

MINUTES

Oakdale, California
August 6, 2002

The Board of Directors of the Oakdale Irrigation District invited all to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and then met in Regular Session at the hour of 9:00 a.m. Upon roll call, there were present:

Directors: Jack Alpers
 Louis Brichetto
 Frank Clark
 Tony Taro
 Steve Webb

Staff Present: Steve Knell, General Manager
 Mike Evans, Watermaster
 Bob Nielsen, Supervisor of Field Operations
 Wayne Truhett, Supervisor of Facilities and Right-of-Way
 Kathy Cook, Chief Financial Officer

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADDITION OR DELETION OF AGENDA ITEMS

There were no additions or deletions of agenda items.

ACTION TO TAKE VARIOUS ITEMS OUT OF SEQUENCE

Director Alpers stated that the Fire Department would be present at 9:30 A.M. and asked to have their Agenda item heard upon their arrival. Director Alpers asked to have Mr. Sosinsky's Agenda Item #14 heard first on the action calendar. Director Clark asked to have Agenda Items #3, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 10 moved to the action calendar. The consent calendar will consist of Agenda Items #2, 6, 9, and 11. A Motion was made by Director Clark, seconded by Director Taro, and unanimously supported to move Items #3, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 10 to the Action Calendar.

COMMUNICATIONS
ITEM NO. 1a
GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Steve Knell reported the following:

- Property acquisitions that could benefit the District need to be considered. Currently OID has two privately owned sites for borrow material. The more material taken, the more advantage to the landowner. OID should buy its own sites, remove material and build reservoir space for our advantage. We are going to be looking at bringing to you certain properties within our system that we know are for sale that could be advantageous to us both in the reclamation and irrigation business.

Director Clark stated that because of the growth in Oakdale and our location, we should consider relocating to another site

- RFP – Strategic Planning: We received one proposal. We will make copies for the Board and make it a part of the next Board folder for discussion.
- RFP – Water Attorney: We received two letters from law firms advising us that they would not be bidding – Neumiller & Beardslee, and the Masuda law firm. We sent 12 letters.
- RFP – Support Services Manager: That closes August 30 and to date we have received 19 applications.
- Robert Van Lier Reservoir Open House: The plaque will be set in stone and installed at the reservoir. We have scheduled an open house on August 29, 2002 and we will be providing shuttle service every 30 minutes. This open house will be advertised in the Oakdale Leader.

We need to set up a Water Committee Meeting with Directors Taro and Brichetto.

ITEM NO. 1b
DIRECTORS' COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

Director Webb:

- Director Webb asked Mike Evans, Watermaster the status of the flooding at Victory and 120. Mike Evans responded to his questions. Director Webb also asked Mike Evans for the status of the rotations since the weather has been cooler? Everyone is finishing up rotation 11 and they are on rotation 12. Mike Evans responded that water use has been down.

Director Brichetto:

- Director Brichetto stated that he had sent General Manager Steve Knell a fax regarding leaks that he and Steve had gone over.

Director Taro:

- Regarding the Minutes. I have noticed that someone asks a question and someone on the Board commented on it, but it doesn't say what they said. Director Taro requested that more information be provided.

Director Clark:

- About 8 months ago when I first came on the Board I had some concerns regarding large vendors getting contracts without getting bids, and I would like to see this addressed soon by the General Manager.

Mr. Henry Burtschi addressed Director Clark's comments regarding the bids for petroleum products and stated that the \$80,000 is not just for petroleum, its for grease, oil, etc. Mr. Burtschi stated that before you begin switching any type of oil, etc. that we should check into the product itself. Mr. Burtschi stated that experience has taught him that the price is not very important on these products.

Dennis Edge commented that staff wastes a lot of valuable time putting these bidding items together. Mr. Edge stated that it is about time that the Board looks at the possibility of hiring a professional purchasing manager which would establish day to day contact with vendors, building relationships.

Ms. Betty Serpa stated that the Board needs to have more faith in their employees, they are hard workers, and it seems there is no trust by the Board in anything that they do, and that you constantly question their every move. It's time to stop that.

- Worker's compensation has just gone up tremendously, approximately 45%. We are talking about over \$200,000 impact to OID. We need to start right now to bid this out and look beyond the broker that we always deal with and start looking to find somebody else to bid on this workman's compensation.

Director Brichetto:

- On the workman's compensation –He has had good luck saving money by looking for more competitive companies.

Director Clark:

- The manager had received a letter from Mr. Sam Trailer complimenting two of our ditchtenders, Mark Ashworth and Randy Walker about what a terrific job they are doing out there for him and he is just tickled to death. A copy of the letter was placed in their personnel files.

Director Alpers:

- Mr. Taro made a good observation when he was talking about drainage reclamation in the San Joaquin area. General Manager Steve Knell responded that the Water Committee will meet on this.

- There is a one-day ACWA Conference at Costa Mesa covering weather patterns and how that will affect the District over the next 40 years. I would like the Board to consider sending the General Manager to this conference. ACWA thinks it is important enough to set up an all-day conference and I think it would behoove our General Manager to attend.
- Everybody submits a vacation form and I think that the General Manager should submit one to the Board President, just to let us know that you are going to be out.

**CONSENT CALENDAR
ITEM NO. 2, 6, 9,11**

**ITEM NO. 2
APPROVE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MINUTES OF
REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 16, 2002**

A motion was made by Director Webb, seconded by Director Clark, and unanimously supported to approve the Board of Directors' Minutes of the regular meeting of July 16, 2002.

**ITEM NO. 6
APPROVE EMPLOYEE SAFETY TRAINING
FOR 15 EMPLOYEES**

A motion was made by Director Webb, seconded by Director Clark, and unanimously supported to approve Boom Truck Certification Training for 15 Oakdale Irrigation District employees.

**ITEM NO. 9
APPROVE RESOLUTION 2002-NIL FOR
ACCEPTANCE OF DEED FROM
NOEL AND DONNA BARFIELD DATED MAY 14, 2002**

A motion was made by Director Webb, seconded by Director Clark, and unanimously supported to approve the resolution for acceptance of a deed from Noel and Donna Barfield dated May 14, 2002.

ITEM NO. 11

- APPROVE CLOSING CAPITAL PROJECT WORK ORDER NUMBERS:**
0798 – THOMPSON CULVERT INSTALLATION
0052- SOUTH MAIN DEEP WELL SITE #2
0138 – SOUTH MAIN REGULATING RESERVOIR SITE CONSTRUCTION
0144 – UNION DRAIN PUMP P/L REPLACEMENT
0166 – CRANE P/L INSTALL VALVE, PIPE & VENT
0204 – CLAVEY 2ND BOOSTER PUMP
0211 – RIVERBANK LAT. REPLACE 12” GATE – VARGAS PROPERTY
0212 – FAIRBANKS PL – REPLACE 3 – 14” GATES
0213 – PAULSELL LAT – REPLACE TWO GATES – 14” & 16”
0215 – SOUTH MAIN – REPLACE 16” GATE – GOLDEN WEST
0216 – KEARNEY LAT – REPLACE 10” & 16” GATES – KAMAZ PROPERTY
0219 – UNION LATERAL – REPLACE 16” GATE

A motion was made by Director Webb, seconded by Director Clark, and unanimously supported to approve closing capital project work order #0798, #0052, #0138, #0144, #0166, #0204, #0211, #0212, #0213, #0215, #0216, and #0219.

ITEM NO. 3

APPROVE OAKDALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT'S
STATEMENT OF OBLIGATIONS

Director Clark had questions of Kathy Cook, Chief Financial Officer regarding an explanation of “true-up”. General Manager Steve Knell responded that there is a true-up provision in the agreement. There is an accounting procedure which adjusts the actual water use for the year and the bills and payments are based on the true-up provisions.

Mr. Laurens Foard commented that Oakdale Irrigation District seems to be spending a lot of money hauling dirt. Where does that go? General Manager Steve Knell responded that Black Diamond is a truck broker. When we need more trucks than we can supply we contract out to Black Diamond.

Director Clark asked if the Visa charge for \$1,860 for production incentive expense was an employee incentive program. Chief Financial Officer Kathy Cook explained that on a quarterly basis if an employee does not miss any time for leave or doc time then they are given a \$50.00 gift certificate for use at Wal-Mart.

A motion was made by Director Brichetto, seconded by Director Clark, and unanimously supported to approve the Oakdale Irrigation District's Statement of Obligations.

ITEM NO. 4
CONSIDER ENCROACHMENT ON
THE ADAMS CREEK DRAIN

A motion was made by Director Brichetto, seconded by Director Clark, and unanimously supported to approve the encroachment on the Adams Creek Drain.

ITEM NO. 5
APPROVE REPLACING RANEY RECLAMATION/DRAIN PUMP

Field Operations Supervisor Bob Nielsen advised the Board that after they approve the replacement of the Raney Reclamation/Drain Pump then quotes would be obtained according to the Bid Policy. After discussion a motion was made by Director Webb, seconded by Director Brichetto, and unanimously supported to approve the replacement of the Raney Reclamation/Drain Pump.

ITEM NO. 7
APPROVE OUTSTANDING WORK ORDERS FOR
CANAL GATE REPLACEMENT

A motion was made by Director Clark, seconded by Director Brichetto, and unanimously supported to approve the outstanding work orders for canal gate replacement.

ITEM NO. 8
APPROVE ENCROACHMENT ON THE
MOOTZ LATERAL

Mr. Bill Kull engineered this site and it meets OID standards. Director Clark asked that his letter be included in the file and he would like to get a copy of that letter.

A motion was made by Director Clark, seconded by Director Webb to approve an encroachment on the Mootz Lateral, and was voted as follows:

Ayes: Alpers, Clark, Taro, and Webb
Abstain: Brichetto

ITEM NO. 10
APPROVE DECLARING MATERIALS
SURPLUS TO DISTRICT'S NEEDS

A motion was made by Director Webb, seconded by Director Clark, and unanimously supported to approve the declaring of materials surplus to District's needs.

ITEM NO. 16
APPROVE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JPA BETWEEN
OID AND OAKDALE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT

Director Webb stated that he found this idea very exciting because it is very seldom that two public agencies get to work together to benefit every constituent in the Oakdale Irrigation District and the Oakdale Fire District. Chief Bill Howk had this good idea some time back about some of our deep wells, and upon talking to Bob and Steve Knell we need to take some of our deep wells and fix them so that we can operate them and load our water trucks out of them during construction. This would benefit the Oakdale Irrigation District, at the same time the Oakdale Fire District could load up their fire trucks in the case of an emergency, and they needed fire water.

Chief Bill Howk addressed the Board and reiterated the information presented by Director Webb. Chief Howk asked to have the turn off fee waived, and they are willing to pay the expenses for the piping if OID would pay for the installation. He also stated that these pumps would not be used unless it was an emergency, and that just a few specific sites such as Valley Home and Paulsell would be necessary to start with. However, the sites utilized would be agreed upon between Chief Howk, Director Webb, and Bob Nielsen.

Mr. Henry Burtschi stated that he hoped the Board would approve this, as it was the best idea he has heard come along in years.

A motion was made by Director Webb, seconded by Director Brichetto, and unanimously supported to proceed with the development of a JPA between OID and Oakdale Rural Fire District.

ITEM NO. 14
OUT-OF-DISTRICT SURFACE IRRIGATION REQUEST

A motion was made by Director Webb and seconded by Director Brichetto to approve out-of-district surface irrigation request and was voted as follows:

Ayes: Brichetto and Webb
Noes: Alpers, Clark, and Taro

After further discussion, a second motion was made by Director Clark and seconded by Director Brichetto approving the out-of-district surface irrigation request of Mr. Kevin Sosinsky with the condition that the orchard be planted within a 12-month period of time, and was voted as follows:

Ayes: Alpers, Brichetto, Clark, Taro, and Webb

ITEM NO. 13
REVIEW AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION ON
ADOPTION OF GROUNDWATER BASIN ASSOCIATION MOU

A motion was made by Director Webb, seconded by Director Alpers to approve the adoption of the Groundwater Basin Association MOU, and was voted as follows:

Ayes: Alpers, Clark, and Webb
Noes: Brichetto and Taro

ITEM NO. 12
APPROVE ATTENDANCE OF NINE (9) AG WATER EMPLOYEES
TO ATTEND THE IRRIGATION DISTRICT SCHOOL OF
IRRIGATION AT CAL POLY, SAN LUIS OBISPO

A motion was made by Director Webb, seconded by Director Taro, and unanimously supported to approve attendance of nine (9) Ag Water employees to attend the Irrigation District School of Irrigation at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and also approve the participation of any Director wishing to attend.

ITEM NO. 15
DAMAGE CLAIM

After discussion, a motion was made by Director Webb, seconded by Director Clark denying the claim of Ms. Peggy Parks and that a letter be sent to her denying the claim including an explanation as to the District policy. The motion was withdrawn.

A motion was made by Director Clark, seconded by Director Brichetto and unanimously supported denying the claim of Ms. Parks specifying that a letter is to be sent to her with an explanation as to the District policy. Additionally, a notice of claim is to be made to our insurance carrier with a copy of our denial letter.

ITEM NO. 17
OUTSIDE AUCTION COMPANY TO
CONDUCT SURPLUS PROPERTY SALE

A motion was made by Director Clark, seconded by Director Alpers and unanimously supported to approve an outside auction company conduct surplus property sale on-site and to award auctioneer services to Mulrooney Auctioneers.

DISCUSSION ITEM
ITEM NO. 18
DISTRICT AG DEEP WELLS AND
RECLAMATION PUMPS

Watermaster Mike Evans provided a map detailing OID'S deep wells, reclamation pumps, and river pumps. Often we start to run deep wells at the beginning of the season prior to the heavy demands, if I have capacity in the system and water is only needed for a few hours. Through the end of July our reclamation water has been a little over 6,500 acre-feet.

Director Alpers commented that the deep wells are primarily used when someone down at the end needs 12 hours of water. You use it when the corn and the rice guys have big demands you have to plug them in to keep your water flow going.

Director Clark asked if historically, you reclaim 13,000 acre-feet of water and this year you have 6,500. Are you going to meet that historical average this year? Mike Evans responded that he hoped that it would be a little less. Director Clark asked if the reclamation pumps on the list were operational. Mike Evans responded that yes, they are all active.

General Manager Steve Knell stated that our water entitlement is 300,000 acre-feet. In order not to run out of water in September we are probably going to a 12-day rotation sometime. We are going to have to do that in order not to run out of water in the middle of September.

Mr. Henry Burtschi commented that with the dew and the nights being 3 hours longer there is no reason not to go to a 12-day rotation. It is better to do that than not to run out in the last few weeks.

Director Alpers stated that management has made the decision and asked to have the Board advised when they do this.

ITEM NO. 19
DISCUSSION OF WATER MEASUREMENT
NEEDS AT OID'S DRAIN WATER OUTFALL LOCATIONS

General Manager Steve Knell commented that if we wish to start measuring drain water then we need to determine what we are going to use this information for. I think we need to start monitoring our system in order to make intelligent decisions as to where we want to go. We need a focused resources plan that identifies where you want to go and what we want to achieve.

Director Clark stated that we need to know as closely as we can how much water we are losing to see what the payback is on reclaiming all that water. There is a monetary return and a regulatory return if you show you are reclaiming water and conserving water and you are putting water back in the system. It is important to show that you are not wasting it. I

think that you have to do that because if you don't do it somebody down the road is going to do it for you whether it is the Water Resource Board. Somebody is going to come in here 5, 10, 20 or 30 years from now and they are going to look up and down this state to see how much water is available and is it being used in the most beneficial manner?

Director Taro stated he agreed we need to check some of our main drains and see if it is possible financially.

Director Clark stated that if we could identify 4 or 5 the ones that we think represent 40% or 50% of the water leaving the District and quantify that and then see just how much water we are going to save. I think we have to do that.

General Manager Steve Knell stated that we don't have staff that can do this. If you are going to measure water you have to make sure that what you are doing is going to stand up in court and that is why we need to use the services of a professional hydrographer. I have seen historical information gathered which wasn't gathered properly and it is just thrown out of court. All that money that that District spent and what they thought they were spending money on to achieve a good end was thrown out with the judge's gavel. We will have to hire staff or train or own staff to do this process properly.

Director Brichetto commented that we study things to death. You have sites you are measuring water on – Union Drain I have checked out a couple of times, I know what the Cavil spills. I think there is ample opportunity to reclaim more water at a minimal cost, especially on the Union and the Cavil. I don't know anything about the North side, very little over there. If we want to study more intensely, let's do it after we take the easy water out of the drains. I would like to see us put some of our money back into our system and show on an annual basis that we are doing something productive to curtail our drain water.

Director Alpers stated that someone needs to put a presentation together, just rough ideas on what it is going to cost. Secondly, if we are measuring 5 of them, maybe that is adequate maybe not, but in any case when you are estimating 5% of our total or more of our total water loss I think we should be measuring. Less than 5% I am not interested.

Director Clark asked if we could find out what the cost would be to measure these five, bring that back to the board, and say that we can measure these five and they represent a high percentage leaving the district and it will cost his much? General Manager Steve Knell responded that this could be done.

Director Alpers asked that this be made part of the report also, and to bring this back to the Board with more information.

CLOSED SESSION
ITEM NO. 19

At the hour of 11:45 P.M. the Board convened into Closed Session to discuss the following:

- A. **GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957.6** – OID Employee Bargaining Units presentation of their Wage and Salary Proposals for 2003.

The Board adjourned at 12:08 P.M. and reconvened at 1:35 P.M.

No Action Taken

At the hour of 2:05 P.M. the Board adjourned to the next **regular Board of Directors meeting** to be held on **Tuesday, August 20, 2002 at 9:00 A.M. at the** Oakdale Irrigation District Office, 1205 East "F" Street, Oakdale, Ca.

The next regular **Joint Board Meeting** for the **Tri-Dam Project** is scheduled for **August 15, 2002 at 9:00 A.M. in Strawberry.**

Attest:

Steve Knell
Secretary