

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
of
THE STONE CORRAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT

The regular scheduled meeting of the Stone Corral Irrigation District Board of Directors convened on April 11, 2023, at 4:43 P.M. Directors Ramirez, Roberts, and Runyon were present. The Directors absent were Mr. Leal and Mr. Werner. Others present: Gene Kilgore-General Manager, Mike Lopez-District Water Operations, Vincent Serrato- Treasurer and Craig Hornung-Landowner.

Chairman Ramirez called the meeting to order and asked if there were any revisions to the agenda. Manager Kilgore requested to add Agenda Item 16: Consider Authorizing General Manager, Gene Kilgore, as signatory to Natural Resources Conservation Service/Farm Service Agency Contract for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program. On motion by Director Roberts, seconded by Director Runyon, and carried, the Board approved the amendment to the agenda.

Chairman Ramirez opened the floor for public comments; none were presented.

Mr. Serrato presented the March warrants for approval, which amounted to \$41,802.04, with pre-authorized bills amounting to \$77,358.12. On motion by Director Runyon, seconded by Director Roberts, and carried, the Board authorized payment of said bills.

Mr. Kilgore presented the March 14, 2023, regularly scheduled meeting minutes for approval. On motion by Director Roberts, seconded by Director Runyon, and carried, the Board approved the minutes as presented.

Mr. Serrato presented the Treasurer's Report. The Board was provided with March's expenditures and deposits. Financial summary as follows:

Beginning Balance, March 1 st :	\$	384,921.76
Receipts for March:	\$	166,402.05
Transfers from LAIF:	\$	-0-
Disbursements for March:	\$	91,549.62
Transfers to LAIF:	\$	-0-
Ending Balance, March 31 st :	\$	459,8774.19

Mr. Serrato presented the investment report for the LAIF account, which had a March 31st ending balance of \$2,525,220.73, interest is reported quarterly, hence no interest was reportable at the time of the meeting. On motion by Director Roberts, seconded by Director Runyon, and carried, the Board accepted the Treasurer's report as presented.

Mr. Kilgore reported no recent activity for the Agricultural Water Management Plan update. Mr. Kilgore provided a description of a proposed future basin site to capture run-off during heavy

rain events. The Board directed staff to proceed with the evaluation. Also, Mr. Kilgore reported that staff would be lowering one of the drainage grates in the northern portion of the District to better assist with drainage capacity.

Mr. Kilgore presented the 2023 proposed budget. After discussions, on motion by Director Roberts, seconded by Director Runyon, and carried, the Board approved the budget contingent upon Director Leal's review.

Mr. Kilgore presented the proposed 2023 water rate schedule for consideration. After discussion, on motion by Director Roberts, seconded by Director Runyon, and carried the 2023 the water rate was set for \$60 per acre-foot starting March 1st through June 30th or earlier if uncontrolled season/flood release is terminated before June 30th. The 2023 water allocation is expected to begin July 1, 2023, at which time the water rate is expected to be set at \$119 per acre-foot.

Mr. Kilgore requested to change the payroll period from bi-monthly to bi-weekly. On motion by Director Roberts, seconded by Director Runyon, and carried, the Board approved the bi-weekly period. Mr. Kilgore reminded the Board that water sales to growers were paid by three (3) advance payments (50%, 25%, 25%). Mr. Kilgore requested to invoice growers monthly, as water is delivered. On motion by Director Runyon, seconded by Director Roberts, and carried the Board approved the invoicing procedure to pay as go. Mr. Kilgore reported that legal counsel is drafting the employee sharing agreement with Ivanhoe Irrigation District, which will be presented at the May Board meeting.

Mr. Kilgore requested to increase the monthly cell phone stipend from \$25 to \$40 for all employees. On motion by Director Runyon, seconded by Director Roberts, and carried, the Board approved the \$15 monthly increase.

Mr. Kilgore reported that in March the District had Friant water deliveries totaling seventeen (17) acre-feet. However, Friant had deliveries at 77 acre-feet, Friant is reviewing the discrepancy.

The District recorded 7.20 inches of precipitation in the month of March. As of March 31st, accumulated precipitation totaled 23.06 inches for the 2022-23 season. Mr. Kilgore reported, as of April 11, 2023, the Southern Sierra Snowpack was 319% of normal for the date and 305% for the April 1st average.

Mr. Lopes reported that staff continue to perform routine maintenance, which included painting over graffiti.

Mr. Kilgore reported on the Friant-Kern Canal Middle Reach Correction Project, Phase 1, had sustained substantial flood damage and the extent has not been finalized. However, the expectation is the project will be delayed for an unknown period. Friant continues to negotiate with all parties on the expected temporary cash shortfall of the project. The Board instructed legal counsel to draft a letter addressing the District's concerns regarding potential funding options.

The East Kaweah GSA is preparing to send out the 2022 invoice statements for a 30-day grower

review and feedback period. Also, the new hydrogeologist is beginning their collaboration with the Greater and Mid Kaweah GSAs to address the Department of Water Resources' issues with the GSA's Groundwater Sustainability Plans.

Mr. Kilgore provided a brief update on the activities of the South Valley Water Association and provided a draft letter requesting support from the associate members. On motion by Director Roberts, seconded by Director Runyon and carried, the Board provided support and directed Mr. Kilgore to send the letter.

Mr. Kilgore advised the Board that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) required an authorized signatory to sign documents associated with the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). The District submitted an application for EQIP grant funds to increase the efficiency of the District's reservoir operations. On motion by Director Runyon, seconded by Roberts, and carried, the Board authorized General Manager Kilgore as the District's signatory to any documents required by NRCS and FSA to receive EQIP funding.

There being no further business, the next Board of Directors meeting is set for May 9, 2023, and the meeting was duly adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Kilgore
Secretary of the Board