

WOEST KERN WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Minutes - Board of Directors
Tuesday, November 19, 2024

800 Kern Street
Taft, California

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

Directors Absent: *Barry M. Jameson*

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

District Counsel: *Alex Dominguez*

Recording Secretary: *Deann Crabtree*

Staff in Attendance: *Tami Sivils, Taylor Miller, Troy Turley,*
 Wendy Adams-Rosenberger, John Stuntebeck,
 Zak Crabb & Mike Law

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Vice President Scott Niblett called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Administrative Assistant, Deann Crabtree called roll and noted that Vice President Scott Niblett, Director Morris, Director David A. Wells and Director Bo Bravo were all present and President Jameson as 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 Bravo and Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
To approve the November 19, 2024
Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

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

A. October 22, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

*Upon Motion by Director Bravo, Seconded
By Director Morris Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
To approve the Minutes of the
October 22, 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:
Operations Department Review

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.

iii. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Cash Flow for October 2024

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.

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

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.

X. DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

*Upon Motion by Director Morris, Seconded
By Director Wells Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve Consent Items i-iv of the
October 22, 2024 Regular 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.

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

1. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Resolution 24-03 - Authorizing the Filing of Pre-Application with the County of Kern, Planning and Natural Resources Department for a Community Development Block Grant FY 2025-2026, South Taft Water System Improvements Phase VI**

Operations Coordinator, Taylor Miller reported Staff is in the process of filing a pre-application with the County of Kern Planning and Natural Resources Department for a Community Development Block Grant for South Taft Water System Improvement Project Phase VI. The application guideline requires the District to supply a resolution of governing body authorizing application for the Grant Funds.

*Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded
By Director Morris Carried Unanimously
By a Roll Call Vote
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes*

To Adopt Resolution 24-03 - Authorizing the Filing of Pre-Application with the County of Kern, Planning and Natural Resources Department for a Community Development Block Grant FY 2025-2026, South Taft Water System Improvements Phase VI

2. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Retaining Woodard & Curran to provide continued Basin-wide coordination and technical support for 2024-2025 and prepare 2025 Annual Report for the West Kern - GSA**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported in March 2023, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) issues a determination the Groundwater Sustainability Plans submitted by the Kern Subbasin in July 2022 (2022 GSPs) were inadequate. As a result, primary jurisdiction over the Kern Subbasin shifts to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board). Based on feedback and a preliminary review of the 2022 GSP by State Board Staff, the Kern Subbasin submitted revised draft Groundwater Sustainability Plans in May 2024 (2024 GSPs) to the State Water Resources Control Board. On July 25, 2024, the State Board released a draft Staff Report that focused on State Board Staff's review of 2022 GSPs. The Staff Report provided only a brief discussion related to its review of the 2024 draft GSP. Based on their review of

both the 2022 and 2024 GSPs, State Board Staff recommended that the Kern Subbasin be placed on probation. Since July 2024, local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Kern Subbasin have been working to address comments in the Staff Report by, among other things, drafting a comprehensive comment letter, hosting subbasin tours for all five State Board members, meeting with State Board staff on a regular basis to discuss technical issues, finalizing the 2024 GSP and preparing for the Kern Subbasin Probationary hearing scheduled for February of 2025. Since July 2024, additional meetings and general coordination requested by the Subbasin, in response to the SWRCB release of the Subbasin Draft Staff Report and Public Hearing Notice, has resulted in hours expended beyond the current contract with Woodard & Curran. In addition, meetings and coordination are necessary to support the Subbasin prior to the February 2025 hearing.

*Upon Motion by Director Morris, Seconded
By Director Wells Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Authorize retaining Woodard & Curran to provide continued
Basin-wide coordination and technical support for 2024-2025 and
prepare 2025 Annual Report for a cost not to exceed \$110,810.00.*

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

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

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported after many discussions between Staff and Bakersfield Well (BWP), the cause of the failure of NW3 is not clear. However, BWP will warranty all damaged equipment (new pump, patchwork, video, piping, etc.) with the understanding that if a failure does occur caused by corrosion/erosion, in the future, they will not be responsible. In its Water Well Corrosion Testing Report Rev 2 for NW3 dated August 22, 2024, Corrpro recommended installing an “impressed current cathodic protection system to protect all interior metallic components including pump assembly, pump column and, interior surface of the casing below water level”. The estimated cost to install the CP system is \$40,205. After discussing several options with Curtis Skaggs at Dee Jasper and Associates, installing the CP system appears to be the most appropriate and cost-effective option to reduce the likelihood of failure of the well appurtenances due to corrosion/erosion.

*Upon Motion by Director Niblett, Seconded
By Director Wells and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve Staff to retain Corrpro to install a CP System on NW3 in
the amount of \$40,205.00.*

**2. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
South Taft Water Improvements Phase VI - File Notice of Completion**

Operations Coordinator, Taylor Miller reported a Notice of Completion is required by the County of Kern, Planning and Natural Resources Department as part of the pre-application process for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for South Taft Water Improvements Phase VI.

*Upon Motion by Director Morris, Seconded
By Director Wells and Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Authorize Staff to file a Notice of Exemption
with the County Clerk.*

3. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
North Well Field Mowing Services, Job #25-4600
Sazama Construction - Notice of Completion**

Production Administrator, John Stuntebeck reported on In October 2024, the District awarded Sazama Construction (SC) the contract to perform mowing services in and around the perimeter of District's North Well Field property. SC commenced work on November 4th and completed the work on November 8th. Staff conducted a job walk on November 8th.

*Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded
By Director Morris and Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve Final Payment in the amount of \$32,804.00
minus 5% retention of \$1,640.20, for total amount of \$31,163.80 and file
a Notice of Completion with the County Recorder.*

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

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

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

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

2. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Approve/Delay Water Rate Increase for 2025**

Assistant to the Director of Finance, Adeana McDaniel-Furman noted in September 2022 the Board approved the West Kern Water Rate Study setting annual water rates through the Fiscal Year 2026 - 2027. Annually Staff and the Board review the proposed water rates for the next fiscal year to determine whether funding requirements from the cost-service analysis in the Rate Study are satisfied. After review, Staff is recommending to increase the water rates for fiscal year 2024 - 2025.

*Upon Motion by Director Bravo, Seconded.
By Director Wells and Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve increase the water rates for
Fiscal Year 2024-2025.*

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

No items to discuss.

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

No items to discuss.

XIII. ISSUES OF CONCERN

A. December 2024 Meeting Calendar

Directors approved the December 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 Non-Districted Land Authority Issues

The General Manger provided a brief report on KNDLA issues.

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: 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, § 54956.9(d)(4)
Conference with Legal Counsel
Potential Litigation: 1 Case
- 3. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Government Code, § 54956.9(d)(2)
Conference with Legal Counsel
Potential Litigation: 1 Case
- 4. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Government Code, § 54957
Public Employment
Title: Director of Finance

Directors moved into Closed Session at 7:01 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 7:23 p.m.

President Jameson reported there was no action taken in Closed Session:

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

December 17, 2024

Date Approved



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

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