

**Minutes of the Regular Scheduled Meeting of
Board of Directors Eastside Water District**

November 16, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

Chairman Tim Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Cortez Hall, 12937 North Cortez Avenue, Turlock, CA. 95380 and via Zoom.

Directors Present: Ty Angle, Ward Burroughs, Carl Evers, III (on-line), Richard Gemperle, Tim Johnson, Dexter Long, Dino Rossini, Wes Sperry (on-line), and Todd Turley.

Directors Absent: None.

Others Present: John Fassler -landowner(on-line), Alberto Flores – KL Whipp & Co., Roy Jimenez – landowner (on-line), John Lambie – EPUR (on-line), Michael Stack – landowner, Karen Whipp – Board Secretary, Sarah Woolf- General Manager, and Jeanne Zolezzi- Legal Counsel.

Emergency Circumstance

Board Members Carl Evers and Wes Sperry contacted the General Manager at 8:00 a.m. Thursday, November 16 that they were ill and could not attend the meeting in person. They both made a request to attend the meeting remotely. At the board meeting Members Evers and Sperry, showed the board that they were able to participate through both audio and visual technology. They stated that they were the only person in their respective rooms. **It was moved by Member Ward Burroughs, seconded by Member Dexter Long, and carried unanimously** to allow Member Carl Evers and Wes Sperry to attend the meeting as a voting member.

Item 2 **Public Comment:** There were no public comments.

Item 3 **Consent Calendar**
It was moved by Board Member Dexter Long, seconded by Board Member Dino Rossini, and carried unanimously to approve the consent calendar. **Roll Call Vote: Ty Angle – Yes, Ward Burroughs-Yes, Carl Evers, III – Yes, Richard Gemperle-Yes, Tim Johnson-Yes, Dexter Long-Yes, Dino Rossini-Yes, Wes Sperry – Yes, and Todd Turley-Yes.**

Item 4 **Bridge Loan to East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency**
Sarah Woolf, General Manager reported that the East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency will need a loan in the spring of 2024. The GSA’s Proposition 218 is delayed by at least a month, which will influence their cash flow, causing funds to be collected later than projected. The General Manager said she has not discussed details of the loan, only the amount; four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000.00), and the interest rate; nine and a half percent (9.5%). The loan would be repaid over a period of four years. **These items were information only.**

Item 5 **Surface Water Supply Usage**
Sarah Woolf, General Manger reported on the following:
a. Replenishment Water: 3,938 acre-feet have been received from Turlock Irrigation District. (TID) This is 1,738 acre-feet more than in the previous year. TID will take their

last water order on October 28 and stop water deliveries November 1. Bills for TID will go out in Mid-November and will be due the end of December.

b. Merced Irrigation District Water: 583 acre-feet has been taken as of October 22.

This item was information only.

Item 6

Infrastructure Reimbursement Program for 2023-2024

Sarah Woolf, General Manager had nothing new to report except that staff is reaching out to landowners about the program and there are some owners that want to participate, but have not submitted applications yet.

Item 7

Report on ACWA Forum from Board Member Todd Turley

Todd Turley gave a presentation of the October 6 and 7 ACWA Region 6 and 7 Tour and Forum. He shared highlights of the Recharge Projects of the tour, which were:

- Terranova Ranch Recharge McMullin Project
 - Kings River Conservation District in Western Fresno County
 - 9,000 Recharge Floodwater
 - \$13 million project
- Stone Ranch Wetlands Reserve
 - Westlands Water District
 - 900 acres of wetlands
 - Ranch is 6 ASR wells
- Arroyo Pasajero Mutual Water Company Multi-Benefit Recharge Project
 - 1,080 acres
 - The water is gravity flow; did not do any engineering; very low-cost recharge
 - Not just a recharge; growing crops as well
 - 2019 first year to recharge; 2023 full allocation

Water Forum topics revolved around: project maintenance and the cost; recharge credits; and challenges with SGMA.

Item 8

East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Update

- a. Multi Benefit Land Repurposing Grant Proposal – the ETS GSA agreement with the Department of Conservation has been signed. There was a tour in the Merced and Turlock area that Lacey McBride and Mike organized and attended November 13 as requested by the Statewide Support Entity, EDF (Environmental Defense Fund). Sacramento legislative and Department of Conservation representatives were invited to see what MLRP could be. A total of 33 people attended the tour. They started at the Merced Wildlife Refuge and ended at the Burroughs Farm, where they saw regenerative farming.
- b. Prop 218 and Groundwater Pumping Fee – Sarah Woolf gave an update on the November 14 board meeting. Following Ryan Aston, SCI Consulting presentation, he received direction from the board for the final Proposition 218 framework which will include a land-based assessment to fund the operating budget and management actions beneficial to all members of the GSA. A pumping fee will fund the ongoing programs developed thru the MLRP program to ultimately reach sustainability. Projects that may be implemented over the next two years prior to collection of pumping fees will be done by and within Eastside Water District (EWD). Although EWD will maintain the groundwater benefit of the projects, these projects will reduce the overall overdraft of the entire basin. There will be a public workshop December

14, with a public hearing to adopt the draft Engineer's Report. All significant input from the workshop will be incorporated into the Engineer's Report. The final Engineer's Report will be adopted in January, starting a 60-day period for ballots and public comment. The process will conclude with a hearing and tallying of the ballots.

- c. Groundwater Pumping Pilot Program Update – There is nothing new to report.
- d. Policy Discussion Schedule– The policy and procedures for Proposition 218 are being prepared. The Technical Advisory Committee has reviewed and commented on them. They should be ready for approval in January 2024.
- e. Accounting Framework – To be discussed in closed session.

These items were information only.

Item 9

Other Business

Sarah Woolf reported that on the costs of maps. Both Provost and Pritchard, and Wood Rodgers will charge \$3,500. She stated that Provost and Pritchard have maps that best fit the District's needs. Wood Roger's map focus on parcels for replenishment projects.

This item was information only.

Chairman Tim Johnson closed the regular meeting at 10:39 a.m.

Item 10

Closed Session

Chairman Tim Johnson opened the closed session at 10:40 a.m.

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION Pursuant to Gov. Code 54956.9(d) Significant exposure to litigation: 2 cases. No action was taken.

Chairman Tim Johnson closed the Closed Session at 11:45 a.m.

Chairman Tim Johnson opened the regular meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Item 11

Adjournment

Chairman Tim Johnson adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

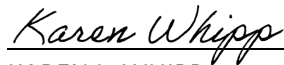
Item 12

Projects Tour and Lunch

Following lunch, the board members toured areas of the district that would be suitable for possible recharge projects.

I hereby certify that this is a full and correct copy of the minutes of the Board of Directors of the Eastside Water District of Merced and Stanislaus Counties, California.

November 16, 2023



KAREN L. WHIPP

EASTSIDE WATER DISTRICT BOARD CLERK