

The Board of Directors of the Riverdale Irrigation District met in regular session on December 4, 2024. Directors present were John L. Mendes-President, Leonard Acquistapace-Vice President, and Tony Fontes. Others present were Yareli Zarate-Secretary, David Kahn-Attorney, and Frank Thomas-Manager.

President Mendes called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Minutes

The Secretary mailed a copy of the minutes of the November 6, 2024 meeting to the Directors. After discussion, Director Acquistapace made a motion, seconded by Director Fontes and unanimously carried to approve the minutes as mailed.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that \$15,000 was transferred from the Money Market Account into the Checking account on November 12, 2024. On November 26, 2024 \$35,000 was transferred from the Money Market Account in to Checking Account for December payroll and bills that are due the beginning of December.

The Treasurer reported the following account balances as of November 30, 2024: Checking - \$70,045.89 Money Market Account - \$18,048.16, Valley Strong Account-\$466,951.31 and State L.A.I.F. - \$5,687.67. The total amount in all accounts is \$560,733.03.

The Treasurer presented a list of the bills received after the November 6, 2024 meeting that were paid with the discretion of the President and Secretary, and a list of bills received as of today that are due and payable in December. After discussion, a motion was made by Director Fontes, seconded by Director Acquistapace and unanimously carried to ratify the action of the President and Secretary in payment of the bills listed as paid, and authorize payment of the bills listed as due and payable in December. A copy of the list of bills is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Report of Attorney

Attorney Kahn stated he had nothing to report under this agenda item.

Update on North Fork Kings GSA

President Mendes shared the GSA is currently waiting on approval from the state regarding their GSP. They are taking last comments from the public and self-help. The RID Board will be appointing a representative under Agenda Item 10E.

Old Business

Update on Blythe Ave. Recharge Basin Project:

Secretary Yareli reported she received a payment request from Kevin Fees Construction in the amount of \$97,179.22 for work done during the month of November. Director Fontes made a motion, seconded by Director Acquistapace to authorize the Secretary to process payment. After discussion, no further action was taken from the Board at this time.

Update on Proposed Joint Powers Agreement:

Attorney Kahn shared he reviewed the JPA Agreement and had a few comments. RID is the largest District and would be paying 25% of the shared costs. The Agreement would allow the District to pull out at any time. However, if there are any contracts that are signed, we would be obligated to complete those contracts. If the JPA were to dissolve the District would receive 25% surplus of money and/ or property unless the District withdrawals before they would receive 0%. Another key point Attorney Kahn shared was there would be one representative per District with no weighted vote.

President Mendes added that the 25% of the shared costs would only be for the Maintenance portion. Labor costs will be calculated for each District, depending on where work is being performed the corresponding District will pay.

Director Fontes shared he is open to give the JPA and proposed for the District to try it out for 5 years. After discussion, President Mendes opened the discussion for Directors to vote on the matter. Director Fontes made a motion to sign the agreement, Director Acquistapace opposed. President Mendes seconded Director Fontes' motion. Motion passed with two votes for and one against. President Mendes will move forward with signing the Agreement. No further action taken at this time.

New Business

Discussion to sell dirt from the District Ponds:

The Board discussed options to sell dirt from the Recharge Pond Project and from the Mendes Pond, after discussion Director Acquistapace made a motion to authorize the sell, seconded by Director Fontes. The Board will sell the dirt at \$1 per yard and \$.50 per yard for anyone living within the District. The District will require insurance from the purchaser, purchaser will be responsible for hauling and excavating the dirt with their own equipment. The District will also have an employee on site supervising the removal to ensure they maintain the same slope. Attorney Kahn stated he will work on a waiver agreement and forward to the Secretary.

Grant for Meters with NFKGSA:

President Mendes shared the NFKGSA is working on a Grant Meter project and has offered the District an interest free loan for a four-year term with \$25,000 annual payments if the District partners up with the GSA to move forward with the Reclamation Water Smart Grant. The Grant will be to purchase and install meters on all RID turnouts, cost is estimated to be around \$500,000. The Grant will cover about 50% of the costs and the remaining will be loaned to the District from the GSA under the terms discussed above. After discussion, Director Acquistapace made a motion to move forward with the partnership, Director Fontes seconded the motion and unanimously carried.

RPUD Agreement for Well Discharge:

RPUD has requested an agreement between them and the District allowing them to discharge water from the well into the RID ditch during construction. After discussion, Director Fontes made a motion to authorize President Mendes to sign the agreement, seconded by Director Acquistapace and unanimously carried. No further action needed at this time.

Fish and Wildlife Property Access Authorization:

Secretary Yareli shared Fish and Wildlife are requesting authorization to access certain properties within our District as part of the Nutria Eradication Program. After discussion, Director Acquistapace made a motion to authorize Fish and Wildlife access seconded by Director Fontes and unanimously carried. No further action needed at this time.

GSA Representative Appointment:

Director Acquistapace made a motion, seconded by Director Fontes to keep President Mendes as the District's representative on the GSA Board with no alternative. Motion carried unanimously; no further action needed at this time.

Christmas Ham or Turkey for Employees and Directors:

The Secretary reported that it has been the policy of the District to purchase and give a ham or turkey to the employees and directors for Christmas. After discussion, a motion was made by Director Fontes, seconded by Director Acquistapace and unanimously carried to authorize the Secretary to purchase these items.

Employee Salaries/ Wages and Director Fees for 2025:

The Board discussed the cost-of-living increase and past raise percentages. After discussion, a motion was made by Director Fontes, seconded by Director Acquistapace and unanimously carried to give all employees and directors a 5% raise effective January 1, 2025.

Manager Thomas' Report

Manager Thomas stated that they spraying the ditches and awaiting on parts for the disc. Manager Thomas also shared they are managing the squirrel problem along. President Mendes advised Manager Thomas not to treat the squirrels near the alfalfa fields as it would be counterproductive. Secretary Yareli shared she paid employee David Paul his full salary for November as she was unable to process a worker's comp claim for him. Secretary Yareli shared she reached out to State Comp Insurance and they stated David Paul has been temporarily totally disabled since his 2021 accident. The Representative shared his PTP opinion on his disability has been the same since his accident with no improvement. She also stated we are not required to accommodate these restrictions as these have been set for the rest of his life. Secretary Yareli shared the forwarded this information to Attorney Kahn's office for advice. Manager Thomas stated David Paul has been working light duty since his accident. After discussion, the Board instructed Manager Thomas to inform the employee the District will no longer pay him for his time off work and advised him to apply for disability if he would like to follow the PTP indications.

Closed Session

The meeting was adjourned to closed session at 9:40 a.m. for the following:

- i) Closed Session-Conference with Legal Counsel-Pending Litigation Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1). The Board of Directors will meet in closed session to confer with counsel regarding *James Irrigation District v. Kings River Water Association, et al.*
- ii) Closed Session-Conference with Legal Counsel-Pending Litigation Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1). The Board of Directors will meet in closed session to confer with counsel regarding *Kings River Water Association v. R.D. #761, et al.*
- iii) Closed Session-Conference with Legal Counsel-Pending Litigation Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1). The Board of Directors will meet in closed session to confer with counsel regarding *State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights, KRWA Petition for Change Re License No. 11521.*
- iv) Closed Session-Conference with Legal Counsel-Pending Litigation Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1). The Board of Directors will meet in closed session to confer with counsel regarding *State Water Resources Control Board, Petitions to Revoke or Revise the Declaration of Fully Appropriated Stream Systems with respect to the Kings River System.*
- v) Closed Session-Conference with Legal Counsel-Pending Litigation Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1). The Board of Directors will meet in closed session to confer with counsel regarding *State Water Resources Control Board, Semitropic Improvement District of Semitropic Water Storage District v. Kings River Water Association, et al: Complaint in Support of Petition to Revise and/or Revoke Declaration of Fully Appropriated Stream System for the Kings River.*
- vi) Closed Session-Conference with Legal Counsel-Pending Litigation Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2). One Potential Case.

Reconvene to Open Session

President Mendes reconvened the meeting to open session at 9:48 a.m. and stated that no reportable action was taken in Closed Session.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

Yareli Zarate, Secretary