

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

April 18, 2024, 9:06 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 (on-line), Carl Evers III, Richard Gemperle, Tim Johnson, Dexter Long, Dino Rossini, Wes Sperry, and Todd Turley (On-line *arrived after Item 5*).

Directors Absent: None.

Others Present: Cody Alridge-landowner (on-line), Julia Campos – landowner, Alberto Flores – KL Whipp & Co., Becky Horn – Water Wise, Justin Pitts – landowner, Michael Stack – landowner, Karen Whipp – Board Secretary, Sarah Woolf- General Manager (on-line), and Jeanne Zolezzi – Legal Counsel.

Item 2 **Public Comment:** None.

Item 3 **Consent Calendar**

It was moved by Board Member Dexter Long, seconded by Board Member Carl Evers III, and carried unanimously to approve the consent calendar, with the exception of Item 3a, the Minutes of March 21, 2024 which were requested to be tabled for the May 16, 2024 board meeting. **Roll Call Vote: Ward Burroughs-Yes, Carl Evers III – Yes, Richard Gemperle-Yes, Tim Johnson-Yes, Dexter Long-Yes, Dino Rossini-Yes, and Wes Sperry-Yes.**

Item 4 **Eastside Water District Board Vacancy**

Two people submitted letters of interest. Cody Alridge and Julia Campos. Each of them introduced themselves and provided their background in farming and why they wanted to serve on the board. The Ad Hoc Committee: Ward Burroughs, Carl Evers, Tim Johnson, and Wes Sperry will set up a time to talk to each candidate and then make a recommendation to the board at the May meeting. **This item was information only.**

Item 5 **Second Eastside Water District/East Turlock Subbasin (ETS) Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Loan**

Following a brief discussion about the loan, **it was moved by Board Member Carl Evers III, seconded by Board Member Dino Rossini, and carried** to loan \$400,000 (four hundred thousand dollars) to ETS GSA at 9.5% (nine and half percent interest) and authorize the board chair to sign the loan. **Roll Call Vote: Ward Burroughs-Abstain, Carl Evers III – Yes, Richard Gemperle-Yes, Tim Johnson-Yes, Dexter Long-Yes, Dino Rossini-Yes, Wes Sperry-Yes, and Todd Turley -Yes.**

Item 6 **Infrastructure Reimbursement Program for 2023-2024 Schedule**

Sarah Woolf, General Manager stated she is still waiting for the application from a third project before moving forward. She did report at the Dry Creek Farmers Meeting there may be some smaller projects to fund.

Item 7

Projects

- a. Replenishment Water - Replenishment Water from TID is now available. Landowners are being encouraged to start taking water. The per acre foot charge is the same as last year.
- b. Merced Irrigation Water Delivery – MID said the full 1770 acre feet of water is available. As a reminder, EWD pays for the water whether we use it or not.
- c. Dry Creek Farmers Meeting Update - The meeting went well. MID attended. There was discussion on coordination, so landowners could get the maximum benefit. Len Mason also attended so he could see how Dry Creek could better understand the landscape and how possible projects might fit into the MLRP program.
- d. Hall Road Property Update – Carl Evers, Richard Gemperle, Tim Johnson, and Wes Sperry were elected to an Ad Hoc Committee to develop a Pilot Recharge plan for the property.

Item 8

East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Update

- a. GSP Deficiencies - The General Manager reported staff is working to address the deficiencies and submit the update by July. DWR wants to see a plan that contains tools we can utilize to reduce pumping when and if our Minimum Threshold and Interim Milestone triggers are reached.
- b. Multi Benefit Land Repurposing Grant– The General Manager reported two firms EKI and ESA, have been hired jointly to prepare the MLRP Plan. The plan will be submitted to the Department of Conservation in early 2025.
- c. Prop 218 Update and Next Steps – the Operational Assessment passed by 80%. The next step is a Fee Study for the Proposition 218 Extraction-Based Benefit Assessment.
- d. Land IQ Update- The General Manager reported briefly about the data Land IQ has been collecting from the stations it has set up throughout the district.
- e. Groundwater Accounting Platforms -Update – The GSA has hired ESA to build the platform. They have begun weekly meetings with an Ad Hoc Committee that will develop the rules and regulations for the platform one week and then test the platform using those rules and regulations the following week until the program is developed. They had their first meeting on Monday. The roll out will be in June.
- f. Accounting Framework – This will 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 10:07 a.m.

Item 10

Closed Session

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

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION Pursuant to Gov. Code 54956.9(d) Significant exposure to litigation: 1 case. No action was taken.

Chairman Tim Johnson closed the Closed Session at 10:53 a.m.

Chairman Tim Johnson opened the regular meeting at 10:53 a.m.

Item 11

Adjournment

Chairman Tim Johnson adjourned the meeting at 10:53 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.

April 18, 2024

Karen Whipp

KAREN L. WHIPP

EASTSIDE WATER DISTRICT BOARD CLERK