

WEST KERN WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Minutes - Board of Directors
Tuesday, February 27, 2024

800 Kern Street
Taft, California

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

Directors Absent: *Bo Bravo*

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

District Counsel: *Alex Dominguez*

Recording Secretary: *Deann Crabtree*

Staff in Attendance: *Adeana McDaniel-Furman, Tami Sivils, Troy Turley,*
 Wendy Adams-Rosenberger Taylor Miller,
 Wayne White, John Stuntebeck, Zak Crabb, Mike Law

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

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

IV. CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENTS

No conflicts to report.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments to report.

VI. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded
By Director Morris and Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
To approve the February 27, 2024
Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

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

A. January 23, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

*Upon Motion by Director Niblett, Seconded
By Director Wells Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
To approve the Minutes of the
January 23, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.*

VIII. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

IX. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.

ii. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Underwater Inspection & Cleaning –
Tanks #8, #11, #15, #18 and #13, Job 24-3501**

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.

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

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.

iv. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Cash Flow for January, 2024**

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.

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

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.

vi. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Safety Meeting and Projects Report**

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.

vii. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Position Vacancies**

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.

X. DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

President Barry M. Jameson noted no items were pulled for further discussion.

*Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded
By Director Morris Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve Consent Items i-vii of the
February 27, 2024 Board Agenda.*

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE
(Wells, Bravo)

1. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Water Supply Report

Regulatory Administrator, Wendy Adams-Rosenberger, reviewed the current Water Supply Report with Directors and staff.

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, The General Manager also reported on the Delta Conveyance Project and SWP Operations.

3. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
BV Replacement Water

Regulatory Administrator, Wendy Adams-Rosenberger, reported pursuant to the July 26, 2000, Amendment of the 1983 Agreement with Buena Vista Water Storage District (BVWSD), West Kern Water can elect to divert up to the first 6,500 af of the District's State Water Project (SWP) supply from the California Aqueduct for use by West Kern. If the District elects to purchase the replacement water, they must pay BVWSD the replacement fee which is calculated by dividing the District's total Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) (SWP) Table A entitlement billings and based on the California Department of Water Resources' (CDWR) April 1st SWP Table A allocation. Upon receipt of the replacement water fee, BVWSD will transfer 95% of 6500 af from their groundwater bank account to West Kern's groundwater bank account.

The Initial SWP allocation was 10% but on February 21, 2024, the CDWR announced an increase to 15%. The District must provide written notice to BVWSD as to its intention to either pay the replacement water fee or to deliver replacement water by March 1 of each year.

*Upon Motion by Director Niblett, Seconded
By Director Wells and Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
Electing not to divert the District's 2024
State Water Project supply from the California Aqueduct.*

4. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Subbasin Data Management System Budget**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported beginning in May 2021, GEI developed a Data Management System (DMS) specifically for the Kern Subbasin's SGMA monitoring and reporting. The database was proposed to be implemented through grant funding provided by Department of Water Resources (DWR). Kern Groundwater Authority (KGA) held the DMS contract with GEI, which authorized a maximum budget of \$500,000.00 that would be reimbursed through DWR's grant funds. Due to unforeseen complexity of the water transactions module, the labor effort to complete the module exceeded grant funds by \$143,955.00. As discussed with the Subbasin GSAs and responsible entities, GEI is willing to accept a negotiated payment amount which is 50 percent of the budget overrun. GEI's write-off of \$71,977.00 has been processed. All work has been completed, therefore, upon receipt of the final grant reimbursement and retention payments from KGA and the Subbasin balance is paid, Project 2101725 will be closed. This matter has been discussed with other GSA's in the subbasin and there is agreement to fund the overrun using contingency funds under the previously approved budget to prepare a revised GSP for the subbasin.

*Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded
By Director Niblett and Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Authorize the General Manger to report to the Coordination
Committee that West Kern agrees with the approach to fund the
overrun using contingency funds under the previously approved
budget to prepare a revised GSP for the subbasin.*

B. **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
(Jameson, Bravo)**

No items to discuss.

C. **FACILITIES COMMITTEE
(Jameson, Niblett)**

1. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Solar Site Module Replacement at 6-02, 7-01R, 7-02 & NW3 job #24-4201**

Operations and Engineering Administrator, Troy Turley reported Trina Solar has provided the district with 1,624 - 315W (511,560 KW) solar warranty modules, enough to replace our original design capacity at 7-01R. The final engineered design capacity calls for 1,632 - 315W modules totaling (514,080 KW) a difference of 8 - 315W modules or 2,520 W. District Staff are unable to obtain the additional modules from Trina Solar or the open market. The 7-01R solar site will need 8 additional 315W modules to complete the final design of the negative array and balance the input to the inverter. The contractor has an entire "string" of 12 - 315W modules that are new never installed in their warehouse inventory. District Staff is proposing to install the contractors 12 - 315W Trina Tall Max modules of like series, output, amps and dimensions at a cost of \$400.00 or \$33.33 ea., instead of continuing to spend time trying to acquire 8 - 315W Trina warranty modules to add to our existing 4 - 315W warranty modules. The 7-01R site is complete except for the 12 modules (1 String) on the negative array that is currently not connected at the combiner box. 7-01R was returned to service

excepting the one negative string. The negative string will be connected upon installation of the additional modules. Modules will be procured through a Purchase Order. On February 1st, the contractor mobilized at solar site 6-02, de energized the site, performed LOTTO, testing, then began removal of existing modules starting with the positive array first. On February 14th, District Staff received Pay Request #2 from PVCA covering all work from January 17th through February 16, 2024, in the total amount of \$136,005.50.

*Upon Motion by Director Niblett, Seconded
By Director Morris and Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve PVCA Progress Pay Request #2 in the total amount of
\$136,005.50 less 5% retention of \$6,800.27 for a total progress
payment of \$129,205.23.*

2. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Well NW3 Repair, Job #24-6500**

Production Administrator, John Stuntebeck gave a report on Well NW3. He noted the well is still down at this time. Bakersfield Well & Pump is conducting various tests to determine why the pump failed. The liner installed in Well NW3 is still under warranty by Bakersfield Well & Pump and district staff will continue to update the progress on repairs.

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

1. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Accounts Payable for February 2024**

Assistant to the Director of Finance, Adeana McDaniel-Furman presented the accounts payable report for February 2024.

*Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded.
By Director Morris and Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve Expenditure for the February 2024
Bills When Funds are Available.*

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

No items to discuss.

XII. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

No items to discuss.

XIII. **ISSUES OF CONCERN**

A. **March 2024 Meeting Calendar**

Directors approved the March 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

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett and Legal Counsel, Alex Dominguez gave a brief report on Kern Ground Water Authority issues and basin collaboration.

G. Attorney Report

No items to report.

XIV. CLOSED SESSION

1. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Government Code, § 54956.9(d)(1)
Conference with Legal Counsel
Existing Litigation: 3 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
- C. Kern Water Bank Authority, et al. v.
Buena Vista Water Storage District, et al.;
Kern County Superior Court, Case No. BCV-22-101227-KCT

2. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Government Code, § 54956.8
Conference with Real Property Negotiator
Agency Negotiator: Greg A. Hammett, General Manager
Negotiation Parties: West Kern Water District &
State Water Project (SWP)
Under Negotiation: SWP Facilities

3. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Government Code, § 54957.6
Conference with Labor Negotiator
Agency Negotiator: Greg A. Hammett, General Manager
Employee Organization: UFCW 8 - Golden State

Directors moved into Closed Session at 6:18 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 6:44 p.m.


President Jameson reported no reportable action was taken in Closed Session.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

March 26, 2024

Date Approved



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

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