

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
GARFIELD WATER DISTRICT  
May 21, 2024**

1. President Pat Ricchiuti called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m. In attendance were Directors Karl Kienow, Bill Smittcamp, and Palmer Lien. Attorney Lauren Layne, Engineer Nick Keller, and Secretary Paul Woodworth were also present. Director Mark Johnson was absent.

President Ricchiuti asked for a moment of silence to recognize the passing of the Watermaster, Aram Azadian.

2. Approval of Minutes

The Board tabled the minutes of April 23, 2024, until the next meeting.

It was moved by Palmer Lien and seconded by Bill Smittcamp to table the approval of the April 23, 2024 minutes until the June 24, 2024 meeting. The Directors present unanimously approved the motion, with one member absent.

3. Business and Presentations from the Floor

None.

4. Additions to the Agenda

None.

It was moved by Palmer Lien and seconded by Bill Smittcamp to approve the agenda. The Directors present unanimously approved the motion, with one member absent.

5. Potential Conflicts of Interest - Board members were asked if any conflicts of interest existed.

No conflicts were identified.

6. Correspondence

A. US Bank – New Account Promotion – Mr. Woodworth presented the US Bank new account promotion and informed the Board of its promotional interest rate. Mr. Woodworth stated the promotional rate is significantly higher than the current bank rate received by the District and that the new account will be FDIC insured. Mr. Woodworth recommended moving a portion of the District’s operating funds to the money market promotion.

It was moved by Bill Smittcamp and seconded by Palmer Lien to further investigate this promotion and if it qualifies as something the District may invest in, approve the transfer of up to \$50,000 from the District’s operational checking account to a new FDIC insured US Bank Money Market checking account. The Directors present unanimously approved the motion, with one member absent.

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7. Financial Reports

A-I. Mr. Woodworth presented the monthly financials. Mr. Woodworth updated the Board on the District's operating funds cash balance, bank reconciliations, and profit and loss statement.

Mr. Woodworth noted that the Mr. Azadian was unable to complete the April water meter readings due to health-related issues. Mr. Woodworth will combine the April and May water usage on the May financials.

Mr. Woodworth noted that Mr. Bethke continues to make timely installment payments on his past due assessment agreement. Mr. Woodworth stated the May 2024 payment will complete the agreement.

Mr. Woodworth notified the Board that Mr. Zaklan submitted a second personal check for his past dues assessment balance and penalties. The deposit cleared the bank on April 22, 2024. Mr. Woodworth will prepare the refund to the new property owner, Mr. Stockton, for the overpayment upon receipt of the County of Fresno second bulk payment.

Mr. Woodworth provided an update on the water order receivables. Mr. Woodworth noted that Verni Farms submitted the water order form and deposit.

It was moved by Karl Kienow and seconded by Palmer Lien to accept the monthly financial reports. The Directors present unanimously approved the motion, with one member absent.

8. Bills to Pay

Mr. Woodworth provided the Board with the monthly bill payment report for approval.

It was moved by Bill Smittcamp and seconded by Karl Kienow to approve the bill payment checks. The Directors present unanimously approved the motion, with one member absent.

9. Water Master Report

A. Mr. Keller reported that Mr. Azadian was unable to read the meters for April due to health-related issues. Mr. Keller noted that Friant Water Authority (FWA) reported 39 AF of usage for the month.

Mr. Keller stated he met with Mr. Azadian's temporary assistant, Jesse Vasquez, and Director Kienow to discuss the process to place FWA water orders 24 hours in advance and reporting

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water usage. Mr. Keller and Director Kienow noted that Mr. Vasquez has done a good job in Mr. Azadian's absence and has a good working knowledge of the system. Mr. Keller will assist Mr. Vasquez with submitting the FWA water orders as needed. Mr. Vasquez informed Mr. Keller that he will be on vacation from May 23 to June 3, 2024. Mr. Keller will take meter readings for the end of May.

President Ricchiuti noted that a meter was installed at the District's recharge basin.

B. Mr. Keller notified the Board that FWA went into unlimited uncontrolled season for Class 2 water through May 28, 2024. He noted there is no impact to the District for the designation. The Friant Kern Canal (FKC) is in full prorate and is at capacity. Mr. Keller informed the Board he used the District's carry-over allocation for water order usage first and transferred the remaining amount to Hills Valley Irrigation District. He also noted that the main reservoirs are essentially full and the Millerton runoff is average.

10. Continuing Business to consider and take action

A. North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Director Kienow stated the board meeting was cancelled.

Mr. Keller stated the Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was cancelled.

No action taken. This item will be added to the next Board meeting agenda.

11. New Business

A. Central Valley Community Bank Line of Credit

Ms. Salas provided the District with the loan documents for review. Mr. Woodworth requested legal counsel review the loan documents including the security agreement. Legal counsel notified Mr. Woodworth that the District is unable to use its fixed assets as collateral for the line of credit. Mr. Woodworth spoke with Ms. Salas and Mr. Parks regarding the removal of the of the collateral items. Mr. Parks requested the District's legal counsel submit its proposed revisions for review. Mr. Woodworth requested legal counsel prepare the revisions for submission to the bank. Mr. Woodworth will submit upon completion. No action taken.

B. Streamline – District Website Hosting Service

Mr. Woodworth notified the Board that the transfer of the District's domain name and hosting platform from Network Solutions to Streamline is scheduled for completion on May 22, 2024.

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Mr. Woodworth will provide the board members, legal counsel, and the engineers with a link to the website. Mr. Woodworth requested the board members review their information to ensure the content is correct. Director Kienow requested a correction to the spelling of his name on the site. No action taken.

C. Watermaster Position – update and take action

Mr. Woodworth stated he had notified the Board members on May 15, 2024 that Mr. Azadian passed away. Mr. Keller stated that Mr. Vasquez is a good candidate to replace Mr. Azadian on a permanent basis. Directors Kienow and Lien agreed with Mr. Keller’s assessment. President Ricchiuti requested that Mr. Vasquez be invited to the next board meeting for an introduction. Mr. Keller will discuss the invitation with Mr. Vasquez and notify him on the meeting time and date. Ms. Layne will prepare an independent contractor’s agreement for board review. No action taken.

D. Lateral 4 Replacement Project – 2024 Categorical Exemption – review and take action

Mr. Keller presented the Categorical Exemption application request for the Lateral 4 Replacement Project. Mr. Keller requested a motion from the Board to find the replacement of Lateral 4 exempt from CEQA and authorize submitting the Notice of Exemption.

It was moved by Bill Smittcamp and seconded by Karl Kienow to find the replacement of Lateral 4 exempt from CEQA and authorize filing of the Notice of Exemption with the County. The Directors present unanimously approved the motion, with one member absent.

12. Public Hearing

None.

13. Closed Session

The Board went into closed session at 1:45 p.m. to discuss anticipated litigation with legal counsel. The Board came out of closed session at 1:56 p.m. with no reportable action.

14. Next meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2024 and it will be held at P-R Farms, 2917 Shepherd Avenue, Clovis, California at 09:00 a.m.

15. The meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.