

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)
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GENERAL MANAGER

Justin Dahl

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES FOR

MARCH 19TH, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

President Mike Vereschagin called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum.

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

Roll call was as above and a quorum was determined.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

 X Justin Dahl, General Manager
 X Angel Stephens, Administrative Assistant.
 X Chris Drouillard, Water Superintendent.
 X Marty Bailey, Assessor/Treasurer/Tax Collector.

1. MINUTES APPROVAL:

The minutes of the February 20th Board meeting were reviewed. Manager Justin Dahl wanted clarification from the Board on Item B., under General Business, sub category marked iii., when the Board allocated \$50k to use for recharge for the 2024 water season when 3F water was available, was it the Board of Directors thought to set \$50k in addition to the \$14,962.33 remaining from the 2023 recharge program or was it to be written as \$35,037.67 to be added to the balance to bring the total back up to \$50k? After Board discussion, it was m/s/c (Schonauer/Jones) to approve the February 20th Board meeting minutes, with the changes made to the minutes to read adding \$35,037.67 to the remaining balance bringing the total up to \$50,000.00 by the following vote:

AYES: B. Erickson, J. Jones, C. Schonauer, M. Vereschagin, S. Carlos

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

2. PUBLIC FORUM:

There was no public comment.

3. FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS AND APPROVAL OF CHECKS:

The Directors reviewed the financial transaction summary for February and the check register. Manager Justin Dahl went over some changes he is implementing into the financial reporting, he and Administrative Assistant Angel Stephens are still trying to come up with a more streamlined way to read the budget and financials. Director Jones requested we try to see if we could have the over/under narrowed down to monthly rather than yearly, in order to have a more defined time line of expenses. Overall, the Directors were pleased with the information given and approved of the changes made, they found it much easier to follow. Manager Dahl answered any questions the Board had regarding the financials and the check register. After Board discussion, it was m/s/c (Jones/Carlos) to approve the February Financial Report and checks#14568 thru # 14612 by the following vote:

AYES: M. Vereschagin, B. Erickson, J. Jones, C. Schonauer, S. Carlos

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

4. WATER SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- Operations: Justin is working on turning all the air vents back on out in the district. We had a pipe repair at 38.6-R #26, it looked like the break was due to Water Hammer. We turned delivery 35.2 #2 and installed 2 deliveries on Road P 35.2 #62 and #64
- Water Use: We billed 154 A/F for February and delivered approximately 527 A/F so far for March with 323 A/F of that for recharge.
- Deep Wells: DW1 is at 125 Ft. (Up 3.4 Ft.) DW2 is at 100 Ft. (Up 3.3 Ft.) Monitoring Well is at 48 Ft. (Up 4.4 Ft.)
- District Vehicles: All trucks are running good now.
- Water Quality: The canal is dirty from high flow on the river.

5. MANAGER'S REPORT:

The Board of Directors reviewed Manager Dahl's Report that was included in the Board packet. He reported about Meeting's attended, Office Operations, and reminded the Board of Directors the 700 Forms are due by April 1st. He also let them know, Ethics & Harassment Training is available on April 17th at Granzella's in Williams if anyone was interested in doing the in-person training rather than the on-line training. 3F Water & Recharge Projects, and answered any questions the Board had.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS:

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

Director Jones reported to the Board on the 03/06/2024 TCCA Board meeting. The USBR report was given by Jake Berens (he will be replacing Rich Robertson), 3F water is available now, Jake indicated it could be available through May and possibly into June again this year we will just have to wait and see where that falls. Under the GM Report, Operations and Maintenance the canal is now back to being fully operational, they did a lot of checks and repairs, and finished the sterilant spraying. They hired a new employee in Willows. They are still researching on a safe way to dismantle/demolish the Bridge that collapsed last month, they currently have no plans to replace it. Director Jones mentioned he had enrolled in the GSRM Ethics and Harassment Training and also thanked Angel for helping to fill out his 700 Form. Insurance premiums are going up. Nothing to report on pending litigation. Sites report: Permits are supposed to be in place by mid-summer. Wheeling rates & power structure are still being discussed. Manager Dahl also mentioned and reminded the Board about the roughly \$750k that is still owed to us by Sites Reservoir and Director Jones asked that he write a letter to them reminding them that we are aware of the monies still owed to us from them. President Vereschagin commented that we needed to keep reminding them. Nothing to report from closed session.

B. The Board to receive an update on Glenn Groundwater Authority.

Report on GGA Board Meeting: Director Schonauer reported to the Board on the GGA Board Meeting on 03/12/2024. He reported there was a public comment, there was a concern on how the Warren Act water worked and the concerned party stated that he was against allowing it. While reporting on the Annual Report from the GGA, Vice President Schonauer mentioned it was online or Manager Dahl had a copy that could be forwarded, (President Vereschagin requested to receive a printed copy for the members of the Board, for future reference from Administrative Assistant Angel Stephens). V.P. Schonauer mentioned there was still ongoing discussion on how to address the incomplete reporting on a defined plan on how to deal with the subsidence with the State. That needs to be turned in by the end of April. There will be another joint meeting on Friday 03/22/2024 at 10 a.m. and the consultants are coming back with proposals for review. Director Schonauer also mentioned the Domestic Well Mitigation Program and how they are still trying to come up with a plan for that, he mentioned that the recharge projects and annexation of lands could only continue to help the current situation. Director Brian Erickson, commented that he thought we should possibly draft a letter to send out to our Landowners regarding the benefits of our recharge projects and to running our water vs. pumping. To be proactive in preserving water for drought years, or even the value of cost to pump vs run district water.

Recharge Update: Manager Dahl reported he spoke with Dr Doc Bogart about changing some infrastructure for him and the possibility of pulling a ditch and getting some water back into his gravel pit for recharge. He currently has a crop out there now, but would like to see more water filled in the pit to help with recharge. GGA put some monitors out to check on recharge efforts and see how fast the water is going into the ground. President Vereschagin reminded the Board the well measurements were in the Board Packet for our recharge projects from 2023 and where we are starting in 2024. Manager Dahl also referenced the page showing how much recharge water went out and the table showing how much money the total cost of 2023 recharge was.

C. The Board to receive an update on annexations.

Manager Dahl, reported he met with Jenny and Chase to try to catch up on the annexation. He was told in that meeting there were a few landowners that could be delivering water as early as July 1st as long as everything goes through the Bureau. There is a meeting set on the 28th to talk about things with Tribal Representatives. Justin has been reviewing annexation policies and past discussions/plans and in doing so found a few concerns that he is asking for further clarification on; The Patton Pump is owned by BOR, Justin's concern is that we cannot relinquish those rights to the landowner as discussed previously. When he reached out to District Counsel Josh Horowitz, he responded that it was a good point and needed to be dug into deeper, Manager Dahl reached out to the Bureau and they replied that we absolutely could not do that. He had concerns of what else may have been missed regarding BOR owned property or the ability to have certain entities solely pay for infrastructure that should be OAWD owned. He will continue to work with District Counsel, and Jenny Scheer regarding the matter further.

D. The Board to discuss planning for the 2024 water year.

The Board to discuss and consider Resolution 2024-01 Approving One-Year Water Transfer from Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District: Manager Dahl asked the Board to review and approve the Resolution to purchase 3000A/F of water. There is no up charge for the water, it is “regular priced” water. After Board discussion it was m/s/c (Schonauer/Jones) to approve Resolution 2024-01 with the following vote:

AYES: M. Vereschagin, B. Erickson, J. Jones, C. Schonauer., S. Carlos
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Update on 2024 USBR allocation: Manager Dahl reported to the Board we are currently at 75%.

The Board to discuss 3F Water prices for 2024: Manager Dahl reported to the Board the pricing of 3F water at \$9.67 per AF. Manager Dahl suggested the Board consider raising the price from \$9.67 to \$12.00. The Board asked where would the extra revenue be allocated, and Manager Dahl suggested it get used for a new service vehicle. After Board discussion it was m/s/c (Schonauer / Erickson) to approve the 3F water price of \$12.00 and to allocate the extra revenue towards the vehicle replacement fund.

AYES: M. Vereschagin, B. Erickson, J. Jones, C. Schonauer., S. Carlos
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

E. The Board to discuss outgoing General Manager retirement party:

Administrative Assistant Angel Stephens reviewed plans for Emil’s retirement party being held April 11th from 11:30-1:30 at the Amaris Banquet Hall in Orland. She has received 27 RSVP’s of people that will be attending the luncheon. Angel also asked the Board about contributions to a gift from OAWD to which it was a consensus of the Board they would all contribute \$50 of their per Diems After Board discussion it was m/s/c (Schonauer/Jones) to appoint Manager Dahl as Secretary to the Board of Directors

AYES: M. Vereschagin, B. Erickson, J. Jones, C. Schonauer., S. Carlos
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None


F. **CLOSED SESSION: Public employee performance evaluation involving the position of General Manager. (Government Code section 54957(b)).** The Board went into Closed Session at 2:52p.m. and came out of closed session at 3:17p.m.

It was reported by President Vereschagin that Manager Dahl gave an update on short-term and long-term goals. No Action was needed.

ADJOURNMENT.

Being there was no further District business, Board President Vereschagin adjourned the meeting at 3:18 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Angel Stephens

Administrative Assistant

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APRIL 16TH 2024