

MINUTES

Oakdale, California
May 22, 2007

The Board of Directors of the Oakdale Irrigation District invited all to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and then met in Special Session at the hour of 6:00 p.m. Upon roll call, there were present:

Directors: Steve Webb, President
Jack Alpers, Vice President
Frank B. Clark
Al Bairos, Jr.
Tony Taro (Absent)

Staff Present: Steve Knell, P.E., General Manager/Secretary
Kevin King, Water Operations Manager

ITEM NO. 1 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

ITEM NO. 2 **DISCUSSION ITEM**

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ON THE **DISTRICT'S POSITION REGARDING THE** **HISTORICAL KNIGHTS FERRY WATER RIGHTS**

President Webb stated that this meeting was scheduled so that the Oakdale Irrigation District could present and discuss the District's position regarding the water rights of the historical Knights Ferry water users as determined by the decision in *Brooks, et al., v. Oakdale irrigation District*.

General Manager, Steve Knell, gave a PowerPoint presentation which outlined the history of OID/SSJID water rights, timelines of interest, questions raised by history, OID's position on Knights Ferry Water, and what should happen if the District and the historical Knights Ferry water users cannot reach an agreement.

Following this PowerPoint presentation members of the historical Knights Ferry water users were given an opportunity to express their concerns. These minutes will reflect a brief summary of their statements.

Karen Eakin, 17136 Sonora Road. Ms. Eakin stated that the Brooks' Decision did not necessarily include all of the properties that had a water right. She stated that she had in her possession a preliminary escrow report for her property which stated that the property had the right to run water over and across said property. She also referred to a letter dated

September 14, 1976 that was addressed to Robert L. Isaac, the General Manager of the Oakdale Irrigation District discussing the Knights Ferry water users' issues. She also expressed concern about the maintenance of the Frymire Ditch.

Mark Schlegel, 16636 Morrison Road. Mr. Schlegel asked if the District was collecting any normal water rates from any new properties in the Knights Ferry area. President Webb stated no. He also asked who was responsible for the maintenance of the ditch. He stated that he was told that the Frymire Ditch was a private ditch and it was up to them to maintain.

Roseanne K. Paulat, Frymire Road. Ms. Paulat asked for some clarification regarding the "yellow sheet" that was passed out which stated in 1853 the Knights Ferry water right was 5 cubic feet per second, but in 1885 for 127.00 and 1902 for 66.20 cubic feet per second, but Knights Ferry's right did not increase. General Manager, Steve Knell, stated that the capacity of the ditch had been enlarged; however, the Knights Ferry water right did not change from 5 cubic feet per second.

Jim Mangante, 16407 Orange Blossom. Mr. Mangante stated that the District's irrigation season is only so long. It states that the water right includes domestic use and asked why they should have to wait six months for a drink of water.

Kay Martinelli, 17172 Sonora Road. Ms. Martinelli stated that they need domestic and/or livestock water year round as it is stated in the Brooks' Decision. She asked how the District could feel that they are not entitled to water year round. Ms. Martinelli asked if the Certificate of Water Right by Appropriation states that the irrigation period runs from March 1 through October 31 of each year why the District turned the water out on October 12, and did not maintain it until October 31 last year.

Jim Rotelli, Frymire Road. Mr. Rotelli stated that SSJID in the last two years has been doing corrective work. In the past they built the Coffey Dam at the end of the tunnel and were able to provide us with water. Mr. Rotelli asked if it was possible to deliver water through that tunnel as they did in the past.

Scot Carey, 16225 Morrison Road. Mr. Carey stated that there is a lot of water running off the Frymire and asked if the District is reusing the water. Water Operations Manager, Kevin King, stated that the water leaves the area and goes to the Wills Pond and then to the Orange Blossom Drain and eventually into the Stanislaus River.

Henry Burtschi suggested that the Knights Ferry landowners form a committee. He also suggested that someone should get in touch with the State Water Resources Control Board to get clarification on whether their water right is year round so that it will not be necessary to enter into litigation.

Kay Martinelli, 17172 Sonora Road asked besides the year round water what the other issues are that the District would like clarified; the fact that Knights Ferry gets more water than what has been appropriated? General Manager, Steve Knell, replied, yes. Ms. Martinelli stated that she has never seen any water being wasted in the Knights Ferry area.

President Steve Webb asked if the historical Knights Ferry water users could form a committee and meet with the Ad Hoc Knights Ferry Committee and try and work things out.

Director Clark stated that maybe the District should look at how we get water to Knights Ferry for twelve months out of the year rather than trying to figure out if they are entitled to water for the twelve months. He stated that the District needs to quantify how much water is being used by the historical Knights Ferry water users and how much is being used by OID. He stated that everyone needs to sit down together and work on these issues and resolve them.

Brendt Noon suggested that the historical Knights Ferry water users meet separately to discuss forming a committee to meet with the Ad Hoc Knights Ferry Committee. It was agreed by all parties that the historical Knights Ferry water users would meet and get back in touch with the District following their meeting.

ITEM NO. 3
OTHER ACTION

At the hour of 7:40 p.m. a motion was made by Director Alpers, and seconded by Director Webb, and unanimously supported to adjourn to the next **regular Board of Director's Meeting** to be held on **Tuesday, June 5, 2007, at 9:00 a.m.** at the Oakdale Irrigation District Office, 1205 East F Street, Oakdale, CA 95361.

The next **regular Joint Board Meeting for the Tri-Dam Project** is scheduled for **Thursday, June 21, 2007, at 9:00 a.m.** in the Board Room of the South San Joaquin Irrigation District 11011 East Highway 120, Manteca, California.

Steven A. Webb, President

Attest:

Steve Knell, P.E., Secretary