

## **MINUTES**

Oakdale, California  
December 3, 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  
                         Bob Nielsen, Supervisor of Field Operations  
                         Wayne Truhett, Supervisor of Facilities and Rights-of-Way  
                         Mike Evans, Watermaster  
                         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**

General Manager Steve Knell requested that Item #3 be moved to the Action Calendar. Director Clark requested that Agenda Item #2 be moved to the Action Calendar.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### ITEM NO. 1A. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Sierra Railroad – Railroad Crossing Permits – Status: A response was received from Sierra Railroad regarding the breakdown of the fees. This will be brought back to the Board on a future Agenda for approval.

District's Acceptance of the Stoddard Lateral: A meeting has been coordinated between Bob Nielsen and Bill Kull to provide a survey and an estimate.

Employee Negotiations: Bill Smith will provide a briefing on the union negotiations during closed session today. Now that the budget process has been completed, time will be spent reviewing all other employee negotiations.

Hershey Contract: Michael Ijams, Esquire provided comments which will be forwarded to Hershey. A meeting will be coordinated with Hershey to go over all changes to the proposed agreement.

Director Clark asked if the cost of legal counsel expenses was included in the contract. General Manager Steve Knell responded that they were not, but that this would be included with our changes.

### ITEM 1C. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

#### Director Webb:

- Director Webb questioned the status of the Glen Gully property on Pioneer Avenue. Mike Evans responded that he thought it had been done last summer, but he would check the status and report back.
- Director Webb asked the status of the drain on the MacDonald property. General Manager Steve Knell reported that Clem Rivera had submitted an estimate that had been approved and he was beginning the work.
- Director Webb stated that he had read a letter sent to the Twin Cypress Mobile Home Park. Director Webb stated that if the park wanted us to do the water service they needed to pay a deposit. Supervisor of Field Operations Bob Nielsen stated that they have placed a deposit with the District.

#### Director Brichetto:

- Director Brichetto asked if the District sent out thank you letters regarding constituents that give us dirt. General Manager Steve Knell responded that he has asked staff to get out thank you letters in the future.

Director Taro:

- Director Taro questioned the costs associated with putting dirt on the ditch banks. General Manager Steve Knell reported that we had not tracked this in the past. The industry standard unit costs are the numbers that we use.
- Director Taro stated that he met with representatives of the Waterman Company while he was at the ACWA conference and they stated that the gates being manufactured now are not the same quality as had been in the past.

Director Alpers:

- Director Alpers stated that in reviewing agendas from other board meetings he noticed that several hold their closed sessions before the meetings and it cuts their legal fees down considerably. Meetings begin with a closed session, their attorney is present for that meeting and then leaves for the longest part of the meeting.

Mr. Henry Burtschi questioned whether there were dirt piles conserved from prior years. Supervisor of Facilities and Rights-of-Way Wayne Truhett responded that those have all been depleted.

**CONSENT CALENDAR  
ITEM NO. 4, 5**

**ITEM NO. 4  
APPROVE RESOLUTION FOR CHARGES RELATED TO  
IRRIGATION WATER SERVICE AND  
RELATED FEES FOR THE YEAR 2003**

The revised Charges Related to Irrigation Water Service and Related Fees addresses Director Clark's concern regarding the District requiring that landowners pay all delinquent charges before honoring their request for Surface Irrigation Water Abandonment. After review of the policy, General Counsel recommended that the District modify its rules and remove this provision.

A motion was made by Director Webb, seconded by Director Brichetto and unanimously support to approve the Resolution for Charges Related to Irrigation Water Service and Related Fees for the Year 2003.

**ITEM NO. 5**  
**APPROVE DIRECTOR'S ABSENCE RELATING TO**  
**COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS**

The policy establishing Directors' Compensation and Benefits adopted by the Board on June 4, 2002, states in part that:

"All absences with a twenty-four (24) hour notice shall be submitted for Board approval at the subsequent meeting....."

As dictated by policy, this item was included due to the absence of Director Taro from the Board of Directors' Meeting held on Tuesday, November 19, 2002. Director Taro's attendance was an approved attendance by the Board.

A motion was made by Director Webb, seconded by Director Brichetto and unanimously supported to approve Director Taro's absence relating to compensation and benefits.

**ITEM NO. 2**  
**APPROVE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MINUTES OF**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 19, 2002**

Director Clark questioned the net income received on the "Town" system that was detailed in Item No. 8. Chief Financial Officer Kathy Cook stated that the \$3,000.00 was the correct amount received for the "Town" System annually.

A motion was made by Director Clark, seconded by Director Brichetto and unanimously supported to approve the Board of Directors' Minutes of the regular meeting of November 19, 2002.

**ITEM NO. 3**  
**APPROVE OAKDALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT'S**  
**STATEMENT OF OBLIGATIONS**

The Aetna premium bill in the amount of \$32,112.80 was received after the Statement of Obligations had been prepared.

A motion was made by Director Webb, seconded by Director Clark and unanimously supported to approve the Statement of Obligations presented with the addition of a payment to Aetna in the amount of \$32,112.80.

**ITEM NO. 6**  
**REVIEW AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION TO**  
**APPROVE 2003 AGENCY DUES FOR THE**  
**ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES**

The 2003 annual agency dues for ACWA membership in the amount of \$9,295.00 are due. A 2003 Membership Dues Calculations Worksheet detailing the calculations used by ACWA in arriving at the dues amount was attached to the November 19, 2002 Board Agenda Report. The Board concurred that further detail and information would be required before a decision could be reached.

The Oakdale Irrigation District is a founding member of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA). ACWA provides the means to share costs with other agencies regarding issues both inside the water community and externally. ACWA JPIA currently provides the Oakdale Irrigation District with workman's compensation insurance coverage. It is mandatory that an agency be an ACWA member in order to be covered by ACWA JPIA.

General Manager Steve Knell stated that the safety as well as many other services are provided are at a nominal fee.

A motion was made by Director Webb, seconded by Director Taro and unanimously supported to approve the 2003 agency dues for the Association of California Water Agencies.

**ITEM NO. 7**  
**REVIEW AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION ON**  
**REPLACEMENT OF THE TOWN "C" PIPELINE**

Item No. 8 on the November 5, 2002 Agenda was included for possible action as it related to the capital project – replacement of the Town "C" Pipeline. Two hundred and twenty feet of the Town "C" Pipeline on Kimball Street in Oakdale has failed and needs to be replaced if the pipeline is to remain in active service. It is estimated that the cost for replacement of this pipeline would be approximately \$9,900.00 for pipeline replacement only. The Board concurred that further discussion was in order to determine what type of action should be taken as to the "Town" system.

At the November 19, 2002 Board meeting, staff presented an overview and a map of the "Town" system and answered questions in an effort to educate the Board on issues surrounding the water delivery system serving non-agricultural customers within the City of Oakdale. The board concurred that the General Manager should obtain a legal opinion relative to OID's obligation to continue to serve the "Town" system and to engage in discussions with the City of Oakdale regarding the storm drainage issues relevant to this system. Due to the extent of research required before proper determination can be made, the Board requested that the Town "C" Pipeline replacement be brought back to the Board for approval of the repairs.

The Board concurred that more research is required and meetings will need to be coordinated with the City of Oakdale before any determination can be made. In the interim, the requested repairs should be completed.

A motion was made by Director Brichetto, seconded by Director Clark and unanimously supported to approve the pipeline replacement and asphalt repairs which have been estimated to be approximately \$9,900.00.

**ITEM NO. 8**  
**APPROVE EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO THE**  
**STUMPH PUMP PIPELINE AND THE**  
**DORSEY LATERAL HEAD GATE**

Approximately 200 feet of the existing fiberglass pipeline from the Stumph Reclamation Pump to the Crane Pipeline has failed. The pipeline needs to be replaced with 24-inch PVC pipe quickly so as to be ready to accept storm water flows. The estimated cost for this is \$15,000.

The head gate structure to the Dorsey Lateral has significant deterioration and is falling over. Wet weather conditions will make access to his location extremely difficult and there is a possibility of the structure falling over and blocking storm water flows in the Burnett Lateral. The headwall needs to be replaced as soon as possible. The estimated cost for this is \$10,000.

The 2002 Budget included \$35,000 for the installation of a reclamation pump on the Adams Lateral. Due to time constraints and engineering required for this project, it will not be completed this year. Staff recommended that monies from the Adams Lateral Pump fund the estimated replacements.

A motion was made by Director Clark, seconded by Director Brichetto and unanimously supported to approve emergency repairs to the Stumph Pump Pipeline and the Dorsey Lateral Head Gate.

**ITEM NO. 9**  
**APPROVE REPLACEMENT OF**  
**CREW TRUCK PUMPING EQUIPMENT**

The 2-inch contractor pump and the submersible pump on crew truck No. 44 are worn out. Their pumping ability continues to decline causing longer periods of crew time to accomplish the required work. The pumps need to be replaced. The estimated cost to replace both pumps is \$1,500. The Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance Account has \$2,100 available for such purchases.

A motion was made by Director Clark, seconded by Director Alpers and unanimously supported to approve replacement of crew truck pumping equipment.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **ITEM NO. 10**

#### **DISCUSSION OF THE ANNEXATION PROCESS FOR OUT-OF-DISTRICT LANDS**

Staff was requested to include an Action item on the November 5, 2002 Board meeting relative to annexation. After discussion, the Board concurred that the General Manager should provide information relative to acreage, commodities being grown, and annexation processing steps.

Staff provided a list of acreages and out-of-district water, the crops grown, map of the District's sphere of influence, and existing policy for annexation of lands.

General Manager Steve Knell stated the LAFCO process is being researched and that there are many steps involved in order to annex any out-of-district lands.

John Brichetto stated that the District does not provide adequate water services to the current landowners now so how can we possibly think about providing more services. OID canals are in such poor shape that OID cannot come close to providing the services that are needed. To include people in the upper reaches will affect those in the lower reaches that don't get the services needed. Directors are here to represent the constituents of OID and not those living outside the District that did not build this District.

Director Clark stated that customers are not being added, but that customers that are supplied water that have not paid the price would have to pay the fees that others have paid. Director Clark stated that all Directors should review the current policy. If there are any questions as to this policy they should be resolved with the General Manager and/or legal counsel so that everyone has a clear understanding of what the annexation policy really is.

The Board concurred that this should be included on the January 21, 2003 meeting for further discussion with legal counsel being present and prepared to discuss the legal issues, concerns or steps involved for annexation.

**ITEM NO. 11**  
**DISCUSSION OF THE 2003 DRAFT BUDGET**

A Finance Committee meeting was held on Monday, December 2, 2003 to answer questions and further review the 2003 Draft Budget.

The changes made to the 2003 Draft Budget will reflect cash purchases for the backhoe and vehicles. If at the time of purchase a no-interest purchase plan is available it would be utilized rather than a cash purchase. Carryover projects which are budgeted one year and not completed will now be put into a Capital Rollover Budget. This is monies that would have been spent this year, but because of timing will be spent over a period of two years.

The Final 2003 Budget is to be presented as an Action Item on the December 17, 2002 Agenda.

**ITEM NO. 12**  
**DISCUSSION OF A PROPOSAL FOR A**  
**WATER MEASUREMENT PROGRAM**

Grant Davids of Davids Engineering in Davis, California made a presentation to the Board of Directors at the October 1, 2002 Board meeting on the needs and benefits for establishing a water monitoring program. At the October 15, 2002 Board meeting the Board directed the General Manager to develop a scope of work with Davids Engineering to develop such a program for OID.

The plan was presented and discussion was held in order to finalize the elements contained in the Phase I proposal.

Mr. Laurens Foard questioned the difference between the Water Measurement Plan and the Strategic Plan. General Manager Steve Knell stated that the Strategic Plan is being developed to satisfy the mission and vision of this District. The Strategic Plan looks not only at water, but financing, the ability to meet the needs of the District, making sure that our service commitments are going to be kept and how we are going to do that. The Water Monitoring Plan is a part of the overall Water Resources Plan and is only looking at water monitoring.

The Board concurred that the Water Measurement Program will be an on the December 17, 2002 Agenda as an Action item.

A motion was made by Director Brichetto, seconded by Director Taro to adjourn the meeting to the Closed Session at the hour of 11:47 P.M.



**CLOSED SESSION  
ITEM NO. 10**

- A. **GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957.6** – Discussion of Salary and Benefits.

Consultant Bill Smith updated the Board regarding the 2003 union negotiations.

No Action Taken.

- B. Government Code Section 54956.9 – Significant exposure to litigation – three cases

General Manager updated the Board regarding potential litigation discussed during a conference with Michael Ijams, Esquire.

At the hour of 11:47 P.M. a motion was made by Director Brichetto, seconded by Director Taro and unanimously supported to adjourn to the next **regular Board of Directors meeting** to be held on **Tuesday, December 17, 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 **December 19, 2002 at 9:00 A.M. in Oakdale.**

Attest:

---

Steve Knell  
Secretary