

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mike Vereschagin, President
Charles Schonauer, Vice President
James A Jones
Brian Erickson
Steve Carlos



ORLAND-ARTOIS WATER DISTRICT

(A UNIT OF THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY CANALS)
P. O. BOX 218 ORLAND, CALIFORNIA 95963
Telephone (530) 865-4304 • Fax (530) 865-8497

GENERAL MANAGER

Justin Dahl

**MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

MINUTES

APRIL 16, 2024

DIRECTOR MEMBERS PRESENT

X Mike Vereschagin
X Steve Carlos
X Brian Erickson
X Jim Jones
X Chuck Schonauer

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

X Justin Dahl, Manager
X Chris Drouillard, Water Superintendent
X Justin Rolfs, Field Tech
X Angel Stephens, Administrative Assistant
X Marty Bailey, Assessor/Treasurer/Tax Collector
X Karen Osborn, Office Secretary
X Jenny Scheer, Water & Land Solutions

CALL TO ORDER

President of the Board Mike Vereschagin called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll was taken and is indicated above.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

The minutes of the March 19th Board meeting were reviewed. After Board discussion, it was m/s/c (Jones/Carlos) to approve the March 19th Board meeting minutes by the following vote, with a few spelling error fixes:

Roll Call Vote	AYES	NOES	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Mike Vereschagin:	<u> X</u>			
Steve Carlos:	<u> X</u>			
Brian Erickson:	<u> X</u>			
Jim Jones:	<u> X</u>			
Chuck Schonauer:	<u> X</u>			

PUBLIC FORUM:

No comments were made.

FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS AND APPROVAL OF CHECKS:

The Directors reviewed the financial transaction summary for March and the check register. Manager Dahl and Administrative Assistant Angel Stephens answered any questions the Board had regarding the financials. After Board discussion, it was m/s/c (Schonauer/Erickson) to approve the March Financial Report and checks #14613 through #14666 by the following vote:

Roll Call Vote	AYES	NOES	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Mike Vereschagin:	<u> X</u>			
Steve Carlos:	<u> X</u>			
Brian Erickson:	<u> X</u>			
Jim Jones:	<u> X</u>			
Chuck Schonauer:	<u> X</u>			

WATER SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Water Superintendent Chris Drouillard updated the Board on District Operations. He talked about Justin working in the shop and out in the district, he has been busy spraying weeds around the plants, office, and shop. Justin has also been busy making sure all the air vents have been turned on. New meters just arrived and Chris reported that he and Justin Rolfs would get those installed.

We billed 957.6 A/F of water for March and have delivered approximately 350A/F for the month of April so far. Chris also mentioned we have delivered about 75 A/F of recharge water so far for April. The water quality of the canal is starting to look cleaner.

Deep Wells, DW 1 is at 123 feet (up 6ft from the last reading), DW-2 is at 94 feet (up 9ft from the last reading), and the Monitoring well is at 45 feet (up 7ft from the last reading).

Chris reported that we had to take the service truck to Chico to get the crane worked on. Director Erickson asked Chris approximately how often is the service truck in use in a month, Chris reported that we probably use it a minimum of 2-3 times per month, but that it is getting very tired and things are starting to go wrong with the truck. All other vehicles are running fine for now.

MANAGER’S REPORT

- A. Manager Dahl reviewed with the Board his Manager’s Report, which was included in the Board packet. Director Jones asked Justin about his meeting with the Paskenta Tribal Counsel, Justin told him that would be addressed in the Annexation update.

Presentation by David McDonald, Zach Cartstensen, and Sara Alderson with New York Life & John Hancock for 401K Retirement Plan for the District Employees.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- A. After discussing the different options that were presented to the Board of Directors and OAWD employees, Director Carlos asked Manager Dahl why he decided to go with this company, and if he had checked with anyone else. Justin explained that the District had already been with them and the employees were already comfortable/trust them and they are local folks. The Board discussed and considered a 401k plan for the District, it was m/s/c (Schonauer/Jones) to change to the 401K plan with a 90-day probationary period, (retroactive for Angel to 20% now and be at her 40% vested on her 2-year anniversary) with full vesting after 5 years (20% each year), capping at 7% for the district, the employees can invest more if they want on their own.

The vote was as follows:

Roll Call Vote	AYES	NOES	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Mike Vereschagin:	<u> X </u>			
Steve Carlos:	<u> X </u>			
Brian Erickson:	<u> X </u>			
Jim Jones:	<u> X </u>			
Chuck Schonauer:	<u> X </u>			

- B. The Board to receive an update on the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority Activities

Director Jones updated the Board on the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority activities and the meeting he participated in on 4/03/2024. Jim reported that Jeff Sutton is moving on from the General Manager position at the TCCA and there is a flyer out, they will be taking applications until April 26th. He reported on Tier 2 and Tier 3 pricing for 3F water. They are currently spraying weeds, checking their meters, WAPA switch yard changes, and had a tour of the diversion dam by a National Fish Hatchery and School. No update on a decision being made on the bridge collapsing. He also reported a car coming off of I-5 ended up in the canal, everyone was fine and all were able to get out and get to safety. TCCA Labor Law Services attorney is leaving the practice. It was Jeff Suttons recommendation that we keep her on for the two or three current cases and which they will cut ties. Colusa County Water District interested in moving into the soil lab down in Arbuckle, the current building that they are in isn’t giving them sufficient space. The building they are in now is pretty dilapidated, and the Bureau wants out of the building, so the Board said yes see if they can be worked with and what it would take to get into the other space. Dave Conway will be leaving after 52 years of Service. Sites update, CEQA will be done by Oct 15th with ground

work to be started in January. Director Jones asked a question about ownership of land. Nothing to report out of closed session. No action is needed.

C. The Board to receive an update on the Glenn Groundwater Authority, and Ground Water Recharge Projects.

Director Schonauer updated the Board on the Glenn Groundwater Authority activities and meetings he participated in on 4/8/2024, with 2 additional Special Board Meetings on March 22nd and April 12th. The GGA and the Colusa Water Authority have been working with the consultants to come up with a Sustainability Plan. They have been meeting with DWR and are going to submit their proposal on the upcoming Friday. Director Carlos asked how they would be addressing the domestic wells, or if there was a bigger concern. Director Schonauer commented that there are bigger concerns, we are over-drafting the sub-basin by about 60k A/F a year. Within that area, they are finding subsidence. What DWR wants the GGA to sign an MOU to come up with a Demand Management Plan and a Well Mitigation Plan. Manager Dahl said they reached out to him asking which types of water each landowner used surface water or groundwater. Justin expressed how he didn't feel comfortable giving that information, it was a consensus of the Board that was not our place, that we need to continue to promote using district water and leave it at that. President Vereschagin asked if it was possible for someone at the county level to put in a petition to the BOR to get an exemption and allow district water to be put on non-district lands to help with recharge projects. Jenny Scheer spoke up and said it would need a NEPA document done. Director Schonauer spoke about bending the curve through water recharge projects and annexing in more lands. He told us he would keep us informed as this progresses. No action was needed.

There are 2 water recharge projects that have been brought to the district where different landowners are requesting possible assistance with infrastructure fees to be able to run more water when recharge waters become available. Manager Dahl along with Administrative Assistant Angel Stephens presented the different projects and quotes the landowners had received and after discussion, it was a consensus of the Board that Manager Dahl go out to the projects and use his judgment to get as much recharge as we can that makes the most sense for the money that was allocated. They also asked that we reach out to Lisa Hunter and Don Rust to see if anything has been decided on the gravel pit near the airport.

D. The Board is to receive an update on annexations.

The Board will receive an update from Water and Lands Solutions on the Orland A Farmers Group annexation project. Jenny Scheer informed the Directors that she has been working on finalizing the NEPA documents and the Paskenta Tribe asked for a consultation and they came back asking for 3 things; Train your construction crews to know what to do about finding artifacts, remains, etc., we want to be informed if any of these items are found and lastly, we are sending you a rate sheet for our monitor to be on-site during all construction digs. The rate sheet showed a minimum of 4hrs. at a cost of \$250 per hour. We need to figure out what we have to do legally so she will be reaching out to see what is required. The Patton Pump project will be talked to with the Bureau to see who retains ownership. Most of the projects are now becoming private not public due to pricing. We are still waiting to hear back from the grants if we will receive any of those. No action is needed.

E. The Board to discuss J&L Farms reimbursements for 2023 Water Year. J&L Farms has a credit of \$17,288.91 of water credit left after selling their property and would like a refund. After Board discussion, it was m/s/c (Jones/Carlos) to reimburse the amount left in their account.

The vote was as follows:

Roll Call Vote	AYES	NOES	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Mike Vereschagin:	<u> X </u>			
Steve Carlos:	<u> X </u>			
Brian Erickson:	<u> X </u>			
Jim Jones:	<u> X </u>			
Chuck Schonauer:	<u> X </u>			

F. The Board to discuss repair/update on pumps at 38.6 and 44.1. Water Superintendent Chris Drouillard explained the ongoing issues the pumps are having and that 2 of the pumps are completely down. After Board discussion it was m/s/c (Schonauer/Erickson) to Fix all of the pumps and to take the money from Deferred Maintenance.

The vote was as follows:

Roll Call Vote	AYES	NOES	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Mike Vereschagin:	<u> X </u>			
Steve Carlos:	<u> X </u>			
Brian Erickson:	<u> X </u>			
Jim Jones:	<u> X </u>			
Chuck Schonauer:	<u> X </u>			

G. General Manager Justin Dahl started to discuss with the Board some investment opportunities that were presented to him by 2 Banks, at that time Director Jim Jones excused himself from the meeting and said he would Abstain from any conversations or voting due to working for one of the companies (even though a different department). After Director Jones had left the Board room, Manager Dahl went on to discuss the differences in LAIF (who currently holds our reserve funds), Tri-Counties Bank, and Umpqua Bank Money Market Interest rates. After Board discussion it was m/s/c (Erickson/Carlos) to go with Tri-Counties Bank with the highest interest rate of the 3 agencies.

The vote was as follows:

Roll Call Vote	AYES	NOES	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Mike Vereschagin:	<u> X </u>			
Steve Carlos:	<u> X </u>			
Brian Erickson:	<u> X </u>			
Jim Jones:				<u> X </u>
Chuck Schonauer:	<u> X </u>			

ADJOURNMENT:

Being there was no further business, President Vereschagin adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angel Stephens

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 5/21/24