

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

January 18, 2024, 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 (on-Line), and Todd Turley (on-Line).

Directors Absent: Ty Angle.

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

Emergency Circumstance

Board Wes Sperry contacted the Board Secretary January 15, stating that he was recovering from Covid and could not attend the meeting in person. He made a request to attend the meeting remotely.

Board Member Todd Turley contacted the General Manager January 18, 7 am enroute to the board meeting and stated he was in a car accident and could not attend the meeting in person. He made a request to attend the meeting remotely.

At the board meeting Members Sperry and Turley, showed the board that they were able to participate through both audio and visual technology. They stated that they were the only persons in the room. **It was moved by Member Ward Burroughs, seconded by Member Dexter Long, and carried unanimously** to allow Members Wes Sperry and Todd Turley to attend the meeting as voting board members.

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

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

Item 4 **Conflict of Interest Form 700 Due by April 1, 2024 and Ethics Training**
The Board Secretary reported that the Board would receive a notice from the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors Clerk concerning their electronic filing of Form 700 for any conflict of interests. The secretary also reported that board members were required to take Ethics Training now that they agreed to be reimbursed for attending water conferences. The secretary said she would email on-line class information to the board.

Item 5 **Eastside Water District Reimbursement Policy**
Following a brief discussion, **it was moved by Board Member Carl Evers, III, seconded by Board Member Dino Rossini, and carried unanimously** to adopt the Reimbursement

Policy. **Roll Call Vote: Ward Burroughs-Yes, Richard Gemperle-Yes, Tim Johnson-Yes, Dexter Long-Yes, Dino Rossini-Yes, Wes Sperry-Yes and Todd Turley-Yes.**

Item 6

Mid-Year Budget Review

Sarah Woolf, General Manager gave a report on the budget, indicating there is more than enough funds available to complete the projects that the board plans to develop or complete this year.

Item 7

Infrastructure Reimbursement Program for 2023-2024 Schedule

Sarah Woolf, General Manager reported that the Board Secretary sent out emails to landowners requesting applications for the program. To date no applications have been submitted. The General Manager has had conversations with one landowner who is very interested in participating in the program. He submitted an application last year. His project is contingent on working with a neighboring landowner. The board directed the General Manager to work with the landowner and meet with the neighboring landowner to have him participate in the program as well and bring back her discussions with both landowners at the February board meeting.

Item 8

East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Update

- a. The General Manager reported that DWR will release a letter today stating that the joint GSA's Groundwater Sustainability Plan is inadequate in 2 areas. Ms. Woolf stated that we do not know what the deficiencies are until we receive the letter, but the joint GSAs will work together to rectify them in the 6-months that DWR provides them.
- b. Multi Benefit Land Repurposing Grant Proposal – The General Manager attended a tour of a refuge that is being developed by the Kaweah Subbasin GSA, where a landowner was instrumental in the development. The takeaway is having landowners significantly involved in using their knowledge when developing the program. The RFP to hire a consultant to prepare the plan is going out next week. The plan, which takes a year to prepare and get approved, is required by the Dept. of Conservation before work can begin.
- c. Prop 218 and Groundwater Pumping Fee – Sarah Woolf gave an update on the December 14 board workshop, which was well attended. The non-irrigated landowners that attended the meeting are not comfortable with the proposed non-irrigated rate. A meeting was held January 10 at Snelling Community Center with the non-irrigated landowners to discuss their concerns. Staff shared with the landowners that because they are located within the GSA, there is benefit to SGMA compliance and the prevention of State intervention and their imposed costs and fees. Ms. Woolf reported that the ETS GSA TAC met January 16 and voted to recommend to the ETS GSA Board to lower the non-irrigated land rate to \$1.54 per acre and increase the irrigated land rate to \$17.75 per acre.

The General Manager reviewed the following Prop 218 timeline: The Final Engineer's Report is scheduled to be adopted at the January meeting; ballots mailed the following week with 60 days for landowners to review and vote; board members to talk to landowners about Prop 218; Special Board Meeting April 2 to hold public hearing and count the votes.

Then Ms. Woolf shared a spreadsheet the board secretary prepared that included landowners, total acreage owned and contact information. A map was also provided. Groundwater Pumping Pilot Program Update – There is nothing new to report.

- d. Land IQ Rollout- The General Manager reported that Joel Kimmelshue, (Land IQ) gave a brief report at the January TAC meeting. Land IQ has been up and running since March 2023. They just added two new ET stations in almond orchards. Ms. Woolf also reported that the TAC will be interviewing 2-3 companies that have existing dashboards that the GSA can use to provide a dashboard for growers to use as their groundwater portal.
- e. Policy Discussion Schedule– The policy and procedures for Proposition 218 are moving forward.
- f. Accounting Framework – To be discussed in closed session.

These items were information only.

Item 9

Other Business

There was no other business.

Chairman Tim Johnson closed the regular meeting at 10:38 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 11:11 a.m.

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

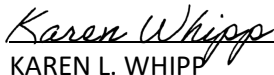
Item 11

Adjournment

Chairman Tim Johnson adjourned the meeting at 11:12 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.

January 18, 2024



KAREN L. WHIPP

EASTSIDE WATER DISTRICT BOARD CLERK