



Y O L O C O U N T Y

FLOOD CONTROL &
WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 6:00 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 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 7, 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
Andrew Ramos, Legal Counsel
Sal Espinoza, Operations and Maintenance Supervisor
Jennifer Reed, Project Manager
John Stotts, O&M Worker
Garret Wright, O&M Worker
Joe Young, O&M Worker

Members of the Public

Scott Brown	Carston Gunter
Ron Caceres	Joe Heidrick
Duane Chamberlain	Tim Heidrick
Nick Charles	Jim Hiatt
Fritz Durst	Geoff Klein
John Facque	Jim & Carol Neilson

Neil Muller
Emily Reinhart
Lee Smith
Brent Stephens
John Stephens

1. CONSIDERATION: Approval of Minutes

23.10 M/S/C approved the minutes of the February 7, 2023 regular Board meeting.

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. PUBLIC HEARING: Preliminary Engineer's Report and Proposed Assessment for Capital Improvements

Chair Barth opened the public hearing session, and made the following announcements:

The public hearing this evening is the conclusion of the assessment ballot proceeding that allows property owners within the YCFC&WCD to decide if an assessment should be approved to provide adequate funding for Capital Improvement at and downstream of the Capay Diversion Dam. The proposed assessment would supplement existing water rate revenues.

In accordance with Proposition 218 law, tonight's public hearing gives property owners the opportunity to provide comments and questions to this Board. After the conclusion of the public hearing, the balloting period will close.

The procedure for the public hearing will be as follows:

1. First, the General Manager and consultant team will provide a brief overview of the proposed assessment and the ballot proceeding.
2. Next, we will open the public hearing so that property owners can speak about the proposed benefit assessment.

3. Generally speaking, the Board and staff will not respond to public comment. However, at its discretion, the Board reserves the right to direct staff to respond to specific questions or comments.
4. After everyone who wishes to speak has had the opportunity to do so, there will be a short recess followed by the final call for ballots to be submitted.
5. After the final call for ballots, the public hearing will be closed. If so decided, ballots will then be counted tonight, here, in the Board Room or in the back dock, depending on space. Official results will be reported at this Board meeting tonight following tabulation.

All ballots must be submitted prior to the close of tonight's public hearing. The ballot box is located at the front of the room. Please drop your ballot in this box if you wish to submit your ballot.

If you've misplaced your ballot or need a new ballot, you can request and receive a replacement ballot tonight. If you have already voted but want to change your vote, you may ask for a new ballot for that purpose. Your previously submitted ballot will not be counted.

General Manager Sicke reviewed the history in initiating the District's Revenue Stabilization Program: the previous General Manager, Tim O'Halloran, had solicited Larsen, Wurzel & Associates assistance in 2015 and the drought had stressed the importance of determining a sustainable fiscal solution for the District. Outreach for the first phase of the District's Revenue Stabilization Program (the property assessment) began in November 2022 with Focus Group meetings, and two larger community workshops were held in January and February 2023. Adam Riley of Larsen, Wurzel & Associates presented on the Preliminary Engineer's Report, which reviewed the proposed property assessment rate for properties that were benefiting from the District's services.

Chair Barth opened the public comment portion of the public hearing. No public comments were received, and Chair Barth announced the closing of the public hearing. Prior to moving on to Item 5 there were general comments from meeting participants as follows:

Duane Chamberlain stated that he would like the District to consider reviewing his properties because he believes that some of them are being assessed at the wrong rate and should likely be revised from connected to potentially connected.

Nick Charles announced that he would like the Board to consider the benefits that are accruing to non-participants; everyone that has a well is not included in this assessment. He also believes that the District's process for assessing properties does not represent the proportionality of reality.

There are different lease types associated with agricultural properties and the impacts of this assessment will be more difficult for certain crop types and the arrangement outlined in that associated lease agreement.

John Stephens requested District staff to post the results to the website in the morning in case members of the public cannot stay for the entire meeting.

5. CONSIDERATION: Adoption of Resolution 23.05 Declaring Emergency Conditions from the December 2022 and January 2023 Storm Events

General Manager Sicke reported on District staff's survey of damages incurred in the District's canal system and on the bank of Cache Creek during the December 2022 and January 2023 storm events. Because of the extensive amount of damage and the exigent situation for ensuring repairs occur prior to the irrigation season, staff are requesting the Board of Directors consider declaring emergency conditions.

23.11 M/S/C adopted Resolution 23.05 Declaring Emergency Conditions from the December 2022 and January 2023 Storm Events.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

6. CONSIDERATION: Adoption of Resolution No. 23.06 Designating of Applicant's Agent for Federal or State Financial Assistance

General Manager Sicke reported that the County of Yolo was included in the State and Federal Emergency proclamations and the District's project could be considered for reimbursement through CalOES and FEMA's emergency reimbursement processes. An updated resolution designating the Applicant's Agency was required for complying with CalOES's administrative process.

23.12 M/S/C adopted Resolution 23.06 Designating of Applicant's Agent for Federal or State Financial Assistance.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Mayer reported on his activities related to NCWA and the work that NCWA is doing to keep regulatory responsibilities under local jurisdiction.

Director Barth reported on participating in the YSGA's Ad Hoc Committee Meetings in February: *Drought Contingency Planning and Reconsideration of Voting and Dues.*

8. 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 February 28, 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. Meeting with FEMA to Discuss Reimbursement for Storm Damage (March 8)
 2. ACWA State Legislative Committee Meeting (March 9)
 3. OA Briefing March 2023 Storms (March 10)
 4. NCWA Groundwater Management Task Force Meeting (March 13)
 5. DWR Water Resilience Projects Tour at Capay Diversion Dam (March 13)
 6. NCWA Dry Year Task Force Meeting (March 14)
 7. CII Board Meeting (March 14)
 8. YCFC&WCD Special Board of Directors Meeting (March 14)
 9. YCFC&WCD Meeting with Agricultural Water Customers (March 16)
 10. Meeting with USDA to Brainstorm on Recharge Pilot Dry Well Sites (March 17)
 11. YSGA: Board of Directors Meeting (March 20)
 12. Rolling Acres Flooding Ad Hoc Committee Community Meeting (March 23)
 13. NCWA Bay-Delta Task Force Meeting (April 3)
 14. DWR's Spring 2023 GSA Summit (April 19)
 15. ACWA Spring Conference (May 9-11)
 16. Yolo County Water Awareness Forum (May 16)
 17. GRA/ACWA GSA Summit (June 7-8)
- g) Overview of Cost-of-Service Study – An overview of the District's process for hiring Larsen, Wurzel & Associates to complete a Cost-of-Service Study and update the District's agricultural water rate. A review of the setting of the 2015 sliding scale water rate and the concern over lower water sales in higher water storage years.

9. CONSIDERATION: Adoption of Resolution No. 23.07 Adopting the Capital Assessment

Chair Barth announced that the tallying of the ballots for the District's Capital Improvement Assessment was complete and of the 730 ballots mailed, 349 were returned as valid ballots and counted in the tabulation process. Of the 349 ballots, 200 'yes' votes were received with a 66.93% assessment value (based on weighted assessment).

Director Kimball stated her appreciation for the high number of participants in the District's assessment process, the high-voting return rate is something that should be acknowledged, and it means a lot for landowners and water customers to engage in and support this issue.

23.13 M/S/C adopted Resolution 23.07 Adopting the Capital Assessment.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

10. PRESENTATION: Update from Larsen, Wurzel & Associates on Cost-of-Service Study

Adam Wurzel of Larsen, Wurzel & Associates provided a continuation of General Manager Sicke's presentation on the Cost-of-Service Study, which included the proposed concept of incorporating three components into the District's agricultural water rate: a base rate, a drought reserve, and a short-term capital fund. Adam illustrated two potential structures being considered: a flat rate or modified sliding scale. Adam reviewed preliminary numbers from the draft Cost-of-Service Study based on the two structures, and he announced that the final Study and proposed agricultural water rate would be presented for the Board's consideration at the March 14, 2023 Special Board meeting.

The drought reserve component of the water rate would develop a drought contingency fund for the District to utilize in dry years, and the short-term capital fund component would repay infrastructure funds (loaned monies) used to keep the District operational during the 2020-2022 drought period.

Chair Barth announced that the May 2, 2023 Board of Directors meeting would include the water rate setting process and adoption of the District's Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget.

Director Tucker emphasized that the uncertainty in the order in which drought years occur has made the rate setting process complicated, but the intention is to create the layers of charges so that ideally once the drought reserve and short-term capital reserve limits are met, the lower flat rate (base rate) will be the realized water rate.

Director Mayer noted the District would have more predictability around the flat rate and that a formal reserve policy would provide accountability to the water customers.

11. GENERAL DISCUSSION

There was no general discussion.

12. CONSIDERATION: Payment of Bills

23.14 M/S/C approved the following claims for payment – Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Checks # 62068-62078.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

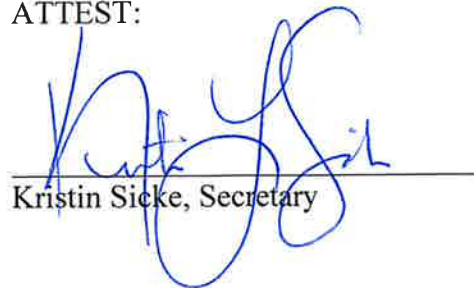
13. ADJOURNMENT

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



Tom Barth, Chair

ATTEST:


Kristin Sicke, Secretary

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