

**BASIN IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE AUTHORITY
(BIDA)**

Meeting Held on November 21, 2023

Trustees of the Basin Irrigation and Drainage Authority met in person in the office in Kirkville, California, at 9:00 a.m. on **November 21, 2023**

Trustees Present: Bill Henle, Mark Richter, Frank Alonso, Anthony VanRuiten, Jon Munger

Trustee Absent:

Also, Present: Roger Cornwell, General Manager Jon Scott, Operations Manager, Heather Munoz, Operations Assistant, Melissa Patterson Finance Manager, Venus Tenell, Executive Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Trustee Bill Henle

A copy of the written notice of the meeting was posted and emailed to each Trustee on **November 17, 2023**, and incorporated in these minutes.

Approval of Agenda

On MOTION of Trustee Alonso and seconded by Trustee VanRuiten and unanimously approved the agenda for the November 21, 2023, meeting, was approved.

Approval of September 9th meeting minutes

On MOTION of Trustee Alonso and seconded by Trustee Richter and unanimously approved the meeting minutes of the September 12th meeting, were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT- ROGER CORNWELL

TISDALE METER PROJECT- This is the Irrigation Efficiency Grant. We received our Categorical exemption permit from the Bureau of Reclamation. The Mag meters are onsite, the scaffolding is going up now at Tisdale. The mag meters will be put in as soon as possible depending on river levels. This will be a great thing to have our own readings and not go by pump curve and bureau numbers. The mag meters are extremely effective. GM Cornwell answered board questions.

BOHANNON DAM- The Water Quality Permit was received Monday; we are taking baby steps in the right direction. GM Cornwell is positive the project will start in July or August of 2024. The construction company will put in a bypass for flows up to 100 CFS if needed. SMWC is still waiting for the Giant Gardner Snake ITP permit from CDFW. We have worked on building back

our relationship with CDFW. GM Cornwell and OM Scott met with the contractor about 4 months ago and went over the project. They discussed permit delays; price increases and a potential project start date. SMWC is in the process of getting the grant increased due to the material and labor costs going up.

PUMP LOWERING PROGRAM- This program is through the Bureau of Reclamations. Currently, the Bureau has \$3 million for consulting fees and some to SMWC for GM Cornwell hours put into this project. The criteria and requirements are being designed now from Redding to Verona. The bureau wants models based on 3000 and 2700. GM Cornwell has given the Bureau some pushback about the 2700 model due to the Districts with Fish Screens. GM Cornwell answered board questions.

KARNAK REHABILITATION- Everything is going well. We put together a new draft to include the new social justice modeling, it will then go to the NRCS in California and then go back to the National. Social justice is a new requirement, it is in place to help small communities such as Robbins have a better chance at grants like these. NRCS does not have any examples, but it has been explained to SMWC that it is to put a value on a grandfather and grandson going fishing in the area. Also built into the draft is a timeline of 1 year and 4 months for comments to come back to us from California and National. Right now, it takes 60 days for California and another 60 at National for any feedback.

ROBBINS SMALLS COMMUNITY- This project is done. Our Consultant Chris Fritz is finalizing the report. It will be good to see the model of the flooding around Robbins. We can use this data to tie into the Karnak Rehabilitation project and show them how important it is to the community of Robbins that we get this grant.

SUTTER TISDALE LOWER BYPASS- The 2D modeling is done and groups have been able to use it. It is good it has been done and is being deployed. It should be fully wrapped up this March or April.

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK- GM Cornwell presented the new handbook to the board to be reviewed, along with a PowerPoint of updates made to the new handbook. GM Cornwell answered board questions. The final approval will be done at the next BIDA board meeting.

FRAUDULENT ACH PAYMENT- When purchasing the new excavator from Bejac, we have email communication with the salesperson. During this time someone was in our system and intercepted the emails and changed the information. Bejac sent an invoice and all the other emails looked legitimate. We have cyber insurance; we are going through the process and have filed a police report. We have spoken to River City Bank, and they spoke with the banks the ACH went to and the account was shut down, but the money was gone. We have set up an authenticator for our emails to send a code to our phone, we are also having training with Precision Business to prevent this from happening again. From talking with the insurance company, it sounds like we will get our money back.

OPERATIONS MANAGER REPORT: JON SCOTT

EMPLOYEE UPDATE- We currently have 21 field employees. We have done a few interviews to fill in for a swing shift pumper since we will need to start pumping at Karnak soon.

WORK IN PROGRESS- Winter Water is going well. We are recycling about 120 to 130 CFS. We are right at 16,500 acres to be flooded. We have replaced 397 intakes out of the 512 total. Crossings, safety, and backup structures are also being replaced. The overtime is staying down. Everyone appreciates all the work being done at the pump plants, it makes their jobs easier.

FINANCE MANAGER REPORT: MELISSA PATTERSON

FINANCIAL REVIEW- Finance Manager Patterson presented the financial review to the board. She also let them know she is closing out fiscal year 2023. She answered board member's questions. The September 2023 and October 2023 check register was ratified by the board. There was a break in the check number sequence due to switching to River City Bank.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The board doesn't see a need for a meeting in December. GM Cornwell said we will all see each other at the Christmas party on December 14th.

OTHER MATTERS: Trustee Henle asked the management team how the employee benefits meeting went. GM Cornwell let him know it went well, and collaborating with the Garth Moore Insurance team is great. The insurance team explains things to the employees, and they have multiple people who can help with different things.

In January Trustee Munger will no longer be on the BIDA board his replacement will be Trustee Dougherty. There will also be another replacement to be named later.

CLOSED SESSION-

The Board convened into a closed session at 10:02 am.
The Board reconvened into an open session at 10:58 am.
There are no actions reported.

ADJOURN-

There being no further business to come before the Board of Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.



Roger Cornwell, Secretary