

WEST KERN WATER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Minutes – Board of Directors  
Tuesday, April 26, 2022

800 Kern Street  
Taft, California

*Directors Present:*        *David A. Wells*  
                                      *Barry Jameson*  
                                      *Gary J. Morris*  
                                      *Scott Niblett*  
                                      *Bo Bravo*

*Ex-Officio Officer:*        *Greg A. Hammett, General Manager/Secretary*

*District Counsel:*        *Joseph D. Hughes*

*Recording Secretary:*    *Deann Crabtree*

---

I.     CALL TO ORDER

II.    FLAG SALUTE

III.   ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Vice President Barry M. Jameson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Administrative Assistant, Deann Crabtree called roll and noted that President Wells, Vice President Jameson, Niblett, Morris and Bravo were present.

IV.   ADOPTION OF ALTERNATIVE TELECONFERENCING REQUIREMENTS

1.    Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Utilizing Alternative Teleconferencing Requirements During a State of  
Emergency Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953, as Amended  
by Assembly Bill 361. The Board will be required to determine that:  
(a) The proclaimed state of emergency arising from COVID-19  
continues to exist. (b) The state of emergency continues to directly  
impact the ability of the Board Members to meet safely in person.

*Upon Motion by Director Jameson, Seconded*  
*By Director Morris and Carried Unanimously*  
*With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes*  
*To Approve the Utilization of Alternative Teleconference*  
*Requirements During a State of Emergency Pursuant to*  
*Resolution 21-08.*

V.    CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENTS

No conflicts to report.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments to report.

**VII. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Board President David A. Wells, reported an item requiring board action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. Administration Item #3 Kern County LAFCO Special District Representative Ballot.

*Upon Motion by Director Jameson, Seconded  
By Director Niblett and Carried Unanimously  
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes  
To approve the May April 26, 2022  
Regular Board Meeting Agenda with addition  
of Administration item #3 Kern LAFCO Special District  
Representative Ballot.*

**VIII. DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING:  
APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. March 22, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

*Upon Motion by Director Niblett, Seconded  
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously  
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes  
To approve the Minutes of the  
March 22, 2022 Regular Board Meeting.*

**IX. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**X. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**i. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Training Report**

**RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.**

**ii. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Operations Department Review**

**RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.**

**iii. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Cash Flow for March, 2022**

**RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.**

- iv. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Capital Improvement Budget Comparison and Equipment  
Procurement**

**RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.**

- v. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Safety Meeting and Project Report**

**RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.**

## **XI. DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

President Wells noted no items were pulled for further discussion.

*Upon Motion by Director Niblett, Seconded  
By Director Morris Carried Unanimously  
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes  
To approve Consent Items i-vi of the  
April 26, 2022 Board Agenda.*

## **XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE (Niblett, Wells)**

- 1. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Water Supply Report**

Regulatory Administrator, Wendy Adams-Rosenberger reviewed the current Water Supply Report with Directors and staff. She also discussed the Governors executive order to conserve water.

- 2. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
General Manager Water Report**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reviewed the Northern Sierra Precipitation report, state reservoir conditions, snowpack and various hydrology reports with the Board of Directors.

Mr. Hammett further discussed whether to purchase or transfer BV replacement water. He noted the Cawelo Water transfer funds were wired to the District.

### **B. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (Jameson, Niblett)**

- 1. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Policy to Address Exceedance of Minimum Thresholds for Chronic  
Lowering of Groundwater**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported in response to comments in the Incomplete Determination of the 2020 Groundwater Sustainability Plans from DWR

dated January 28, 2022, Kern Groundwater Authority (KGA) participant managers and policy makers have developed a policy to address Exceedance of Minimum Thresholds for Chronic Lowering of Groundwater (Exceedance Policy or Policy). A final draft that will be presented to the KGA board for approval in April is attached. KGA is requesting that all its participants approve the Policy for their Management Areas.

The Policy details a four-step action plan to address a minimum threshold exceedance for the chronic lowering of groundwater levels at a single representative monitoring well (RMW), including coordination between KGA member districts and other Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs). The four-steps are as follows:

1. Identify Exceedance and Investigate the RMW Area
2. Evaluate Outside MAP Contributing Factors
3. Consider Developing Management Actions and/or Projects
4. Consider Enforcement Plan

While a single or isolated exceedance of a minimum threshold will not, by itself, cause an undesirable result, such an exceedance may be indicative of future or trending exceedances which could result in undesirable results for chronic lowering of groundwater. Coordination, between KGA members and other GSAs in the Subbasin, is paramount to compile an annual report and submit that report to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) each year on April Information that reflects compliance with or exceedance of minimum thresholds is included in each annual report.

*Upon Motion by Director Morris, Seconded  
By Director Niblett and Carried Unanimously  
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes  
To Adopt the Policy to address  
Exceedance of Minimum Thresholds for Chronic Lowering of  
Groundwater for the West Kern GSA*

2. **Discussion and Appropriate Action:**  
**Links 4 Education (Formerly (JS Strategic Consulting)**  
**Education Curriculum 2022-2023 School Year**

Item was tabled until further notice.

3. **Discussion and Appropriate Action:**  
**Kern County LAFCO- Special District Representative Ballot**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported the District received a ballot for the upcoming term of the Special District Representative for the Kern County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). The Ballot must be received no later than April 30th, 2022, in order to be counted.

Carlos Chavira is a Taft resident and Board member of the Westside Recreation and Park District. He would offer local representation on the LAFCO commission.

*Upon Motion by Director Jameson, Seconded  
By Director Morris and Carried Unanimously  
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes  
To elect Carlos Chavira for Independent Special District  
Representative on Kern County LAFCO.*

C. FACILITIES COMMITTEE  
(Jameson, Bravo)

1. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Reroof and New AC Install Eastside Office Building  
Superior Roofing – Notice of Completion  
and Final Payment, Job #22-9000

Assistant to Director of Operations, Taylor Miller reported Superior Roofing (SR) began work on January 31<sup>st</sup>. The scope of work included: removal of the old roofing material, boxing in the pitch boxes, installing new roofing material and a walkway. Completion of work and final inspection was performed on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

*Upon Motion by Director Jameson, Seconded  
By Director Niblett and Carried Unanimously  
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes  
To Approve final invoice in the amount of  
\$43,357.50, minus 5% retention of \$2,167.87,  
for a total of \$41,189.62 and issuing a  
Notice of Completion with the County Recorder's Office.*

2. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Well NW4 Repair

Production Administrator, John Stuntebeck reported on Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, NW4 was shut down immediately due to excessive noise and vibration. District Staff performed a load test on the motor, and it was determined to be within tolerance. Several other tests were also performed, and no noise or vibration was evident. District Staff then checked for misalignment and reset the steady bushing. The noise and vibration returned, subsequently a digital tack test was conducted. The result of the digital tack revealed the shaft speed was running intermittently. In the end, it was determined that a down hole issue was the cause of the problem. This will be the first stage of the project that will determine if any additional repairs, replacements or chemical treatment will be required to meet acceptable performance and sampling requirements.

John further reported on April 7<sup>th</sup>, District Staff sent out requests for quotes (RFQ) to three (3) well contractors, the quotes were due on April 13<sup>th</sup>. District did not receive any responses. A second request was sent out April 19<sup>th</sup>, with quotes due April 22<sup>nd</sup>. As of April 21<sup>st</sup>, District is in receipt of the following proposals: Bakersfield well & Pump in the amount of \$26,850.00 and SA camp Pump and Drilling for \$28,500.00.



*Upon Motion by Director Morris, Seconded  
By Director Niblett and Carried Unanimously  
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes  
To approve awarding of contract to Bakersfield  
Well & Pump in the amount of \$26,850.00 for Well NW4 Repair  
and issue a notice to proceed when all contract documents are in  
place.*

3. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) –  
Residential Meter Upgrade & Installation,  
Status Update Job #22-2503**

Field Services Supervisor, Wayne White and T& D Supervisor Zak Crabb reported all meters have been delivered for the AMR project. The Crews have installed 1,122 out of 5,094 meters. The project is 22% complete. District has received approximately 1500 endpoints (cell cards) out of 4800 ordered for the project. A delivery of 760 LTE's endpoints is scheduled for the 2nd week of May. All endpoints should be received by July 1.

4. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Reroof and New AC Install Eastside Office Building, Job 22-9000  
Birks Air Conditioning, Pay Request #2**

Assistant to Director of Operations, Taylor Miller reported Birks Air Conditioning (BAC) began work on February 1<sup>st</sup>. BAC submitted Pay Request #2 which covers the completion of a 2-ton A/C unit for the server room that has been demoed, relocated, and put back in service. Pay Request #2 in the total amount of \$12,743.50 will cover costs through April 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Upon Motion by Director Niblett, Seconded  
By Director Morris and Carried Unanimously  
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes  
To approve Pay Request #2 in the total amount of \$12,743.50  
less 5% retention of \$637.18 for a total progress  
payment of \$12,106.32 for expenses through April 18 2022.*

D. **FINANCE COMMITTEE  
(Morris, Bravo)**

1. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Accounts Payable for April 2022**

Director of Finance, Sunny Kapoor presented the accounts payable report for April 2022.

*Upon Motion by Director Niblett, Seconded  
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously  
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes  
To Approve Expenditure for the April 2022  
Bills When Funds are Available.*

E. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE  
(Wells, Morris)**

1. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Business Continuity Plan – Infectious Disease Control Policy  
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett provided a status report on continued implementation of infectious disease control practices and the ongoing restrictions and mandates during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Salary and Benefits Adjustment – General Manager**

Item was tabled until further notice.

**XIII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

No items to report.

**XIV. ISSUES OF CONCERN**

A. **May 2022 Meeting Calendar**

Directors approved the May 2022 Calendar.

B. **Potential Issues to be Addressed at Next Board Meeting**

No items to report.

C. **Board of Director Announcements or Reports**

No items to report.

D. **General Manager's Report**

No items to report.

E. **Management Staff Report**

No items to report.

F. **Kern Ground Water Authority Issues**

Greg A. Hammett gave a brief report on Kern Ground Water Authority issues.

G. **Attorney Report**

No items to report.

**XV. CLOSED SESSION**

1. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Government Code, § 54956.9(d)(1)

Conference with Legal Counsel  
Existing Litigation: 2 Cases

- A. *Rosedale-Rio Bravo WSD et al. v. KCWA et. al.*;  
Kern County Superior Court  
Case No. BCV-21-10418
- B. *Kern Water Bank Authority vs. Kern Local Agency Formation  
Commission*, Kern County Superior Court  
Case No. BCV-21-101310
2. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Government Code, § 54956.8  
Conference with Real Property Negotiator  
Description of Property: SWP Water  
Agency Negotiator: Greg Hammett, General Manager  
Negotiation Parties: West Kern & Parties to Be Determined  
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms
3. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Government Code, § 54956.8  
Conference with Real Property Negotiator  
Description of Property: SWP Water  
Agency Negotiator: Greg Hammett, General Manager  
Negotiation Parties: West Kern Water District & Parties to Be Determined  
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms
4. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Government Code, § 54957  
Discipline/Dismissal/Release
5. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:  
Government Code, § 54957.6  
Conference with Labor Negotiator: Board President  
Unrepresented Employee: General Manager

President Wells reported direction was given to Legal Counsel and staff relative to initiation of litigation.

Directors moved into Closed Session at 6:34 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:05 p.m.

**XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

May 24, 2022

Date Approved



Greg A. Hammett,  
Secretary of the Board of Directors of  
WEST KERN WATER DISTRICT

dc