

NORTH SAN JOAQUIN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lodi Grape Festival Grounds – Barrel Room
413 E. Lockeford Street, Lodi, CA

Monday, February 26, 2024

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

MEETING WAS NOT AVAILABLE BY ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

- 1. Call to Order - Roll Call - Acceptance of Agenda** - The meeting was called to order by President Valente at 2:00 p.m. A motion for the acceptance of the Agenda, made by Secretary Simpson, second by Treasurer Starr. Motion passed unanimously 4/0/0.

President Joe Valente - Area 3
Vice President Jason Colombini - Area 2
Secretary David Simpson – Area 1
Treasurer Charles Starr – Area 4
Director Brady Colburn – Area 5

General Counsel Jennifer Spaletta
Special Counsel Roger Masuda - Absent
Daniel deGraaf – District Engineer
Acting Deputy Secretary – Pam Farris
General Manager – Steve Schwabauer

NOTE:

General Counsel Spaletta attended via teleconference.

Director Colburn assumed the dais following his appointment and oath at 2:10 p.m.

- 2. Correspondence/Announcements** - None

- 3. Action Items** Note: Votes recorded as: For/Against/Abstention (name)

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Scheduled Board meeting on January 29, 2024. A motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Scheduled Board Meeting on January 29, 2024, made by Vice President Colombini, second by Secretary Simpson. Motion passed 4/0/0.

- 4. Director and Staff Reports** (This item was heard out of order.)

C. Other

- a. Appoint Director to fill Fifth District Board vacancy. President Valente introduced Brady Colburn for consideration for the Fifth District Board vacancy. Mr. Colburn provided a brief summary of his background and interest in the agricultural community. A motion to appoint Brady Colburn to fill the unexpired term of the Fifth District Board vacancy resulting from the passing of Director Marden Wilbur, made by Vice President Colombini, second by Secretary Simpson. Motion passed 4/0/0. General Manager Schwabauer administered the oath of

office.

B. Financial Matters

1. Receive and file February 2024 NSJWCD Monthly Treasurer's Report and Summary of Accounts and Transfers presented to the board. Wally from Butterfield + Company prepared financial statements for Board action. A motion to approve February 2024 NSJWCD Monthly Treasurer's Report, made by Secretary Simpson, second by Treasurer Starr. Motion passed 5/0/0.
2. Approve Payment of Bills. Secretary Simpson requested that future reports contain information regarding Accounts Receivable. A motion to approve payment of bills recommendation listed on page 9 and 10 in the Board meeting packet, made by Secretary Simpson, second by Treasurer Starr. Motion passed 5/0/0.

NOTE: The above two items were voted on as a single item.

3. Possible draw from the Farmers & Merchants Line of Credit. General Manager Schwabauer provided information regarding the possible need for a draw from the Farmers & Merchants line of credit. Wally explained the differences between a line of credit and a warrant. This item was for information only and no action was required by the Board.
4. Adopt **Resolution 2024-01** Groundwater Charge Appeal Rules. General Manager Schwabauer and General Counsel Spaletta provided information on this item. A motion to adopt Resolution 2024-01 Groundwater Sustainability Agency - Adopting Rule for Groundwater Charge Appeals, made by Vice President Colombini, second by Treasurer Starr. Roll call vote: Starr, Aye; Simpson, Aye; Colombini, Aye; Colburn, Aye; Valente; Aye. Motion passed 5/0/0.

C. Contracts

1. Authorize Staff to establish program for Riparian Pumpers to take delivery of Permit 10477 water for non-riparian adjacent land and file Minor Change Request to add Point of Diversion Notice of Exemption/Mitigated Negative Declaration for Borra Project. General Manager Schwabauer provided information on the item. Discussion ensued regarding historical usage and out-of-district water usage, SWEEP grants, time line for changes, MICUP availability during irrigation season, ability to reduce usage, and time limitations. A motion to authorize staff to establish a program for Riparian Pumpers to take delivery of Permit 10477 water for non-riparian adjacent land and to file Minor Change Request to add Point of Diversion Notice of Exemption/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Borra Project with a 25-year limit, made by Secretary Simpson, second by Vice President Colombini. General Counsel Spaletta recommended amending the motion to include the appropriate CEQA documentation. Secretary Simpson and Vice President Colombini approved the amended motion. Motion passed 5/0/0.
2. Execute Grant Administration Agreement for State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) Block Grant between Stockton East Water

District, South San Joaquin Irrigation District, and North San Joaquin Water Conservation District. General Manager Schwabauer provided information on the need for the agreement, as well as other similar agreements already in use by NSJWCD. A motion to execute a Grant Administration Agreement for State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) Block Grant between Stockton East Water District, South San Joaquin Irrigation District, and North San Joaquin Water Conservation District, made by Director Colburn, second by Treasurer Starr. Motion passed 5/0/0.

3. Authorize General Manager to enter into contract with WGR Southwest to perform water quality testing for the South System related to the Victor storm water (not to exceed \$10,000). General Manager Schwabauer provided information regarding this item. He explained the current work, including the creation of a testing protocol and initial testing, is under his spending limit of \$10,000, but future work of implementing the protocol would move beyond the limit. Secretary Simpson suggested contacting the company currently providing testing services for the Irrigated Land Program for pricing for future testing. Discussion ensued regarding whether Victor storm water discharges to the river and who would be responsible should the testing reveal problems with the storm water. A motion to authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with WGR Southwest to perform water quality testing for the South System related to the Victor storm water (not to exceed \$10,000), made by Vice President Colombini, second by Director Colburn. Motion passed 5/0/0.

D. System and Projects

1. Hydrofocus Report on Groundwater Monitoring – No update.

2. Engineer's Report and Operations Plan. Engineer deGraaf gave an overview of where the district stands on each project. Report was presented at the start of the Board meeting and is available upon request.

3. North System -

i. Reynolds Recharge Update. Information was provided regarding issues with San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District compliance and the possible use of sheep or herbicides to control vegetation. Engineer deGraaf confirmed that a change in procedure will be needed.

ii. Progressive Design - Build Procurement Update. Bob Grandberg provided information regarding the three Statements of Qualifications that were received, stating a meeting was held last week and that a meeting with the preferred qualifier will be held March 5 to discuss the Phase 1 contract. Discussion ensued regarding the project limits on Acampo Road, the number of interested parties, the project size, and the acre-feet limit. The Board indicated support on moving forward with the project.

iii. Lakso – Authorize Staff to bid and award contract to install a quarter-mile 10-inch PVC lateral from the AVID pipeline to connect to an existing flood irrigation system on the Lakso property, for a price not to exceed \$20,000. General Manager Schwabauer and Engineer deGraaf provided information on this item. Discussion ensued regarding the shut-down date for Mr. Lakso's farming needs, the timeframe needed for construction, and the collective acre-feet loss. A motion to authorize staff to bid and award a contract to install a quarter-mile 10-inch PVC lateral from the AVID pipeline to connect to an

existing flood irrigation system on the Lakso property, for a price not to exceed \$20,000, subject to Mr. Lakso's approval of the construction schedule, made by Secretary Simpson, second by Vice President Colombini. Motion passed 5/0/0.

4. South System

i. South System Phase II Update – Information was provided regarding final construction.

ii. South System Phase III Design Plan – Information was provided regarding fieldwork and easements.

5. Cal-Fed/Woodbridge – No update.

6. Tracy Lake Improvement District. General Manager Schwabauer and Engineer deGraaf provided information on this item..

E. Grant Activity

1. Consero report – General Manager Schwabauer reviewed the Consero Solutions monthly report on funding opportunities from staff report presented in the board meeting packet.

F. Strategic Plan Activity

1. Town Hall follow up. The meeting was well attended. President Valente jokingly stated that he had received a complaint regarding the difficulty in hearing/seeing the meeting.

G. Groundwater Charge - Processing appeals and preparing direct billing at this time. No updated was provided.

H. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act/GWA Activity – No update.

I. SJC Mokelumne River Application Update – No update.

J. Bay Delta Flow Program Update/Voluntary Agreements – No update.

K. Landowner Communications – No update.

L. Board Planning Calendar – No update.

4. Director and Staff Reports

A. Director's Report – No report at this time.

B. Committee Reports – No reports at this time.

C. Other -

a. Appoint Director to fill fifth District Board Vacancy. (This item was addressed earlier in the agenda, following the approval of minutes.)

5. Public Comment. Keith Bussman, Woodbridge Irrigation District General Manager, stated that water will be added to Lodi Lake today if the City of Lodi is able to complete placement of the boards.

6. Closed Session – The Board entered closed session at 3:56 p.m. and came out of closed session at 4:18 p.m. **Return to Open Session –** President Valente returned the meeting to open session and announced there was no further reportable action.

7. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn the NSJWCD Regular Meeting on February 26, 2024 made by Secretary Simpson, second by Treasurer Starr. Motion passed 5/0/0. Meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

The next regular scheduled Board Meeting March 25, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The above minutes of the North San Joaquin Water Conservation District Board of Directors Meeting of February 26, 2024,

Respectfully submitted:

Pam Farris, Acting Deputy Secretary