counsel Mauritson reached out to her at the meeting and Special Counsel Berglund was able to meet with the Board in Closed Session under the potential cases notation. Berglund was asked to join in about twenty minutes for a closed session.

*Job Descriptions:* Hagman reported that he is working with Special Counsel Berglund on the O&MW job description and provided the Board draft job descriptions to review before the meeting and that discussion will likely be had in the closed session in twenty minutes. The Board discussed the job descriptions provided by Hagman for the Staff Engineer, Senior Analyst, Office Administrator and Management Analyst. After discussion, the following action was taken:

**Motion: Approve job descriptions as presented for Staff Engineer, Senior Analyst, Office Administrator and Management Analyst – 1<sup>st</sup> DePaoli and 2<sup>nd</sup> Milanesio – Motion passed by unanimous vote of those present.**

*Recharge Basin Renaming:* Hagman noted that due to Covid-19 protocols, the dedication event will happen when they are no longer in place.

*Status of Assessment Collection transfer to County:* Hagman reported the District is waiting for the County to put our request on their agenda for approval. All assessment information is in correct format to send to County once approval has been reached.

*Staffing and Office Space:* Hagman reported that due to distractions (field work) and the permit process the new office space is still not available. Additionally, we are using this temporary worker to fix the main office and grounds.

*Vehicle Purchase:* No purchase

## **B. New Action Items**

*Annual Open House* – Hagman noted that the District usually has its open house in June but given the current circumstances with the Covid-19 Protocol, it does not appear to be a good time to have it. The Board decided to discuss again in August or September.

*District Leak Truck* – Hagman reported that an accident occurred when someone pulled out of Avenue 192 in front of our staff member who was driving the Leak Repair Truck on the Orange Belt headed south. The truck is at the body repair shop getting an estimate to repair. This vehicle is essential because it has the tools and equipment necessary to repair leaks. It is likely the insurance company will total the vehicle because costs are expected to exceed \$7,000-\$9,000 which exceeds the market value of the truck. Hagman recommended fixing the truck regardless. A new one or even a good used one will cost more than the difference between what insurance will pay us and what the repair costs are. Hagman also noted that he will look around for a cab and chassis as a backup.

*Miscellaneous Administrative Items:* None were provided.

C. Review accounts payable listing and request by staff that the Board ratify the payments made to pay the bills:

**Motion: To ratify the payments made to pay the bills as follows: A/P Checks (#14015 – 14150) March 11, 2020 to May 12, 2020 (two months) in the amount of \$1,104,967.78, and payroll for March 2020 in the amount of \$91,335.67 and April 2020 in the amount of \$92,440.49 for a total disbursement of \$1,288,743.94.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Milanesio and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brownfield - Motion passed by unanimous vote of those present**

## **D. Financial Reports**

Bennett presented the financial statements and reports and answered questions.

### **Reports and Discussion on meetings attended or other water related business reports:**

*FWA Issues* – Director Brownfield and Hagman reported on FWA issues.

*Friant Power Authority (FPA)* – President Arnold and GM Hagman provided a verbal update on FPA efforts.

*East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EKGSA)* – Director Milanesio and GM Hagman reported on EKGSA.

*Report on Other Meetings/Issues:* GM Hagman reported on meetings related to the District, water issues, and or the Friant/CVP.

*Meetings Attended/to Attend:* Meetings were covered.

### **Closed Session:**

- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION  
[Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)] City of Fresno, et al. v. United States of America, Court of Federal Claims, Case No. 16-1276L
- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – POTENTIAL LITIGATION  
Government Code Section 54956.9 (d) (2)] - Number of Potential Cases: One

President Arnold called the Board to closed session at 3:13 pm and the Board heard a report from Counsel and Special Counsel and came out of closed session at 4:22 pm. After coming out of closed session, the Board announced there was no reportable action.

**Correspondence Report:**

None

**Other Items to be Discussed per 54954.2 (Items not appearing on the Agenda)**

No other items were discussed.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Arnold asked for a motion to adjourn: Motion to adjourn (DePaoli/Reynolds) carried by unanimous vote of those present. Meeting was adjourned at 4:22 pm.

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Michael D. Hagman  
District Secretary