

**Minutes of Meeting  
Held  
April 18, 2024**

President Amaro called the meeting of the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Board of Directors to order at 9:02 a.m. with the flag salute. The meeting was held at the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Board Room, 344 East Laurel Street, Willows, California.

**Present:**

John Amaro, President, Division 2  
Logan Dennis, Vice-President, Division 3  
Peter Knight, Director, Division 1  
Donald R. Bransford, Director, Division 4  
Blake Vann, Director, Division 5 (via agendized remote location)

**Absent:**

None.

**Staff Present:**

Greg Krzys, Assistant General Manager  
Louis Jarvis, Finance Director  
Kayla Mendonca, Executive Assistant  
Karen Alves, Administrative Services Manager  
Jeremy Richardson, Maintenance Superintendent  
Ed Henderson, Water Operations Superintendent  
Jake Hancock, Assistant Water Operations Superintendent  
Chris Privitera, Interim District Engineer  
Andy Hitchings, Somach Simmons & Dunn (via teleconference)

**Others Present:**

Kelly Ornbaun, Water User  
John Cecil, Water User  
Tim Sanchez, Water User  
Jeff Sutton, TCCA  
Doug McGeoghegan, Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company

**Public Participation**

Water User Kelly Ornbaun thanked District staff for their response letter to his notification of the division of District lands. He said he would respond to the letter soon.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Authorize Payment of Claims

Director Bransford moved to approve the payment of claims #24 14280 through #24 14359, in the amount of Two Million, Three Hundred Fifty-Three Thousand, Nine Hundred Twenty-One Dollars and Ninety-One Cents (\$2,353,921.91) and approve the April 3, 2024 Special meeting minutes and the April 4, 2024 Regular meeting minutes. Director Knight seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Directors Amaro, Bransford, Dennis, Knight and Vann

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### Review and Consider Approval of the 2024 Water Transfer Agreement with the Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company and Find that the Agreement is Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act

Finance Director Jarvis reported that the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District has transferred water to the Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company (Company) every year since 1999. In 2023, the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) provided conditional consent to the transfers for the period covering 2023 to 2027.

The 2024 transfer agreement is structured similarly to agreements from previous non-Shasta Critical water years. Staff has determined that the transfer agreement with the Company is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. Tailwater transfers identical to those proposed under the transfer agreement have been occurring annually for more than a decade; the transfer agreement would allow these transfers to continue without change. Water transferred under the transfer agreement is tailwater from irrigation and would not result from a new draw on the hydrogeologic system. No land will be fallowed in GCID as a result of the transfer, and the existing facilities to irrigate existing irrigated cropland within Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company, consistent with established irrigation uses. The transfer authorized under the agreement qualifies for the following CEQA categorical exemptions: 15301 (Existing Facilities), 15304 (Minor Alterations to Lands), and 15061 (b)(3) (General).

Doug McGeoghegan from Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company said the agreement has worked extremely well and he appreciates working with Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District.

Director Knight moved to approve the 2024 Water Transfer Agreement with the Colusa Basin Drain Mutual Water Company and find that the agreement is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. Director Dennis seconded the motion and was unanimously approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Directors Amaro, Bransford, Dennis, Knight and Vann

### Review and Consider Approval of California Farm Water Coalition Membership This item was tabled.

### Consider Authorizing Staff to Execute Sales Order for Backhoe in Excess of Budgeted Amount

Maintenance Superintendent Richardson reported that staff recently conducted a competitive bid process for a new backhoe where three bids were received. Each bid was responsive to the requirements. The lowest bid was submitted by Sonsrays Machinery in the amount of \$149,250, inclusive of tax and all other costs which is approximately \$9,250 over the budgeted amount. Staff recommends that the Board authorize staff to execute the sales order with Sonsrays Machinery for the back backhoe.

Director Dennis moved to authorize staff to execute the sales order for a backhoe in excess of the budgeted amount. Director Bransford seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Directors Amaro, Bransford, Dennis, Knight and Vann

The Board agreed that the Budget Committee should meet to consider a policy for authorizing over-budgeted purchases up to a certain amount without the need for Board approval. This would streamline the purchasing process by allowing for marginal inflation costs.

#### Review and Consider Approval of Application of GCID's Rules & Regulations and Affirm Continued Application of All GCID Rules & Regulations and Adopted Policies

Assistant General Manager Krzys explained that management staff are the administrators of the District's Rules & Regulations in the field during the day-to-day operations. It is central to the trust and confidence in the Board/staff relationship for staff to be supported in holding the water users accountable for violating the Rules & Regulations put in place by the Board to protect the District's water supply, infrastructure, operations, and staff, and to ensure fair and equitable water deliveries to all water users. This topic relates back to the recent issue brought to the Board regarding a water user filling water trucks for tomato transplants and the related disassembling of a District gate to take the water. A letter was sent to the water user stating the issue and also included an invoice for early water charges as a water application had not yet been submitted. Staff are asking the Board to take action on whether or not the water user should pay the \$357 charge and are seeking input regarding the enforcement of the District's Rules & Regulations.

After much discussion, the Board agreed that miscommunication played a large part in the instance. The Board does believe that the Rules & Regulations need to be enforced and support staff's decision to send the violation letter reflecting a first offense of tampering with District facilities. The next offense will result in a \$1,000 fine. The Board also agreed not to charge the \$357 for early water as the amount of water taken was insignificant. The Board and staff explored the idea of opening an earlier water application window for row crops that need trucks of water for transplants, but no official direction was given regarding this potential idea at that time. The Board, District staff, and water users all agreed that better communication between growers and staff will help prevent similar issues moving forward. The Board directed staff to waive the \$357 fee and noted that the water user has confirmed receipt of his first violation letter from the District.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

#### Department Reports

##### *Water*

Water Superintendent Ed Henderson reported that Water Operators are making repairs and preparing for flood-up season which should look similar to last year. He noted that Shasta Reservoir storage is approximately 4.46 million acre-feet. Mr. Henderson then reported that staff have been exploring better technology for measurement and would like to move from the current Wolven technology to the Davids Engineering system. The Davids system is used by many districts and GCID is currently using this technology to measure the main canal. The Davids software is a smoother, simpler technology that can produce landowner-friendly usage reports. Water Operations Superintendent Henderson likes that Davids Engineering is local and can be responsive to any issues or inquiries. He acknowledged that it would take time to get the entire district equipped with tail boxes and remote tracker brackets to accept the measurement devices that are used with this software, but the implementation of the software and purchase of several measurement devices could be done in time to test run during the slower winter water season. The Board is supportive of getting this effort moving and recommended a deeper discussion with the Operations & Maintenance Ad Hoc Committee.

### *Maintenance*

Maintenance Superintendent Richardson reported that the 32-2a flume backfill is complete. The Maintenance Department is continuing to install walkways and ITRC gates, and install tail boxes on lateral deliveries. They are also mowing and spraying the main canal and laterals. He also reported that the contractor completed the Willows Main Office drywall repairs.

### *Engineering*

Interim District Engineer Privitera reported that the Engineering Department has participated in the third Chico State GIS training and a progress report for other tasks has been presented. He reported the Provost & Pritchard has finished ground surveys and plans to submit the draft legal descriptions to the district by the end of April. He reported that they are also working to help with the Wolven data update, creating maps for field use, and performing Remote Tracker training and implementation. Mr. Privitera also noted that the Engineering Department has begun the draft design and survey work for the Lateral 16-4f modernization project.

### Treasurer's Report

Finance Director Jarvis reviewed the Treasurer's Report, Financial Report and Damage Claims Report for March.

### **INFORMATION REPORTS**

#### Board Member Reports

Director Dennis reported that there is a Sites Reservoir Committee and Sites Authority joint meeting on Friday, April 19.

Director Bransford reported that he attended a NCWA meeting and will be attending the Sacramento Valley Earth Day BBQ at Rancho Llano Seco.

Director Knight reported that the Corning Subbasin has completed their amendments to the SGMA plan to submit to the Department of Water Resources.

President Amaro reported that April 19<sup>th</sup> there will be a joint Glenn Groundwater Authority and Colusa Groundwater authority meeting and public hearing to approve the SGMA plan for submittal to the Department of Water Resources.

#### Manager's Report

None.

#### Communication's Update

Executive Assistant Mendonca reported that she and newly appointed GCID General Manager Jeff Sutton have been working collectively with CV Strategies to finalize the Press Release and letter to District water users to announce the District's new manager. Mrs. Mendonca also reported that she is working with CV Strategies to finalize the District 2024 Spring newsletter.

#### Attorney's Report

None.

#### Other Business

None.

### Closed Session

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 10:30 a.m. to discuss Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation, Existing Litigation, and Real Property Negotiators.

- A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION  
Potential Initiation of Litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of Subdivision (d) of Gov. Code sec. 54956.9: Two Potential Cases
  
- B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION  
(Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Gov. Code sec. 54956.9) Name of Cases:
  - i. *PCFFA v. Raimondo* (USDC E.D. Cal. Case No. 1:20-cv-00431-JLT-EPG);
  - ii. *CNRA v. Raimondo* (USDC E.D. Cal. Case No. 1:20-cv-00426-JLT-EPG) [2019 BiOps Lawsuits]
  
- C. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION  
Significant Exposure to Litigation pursuant to Paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d) of Gov. Code sec. 54956.9: One Potential Case
  
- D. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR  
(Government Code Section 54956.8)  
Property: GCID's water supplies  
GCID Negotiators: Donald Bransford, Pete Knight, Greg Krzys and Counsel Andrew Hitchings  
Negotiating Parties: Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District and Sutter Mutual Water Company  
Under Negotiation: Potential water transfer agreement, price and terms of payment, call dates, and other transactional details

The Board reconvened to open session at 11:43 a.m.

President Amaro reported that the Board met in Closed Session, pursuant to paragraph (4) of Subdivision (d) of Gov. Code sec. 54956.9, during which the Board heard updates on *Anticipated Litigation*, and took no action.

President Amaro reported that the Board met in Closed Session, pursuant to Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Gov. Code sec. 54956.9, during which the Board heard updates on *Existing Litigation* and took no action.

President Amaro reported that the Board met in Closed Session, pursuant to Paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d) Gov. Code sec. 54956.9, during which the Board provided direction to staff regarding *Anticipated Litigation -Significant Exposure to Litigation*.

President Amaro reported that item 8.D. was tabled.

The meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Greg Krzys  
Secretary

Attest a true record of proceedings made and taken at the above foregoing meeting our consent thereto and our presence thereat.



Donald R. Bransford



Peter Knight



John Amaro



Logan Dennis



Blake Vann