



Y O L O C O U N T Y

FLOOD CONTROL &  
WATER CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT

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**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, April 4, 2023, 7:00 PM**

**YCFC&WCD Offices**  
**34274 State Highway 16**  
**Woodland, CA 95695**

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The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (District) was held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at its regular place of business, 34274 State Highway 16, Woodland, California. Chair Barth convened the meeting. The following people were in attendance:

District Board

Tom Barth  
Mary Kimball  
Jim Mayer  
Shane Tucker  
Erik Vink

District Staff

Kristin Sicke, General Manager  
Ryan Bezerra, Legal Counsel

Members of the Public

Jim Barrett  
Nick Edsall  
Rod Scheaffer

**1. CONSIDERATION: Approval of Minutes**

23.15 **M/S/C** approved the minutes of the March 7 Regular and March 14, 2023 Special Board meetings.

Ayes: Directors Barth, Kimball, Mayer, Tucker, and Vink

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

## **2. OPEN FORUM**

There were no comments.

## **3. CONSIDERATION: Adding Items to the Posted Agenda**

There were no changes made to the agenda.

## **4. PRESENTATION: Rate Setting Framework and Guiding Principles**

General Manager Sicke provided a brief presentation on the District's Revenue Stabilization Program, which consists of three phases:

1. Special Benefit Assessment – fixed revenue to fund capital improvement projects
2. Updated Agricultural Water Rate – revenue to fund operational expenses
3. Future Groundwater Charge – revenue to fund operational expenses and offset the agricultural water rate (to be determined in 2026)

The District's Special Benefit Assessment is estimated to provide ~\$950,000 annually to fund capital improvement projects that are approved by the Board of Directors throughout the year. The updated Agricultural Water Rate consists of three components: 1) a **base rate** to cover net direct expenses in all non-allocated years at minimal expected sales of 110,000 acre-feet (AF); 2) a **drought reserve fee** to build reserves for funding two years of net direct expenses during allocated/dry years; and 3) a **short-term capital recovery charge** to eliminate the recent accrued cash deficit of ~\$1M from prior insufficient revenues. The Board of Directors will consider adopting the proposed Agricultural Water Rate at the May 2, 2023 Board meeting where they will hold a public hearing. The proposed rate is \$56.30/AF and the corresponding rate components are \$39/AF (base rate), \$15.50/AF (drought reserve fee), and \$1.80/AF (short-term capital recovery charge).

Sicke reviewed the guiding principles for developing a short-term capital recovery target and drought reserve target to ensure the accumulation of those funds are tracked severally and those components of the water rate are reduced or not imposed once the target is achieved. The short-term capital recovery target and drought reserve target assume minimal expected sales of 110,000 AF over a 5-year unallocated period, and both components of the water rate will be accounted for in the District's annual and monthly financial statements. The initial drought reserve target will be established based on the projected operational expenses for agricultural water in the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget, which is considered the "pro forma". However, this target may need to be revised by the Board in subsequent years to consider any alterations to the pro forma.

The annual budget setting process will also report on the status of the drought reserve funds and the anticipated annual budget set-aside or reserve usage, along with any risks or opportunities for the year. Risks or opportunities may include considering water year type and potential impact on water sales, economic factors, or unexpected hazards or emergencies. Sicke briefly ran through a few scenarios to illustrate the process of accumulating and drawing down drought reserve funds.

Director Mayer commented on the District providing value to the customers by being predictable, and he suggested reviewing the California Special Districts Association's model reserve policy to ensure we develop a comprehensive and easily understood policy.

Director Vink stressed the importance of being transparent as best as we can.

Director Kimball echoed those thoughts and suggested having an ongoing conversation, requesting the General Manager's Report provide an update on the accumulation and drawdown of funds.

Director Tucker requested the District's General Manager and Board of Directors focus next on developing a formal capital improvement plan so that the District is deliberate and transparent about prioritizing and funding infrastructure improvements.

## **5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Mayer reported on his activities related to NCWA and the work that NCWA is doing to craft new statute provisions for recharging groundwater with surplus flows.

Director Barth reported on participating in the YSGA's March Board of Directors meeting.

## **6. ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Legal Counsel Ryan Bezerra provided a brief overview of proposed water legislation that BKS is tracking. An updated report will be provided at a later Board meeting with a report on new bills introduced and the status of bills of interest to the District.

## **7. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

General Manager Sicke provided reports on the following:

- a) Operations, Maintenance, and Water Conditions
- b) Financial Report Summary – Highlights from the March 31, 2023 Financial Statements Report were reviewed, and the actual FY 2022/2023 Budget was compared to the projected FY 2022/2023 Budget.
- c) Capital Improvement Program – An update on the planning activities related to capital projects was provided.
- d) YSGA Update – An update on Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency's 2022 *Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan* implementation activities was provided.
- e) General Activities – A list of outreach activities and projects (in-house and coordinated with other agencies) was reviewed.
- f) The following upcoming events were announced:
  1. YSGA: Yolo County Supervisor Sandy and Concerned Landowners Meeting (April 5)
  2. YSGA / YCFB Coordination Meeting (April 5)
  3. BEF / Business for Water Stewardship Opportunity (April 6)
  4. Westside Sacramento Valley Flood MAR – TNC (April 6)
  5. YSGA: Meeting with Yolo County Supervisor Frerichs (April 6)
  6. YSGA: Meeting with Yolo County Supervisor Provenza (April 7)
  7. NCWA Manager's Meeting (April 10)
  8. NCWA Bay-Delta Working Group Meeting (April 10)
  9. YSGA: Executive Committee Meeting (April 10)

- 10. Yolo County BOS Meeting: Drought Update (April 18)
- 11. ACWA SGMA Implementation Committee (April 18)
- 12. DWR’s Spring 2023 GSA Summit (April 19)
- 13. California Water Commission Meeting: Recharge Panel (April 19)
- 14. District BOD Meeting: Public Hearing for Updated Agricultural Water Rates (May 2)
- 15. ACWA Spring Conference (May 9-11)
- 16. Yolo County Water Awareness Forum (May 16)
- 17. GRA/ACWA GSA Summit (June 7-8)

**8. GENERAL DISCUSSION**

There was no general discussion.

**9. CONSIDERATION: Payment of Bills**

23.16 M/S/C approved the following claims for payment – Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Checks # 62138-62148.

Ayes: Directors Barth, Kimball, Mayer, Tucker, and Vink

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

**10. CLOSED SESSION**

Closed Session conference with legal counsel for existing administrative proceeding and anticipated litigation/significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code 54956.9, subsections (d)(1) and (d)(2) – State Water Resources Control Board Bay-Delta Plan update proceeding.

*Closed Session Report:* Chair Barth reported that the Directors, General Manager Sicke, and Legal Counsel Bezerra participated in the closed session item and that there was nothing to report.

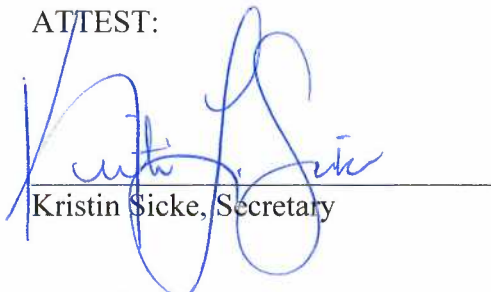
**11. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.



Tom Barth, Chair

ATTEST:

  
Kristin Sicke, Secretary