

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

December 21, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

Chairman Tim Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. at the Cortez Hall, 12937 North Cortez Avenue, Turlock, CA. 95380 and via Zoom.

Directors Present: Ward Burroughs, Carl Evers, III, Richard Gemperle, Tim Johnson Dexter Long, Dino Rossini, Wes Sperry, and Todd Turley.

Directors Absent: Ty Angle.

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

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

Item 3 **Consent Calendar**
It was moved by Board Member Ward Burroughs, seconded by Board Member Dexter Long, and carried unanimously to approve the consent calendar.

Item 4 **Investment Committee Report and Possible Action**

- a. Wes Sperry reported that the 6-month investment has come to maturity. There was discussion on whether to reinvest the funds. **These items were information only.**
- b. **It was moved by Board Member Dexter Long, seconded by Board Member Ward Burroughs, and carried unanimously** to reinvest a reasonable amount of funds that will allow Eastside Water District to maintain a solid working balance to achieve its financial obligations over the next fiscal year.

Item 5 **Surface Water Supply Usage**
Sarah Woolf, General Manger reported on the following:

- a. The board approved and signed checks for five landowners TID water use bills this month.
- b. Merced Irrigation District Water: There is nothing new to report.

This item was information only.

Item 6 **Infrastructure Reimbursement Program for 2023-2024 Schedule**
Sarah Woolf, General Manager reported there are two interested parties. In January the Ad Hoc Committee will review the projects and make their recommendations to the board at their January 18 meeting.

Item 7 **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. Staff has learned that while our grant agreement states the GSA can receive an advance payment, the State said that California Legislation prevents advance payments. The agreements with our partners

will have payments of invoices for 60 days instead of 30 days. With that staff has prepared a procedure for our partners to submit their invoices for payment. Also, many contracts and MOUs should be ready for approval at the January 25 ETS GSA board meeting. Staff is working on a RFP to be released in January to hire a consultant to prepare the MLRP Plan. The plan will take about a year to complete. It then needs to have the State approve the Plan before work can begin.

- b. Prop 218 and Groundwater Pumping Fee – Sarah Woolf gave an update on the December 14 board workshop. It was well attended. There were approximately 80 people in person and 40 people on-line. Non-irrigated and rangeland owners attended. They are not comfortable with the proposed non-irrigated rate. The General Manager reported that a meeting will be scheduled in early January with the non-irrigated landowners to discuss their concerns. Those concerns will be reported to the GSA board at their January meeting. Ms. Woolf also reported that the Final Engineer’s Report was scheduled to be adopted at the January meeting and mailed the following day. She said the EWD board secretary has been working on a landowners list per total acreage and including any land they may own in the Merced or Stanislaus County White Areas within the GSA. The list includes contact information. The list will be completed the beginning of January and forwarded to the General Manager so she can work with the board members set up meetings with EWD landowners about the upcoming Prop 218 vote.
- 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. The General Manager also stated that she has pushed for a dashboard to be in place by March for the landowners to start using so they can see how the proposed pumping thresholds will be implemented. Savannah Tjaden is working on the policy that the board will need to approve before March.
- e. Accounting Framework – To be discussed in closed session.

These items were information only.

Item 8

Other Business

There was no other business.

Chairman Tim Johnson closed the regular meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Item 9

Closed Session

Chairman Tim Johnson opened the closed session at 10:21 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 11:25 a.m.

Chairman Tim Johnson opened the regular meeting at 11:26 a.m.

Item 10

Adjournment

Chairman Tim Johnson adjourned the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

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.

December 21, 2023

Karen Whipp

KAREN L. WHIPP

EASTSIDE WATER DISTRICT BOARD CLERK