



YOLO COUNTY

FLOOD CONTROL &
WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 7:00 PM

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

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, May 7, 2024 at its regular place of business, 34274 State Highway 16, Woodland, California. Chair Mayer convened the meeting. The following people were in attendance:

District Board

Jim Mayer, Chair
Shane Tucker
Tom Barth
Mary Kimball
Erik Vink

District Staff

Kristin Sicke, General Manager
Kim Villa, Finance Director
Andrew Ramos, Legal Counsel

Members of the Public

Blake Harlan
Rod Scheaffer

1. CONSIDERATION: Approval of Minutes

24.15 **M/S/C** approved the minutes of the April 2, 2024 Regular Board meeting.

Ayes: Directors Barth, Kimball, Mayer, and Tucker

Noes: None

Absent: Director Vink

Abstain: None

2. OPEN FORUM

General Manager Sicke introduced the District's Finance Director, Kim Villa, and appreciated Barbara McGriff's efforts in training Kim and preparing for retirement from the District.

3. CONSIDERATION: Adding Items to the Posted Agenda

There were no changes made to the agenda.

4. CONSIDERATION: January 2023 Storm Events Emergency Canal Repairs

General Manager Sicke reviewed the events at the March 7, 2023 Board meeting, where the Board adopted Resolution No. 23.05 Declaring Emergency Conditions from the December 2022 and January 2023 Storm Events. Sicke reported that during the month of March, District staff continued to work with FEMA to provide documentation for reimbursement of funding expenses related to storm damages. All canal system improvements were completed by the end of November 2023, and the outstanding project is the erosion along Cache Creek near the West Adams Canal heading.

Sicke recommended that the Board continue to declare emergency conditions related to the January 2023 Storm Events and Emergency Canal Repairs projects.

24.16 **M/S/C** continued the Emergency Declaration from damages incurred during the January 2023 Storm Events.

Ayes: Directors Barth, Kimball, Mayer, and Tucker

Noes: None

Absent: Director Vink

Abstain: None

5. CONSIDERATION: Adoption of Resolution No. 24.01 to Update the Authorized Officers to Order the Deposit and Withdrawal of Monies in the Local Agency Investment Fund

General Manager Sicke reported that the Board approved Resolution 03.11 on July 1, 2003 authorizing the investment of monies in the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) in the State Treasury for purposes of investment by the State Treasurer. In accordance with the LAIF policy, all online access must be made by authorized users. With the new Finance Director onboard, District staff requested an update of authorizations via Resolution No 24.01.

24.17 **M/S/C** adopted Resolution No. 24.01 to Update the Authorized Officers to Order the Deposit and Withdrawal of Monies in the Local Agency Investment Fund.

Ayes: Directors Barth, Kimball, Mayer, and Tucker

Noes: None

Absent: Director Vink

Abstain: None

6. CONSIDERATION: Adoption of Resolution No. 24.02 to Authorize the Application and Management of the Quagga and Zebra Mussel Prevention Plan Grant

General Manager Sicke reported on a grant funding opportunity from the California State Parks' Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) to develop a mussel prevention plan to comply with DBW's *Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Program*. District staff are preparing an application for submission on the due date, Friday, May 10, 2024, and are requesting the Board adopt Resolution No. 24.02 to authorize the application and entering into an agreement with DBW.

24.18 M/S/C adopted Resolution No. 24.02 to Authorize the Application and Management of the Quagga and Zebra Mussel Prevention Plan Grant.

Ayes: Directors Barth, Kimball, Mayer, and Tucker

Noes: None

Absent: Director Vink

Abstain: None

7. CONSIDERATION: Adoption of Resolution No. 24.03 to Monitor Groundwater Use During the 2024 Irrigation Season Under Temporary Permit 21463

General Manager Sicke provided an update on the temporary permit process for diverting excess storm flows for groundwater recharge. After consultation with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board), United States Bureau of Reclamation, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Department of Water Resources, the District submitted a temporary water right permit application on December 14, 2023 to the State Water Resources Control Board. The application was officially filed on January 16, 2024 and the State Water Contractors submitted an objection to the application on February 14, 2024, which proposed three terms to reduce the risk of harming the long-time lawful users of State Water Project waters supplies and to resolve the objection. The District agreed to the State Water Contractors terms and officially received a Temporary Permit for Diversion and Use of Water for groundwater recharge on March 11, 2024 to divert up to 72,000 acre-feet of excess flows at the Capay Diversion Dam; up to a rate of 600 cubic feet per second (cfs).

Sicke reported that diversions at the Capay Diversion Dam were allowed with bypassing flows of at least 50 cfs in Cache Creek at the [United States Geological Survey \(USGS\) Yolo gauge, except in April when at least 100 cfs of flows must be bypassed](#). Sicke discussed the permit conditions that require the District to quantify the groundwater extraction and use and determine that the extractions are from water stored by the District and not based on other claims of right.

Sicke requested that the Board approve the proposed resolution to monitor groundwater use during the 2024 irrigation season and comply with permit conditions.

- 24.19 M/S/C adopted Resolution No. 24.03 to Monitor Groundwater Use During the 2024 Irrigation Season Under Temporary Permit 21463.

Ayes: Directors Barth, Kimball, Mayer, and Tucker

Noes: None

Absent: Director Vink

Abstain: None

8. CONSIDERATION: Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 District Budget

General Manager Sicke reviewed the proposed Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024/2025, which began May 1, 2024. Sicke introduced the Budget as the District's planning and financial control document, and as a reflection of the District's values.

Sicke reported the proposed FY 2024/2025 Budget was prepared by staff and reviewed and recommended by the Board's Finance Committee, which convened on April 4 and 22, 2024. Sicke reviewed the assumptions for the FY 2024/2025 Budget: agricultural water revenue projections utilize the updated water rate and assume 109,000 acre-feet of water sales (like 2016 and 2018 irrigation seasons and pro-rated for the shortened 2024 irrigation season due to *Capay Dam Bladder Replacement Project*) and personnel expenses include one additional staff position (for a total of 27 full-time equivalents).

Sicke highlighted special items of interest linked to increased expenses in FY 2024/2025 comparative to FY 2023/2024, which primarily consist of state and federal regulatory compliance items at Cache Creek Dam, Indian Valley Reservoir, and within the canal system, along with District projects included in the SGMA Implementation Grant. The SGMA Implementation Grant will reimburse the District for activities related to installing new automated gates on the Hungry Hollow, East Adams, and Acacia Canals, upgrading new culverts on the East Adams and Acacia Canals, applying for a long-term winter water right for diverting excess surface water from Cache Creek for groundwater recharge, and developing and implementing an expanded on-farm recharge program. Sicke also reviewed the proposed Capital Projects for FY 2024/2025 related to the Capay Diversion Dam Bladder Replacement, upgrades at Indian Valley Reservoir, automated trash racks for managing aquatic vegetation, and various infrastructure improvements in the irrigation system. The Capital Budget was requested to be set at \$3M for ensuring these significant infrastructure improvements are completed.

Lastly, Sicke reviewed the updated estimated effect of budget on cash to illustrate the District's accounting process for ensuring special benefit assessment funds are used solely for infrastructure improvements at and downstream of the Capay Diversion Dam, and that the drought reserve component of the water rate is tracked appropriately.

Director Tucker recommended the District investigate the potential to invest funds wherever possible and allowable as a special district, and to also consider redefining the District's "maintenance capital" related to vehicles and heavy equipment, which are critical to daily operations.

Chair Mayer asked when we expect the water rate to reduce to the base rate. Sicke reported that the base rate of \$39 per acre-foot will be achieved once at least 550,000 acre-feet of water is sold, which would ideally be five seasons of 110,000 acre-feet of sales. Assuming the District continues to have ample surface water available, the water rate could be reduced in the 2028 irrigation season. Director Vink appreciated the staff's efforts to complete the budget and commended Barbara for her 47 years of developing annual budgets for the District.

24.20 **M/S/C** Adopted the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 District Operations and Maintenance and Capital Budgets.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

9. CONSIDERATION: Adoption of 2024 Employee Handbook

General Manager Sicke reported the intention of the District's Employee Handbook, which provides employees with a general understanding of District human resource policies, practices, benefits, and rules. It is intended to familiarize employees with important information about the District, as well as information regarding employees' privileges and responsibilities. The District reviews and modifies the Handbook from time to time; all changes must be approved by the General Manager.

Sicke reported that District staff recently revised the Employee Handbook to incorporate the following new employment laws:

- AB 2188: Prohibition of Adverse Action for Off-Duty Marijuana Use
- SB 1383: Expansion of California Family Leave Act (CFRA)
- AB 1041: Expands CFRA to include "designated person" to care for/use of paid of time off
- AB 1949: Expands the length of unpaid bereavement leave
- AB 1949: Bereavement Leave: Mandatory unpaid leave
- AB 1076 and SB 699: Prohibitions on Noncompetition Agreements (pertains to Off-Duty Conduct and Conflict of Interest policy)
- SB 700: Prohibitions on Marijuana-Use Discrimination
- SB 848: Unpaid Leave for Reproductive Loss
- SB 616: Sick Leave Expansion

Additionally, Sicke reported on the incorporation of other revisions related to the District's disability waiting period, holiday observance schedule, vacation accrual in the first year, dental reimbursement policy, substance testing after a vehicular accident, Class A Driver's License applicability, and general revisions bringing the handbook current.

24.21 M/S/C adopted the 2024 Employee Handbook.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

10. CONSIDERATION: Adoption of Resolution No. 24.04 to Support Implementation of the Program of Healthy Rivers and Landscapes

General Manager Sicke reported on the State Water Board's process for updating the *Delta Water Quality Control Plan*. In September 2023, the State Water Board issued a Draft Staff Report for the *Update to the Delta Water Quality Control Plan*, which included an alternative to significantly reduce the amount of water the District can divert from Cache Creek. If adopted, it would greatly impact the District's ability to distribute surface water for irrigation, reducing recharge opportunities and increasing groundwater pumping.

Sicke reported that Cache Creek had not been included in the Delta outflow requirements in prior *Delta Water Quality Control Plan* Updates because the State Water Board has recognized the ephemeral nature of Cache Creek or lack of continuity with the Delta. Unfortunately, during the recent regulatory review, the State Water Board expanded the time frame for instream flow requirements and incorporated additional watersheds in the analysis.

Sicke reported that the District submitted a comment letter on January 19, 2024 to the State Water Board that urged the State Water Board to adopt and advance the [Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes](#) (previously known as the Voluntary Agreements) in lieu of the diversion reduction alternative. The District is proposing to participate in the Healthy Rivers Agreements to assist in providing enhanced environmental flow contributions in Putah Creek, in collaboration with contributions from Solano County Water Agency (SCWA), for salmon habitat and other benefits. The District has been coordinating with SCWA and the Department of Water Resources (DWR), as well as with fishery agency/experts and the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation regarding the proposed approach under the Healthy Rivers Agreements.

Sicke played an [educational video](#) and then proceeded to review the contents of the resolution of intent for the Board's consideration to support implementation of the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program.

Chair Mayer reported that other Sacramento water agencies have been working on the Voluntary Agreements for more than five years and are working on a coordinated effort with NCWA to focus on reconnecting the floodplains, restoring the habitat and passages in the colder streams in addition to providing reasonable flow contributions. Mayer reported that the District has been monitoring the State's process very closely and was hopeful that Cache Creek would not be included.

24.22 **M/S/C** adopted Resolution No. 24.04 to Support Implementation of the Program of Healthy Rivers and Landscapes.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

11. PRESENTATION: Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency (YSGA) Update

General Manager Sicke provided a brief update on the YSGA's [Yolo Subbasin Average Groundwater Hydrograph](#), which included spring 2024 measurements with an average depth to water of approximately 37 feet (similar to 1975 levels).

12. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Barth reported on participating in the ACWA JPIA Spring 2024 Conference along with the ACWA Spring Conference and Groundwater Committee meeting. Director Kimball reported on presenting to the ACWA Agricultural Committee on how to improve education and outreach efforts in telling the story of all the work that goes into farming. Chair Mayer reported on participating in NCWA's Executive Committee meeting, Earth Day celebration, Salmon Homecoming Summit, and the discussion with DWR on AB 2079.

13. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Legal Counsel Ramos informed the Board of his upcoming transition to serving as Yuba Water Agency's in-house legal counsel. The Board thanked Ramos for all his assistance with the District over the past decade and wished him the best of luck in his future role. BKS Law Firm will continue to support the District.

14. 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 April 30, 2024 Financial Statements Report were briefly reviewed along with the preliminary projection of the end of FY 2023/2024 Budget.
- c) Capital Improvement Program – A brief update on the planning activities related to capital projects was provided.

- d) General Activities – A list of outreach activities and projects (in-house and coordinated with other agencies) was reviewed.
- e) The following upcoming events were announced:
 1. ACWA Region 4 Issue Forum: Impact of Bay-Delta Plan and Benefits of Voluntary Agreements (May 8)
 2. ACWA Region 4 Board Meeting (May 8)
 3. Meeting with Aguiar-Curry’s Legislative Director (May 10)
 4. YSGA Executive Committee Meeting (May 13)
 5. YSGA: Interbasin Coordination Meeting with Solano Subbasin (May 13)
 6. Meeting with Placer County to Discuss Groundwater Recharge Permitting (May 14)
 7. Yolo County Farm Bureau Board Meeting (May 14)
 8. Meeting with State Water Board to Discuss Long-Term Winter Water Right (May 15)
 9. Meeting with Sustainable Conservation: Farmer Field Screening Proposal (May 15)
 10. YSGA: Yolo-Zamora Recharge (China Slough) Project Meeting (May 15)
 11. UCD Ag Sustainability Institute (May 15)
 12. ACWA State Legislative Committee Meetings (May 17 and 31)
 13. YSGA Board of Directors Meeting (May 20)
 14. Climate Action Commission Meeting (May 28)
 15. Yolo County Flood and Related Initiatives Meeting (May 28)
 16. District Farmers’ Council Meeting (May 29)
 17. ACWA/GRA SGMA Implementation Summit (June 5-6)
 18. NCWA Groundwater Management Task Force Meeting (June 10)
 19. Yolo County Financial Oversight Committee Meeting (June 13)

15. GENERAL DISCUSSION

There was no general discussion.

16. CONSIDERATION: Payment of Bills

24.23 M/S/C approved the following claims for payment – Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Checks # 63520-63539.

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

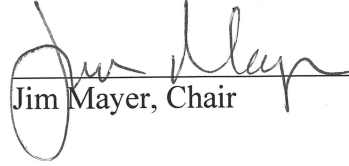
Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

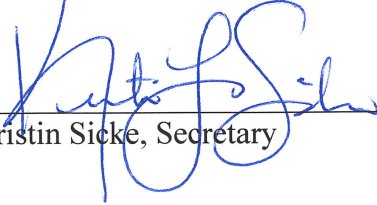
17. ADJOURNMENT

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



Jim Mayer, Chair

ATTEST:



Kristin Sicke, Secretary

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