

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
SEMITROPIC, BUTTONWILLOW, POND-POSO, AND  
WILDLIFE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS OF  
SEMITROPIC WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

Convened at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday  
September 10, 2008

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Wegis on Wednesday, September 10, 2008, at 12:30 p.m., at the offices of the District, 1101 Central Avenue, Wasco, California. Those in attendance included:

Directors Present: James A. Crettol, Jeff Fabbri, Ted Page, Phil Portwood, Todd Tracy, Dan Waterhouse and Fredrick Wegis;

Directors Absent: None

Others Present: General Manager, Will Boschman;  
District Engineer, Paul Oshel;  
District Superintendent, John Lynch;  
District's Controller, John Wooner;  
District's Staff Engineer, Craig Wallace;  
District's Accountant, Judy Burns;  
District's Exec. Secretary, Marsha Payne;  
Districts Legal Counsel, Ernest A. Conant;  
District's Consulting Engineers, Bookman-Edmonston, GEI  
Consultants, Inc., represented by Dick Rhone;  
W.M. Lyles Representative, Rick Amigh;  
District Consultant, John Jones;  
No. Kern Water District Representative, Dana Munn;  
District landowner, Gary Singh;  
Paramount Farming representative, Kim Brown;  
Bolthouse Farms representatives, Justin Groves and Troy Elliott;  
and Steve Gair, representing Wingate Realty.

President Wegis led the flag salute, then introduced and welcomed all guests.

**Approval of Agenda**

On motion by Director Crettol, seconded by Director Waterhouse, the agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Minutes**

On motion by Director Crettol, seconded by Director Portwood, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on August 13, 2008 were approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

On motion by Director Portwood, seconded by Director Page, the Treasurer's Reports for Semitropic Water Storage District and Semitropic Improvement District for August 2008 were approved.

### **Accounts Payable**

The Cash Disbursement List was presented for review and payment. Several items were discussed, including payments for released Contract Water, consultant's billings and the breakdown between Semitropic and the JPA.

On motion by Director Waterhouse, seconded by Director Tracy, the Board authorized payment of the Accounts Payable as listed on the September 10, 2008 Disbursement List for Semitropic Water Storage District and Semitropic Improvement District. A copy of the Disbursement List is attached hereto as "Exhibit A".

### **Consider Permitting Installation of Auto Pilot Equipment on District Property**

O & M Superintendent, John Lynch, introduced Bolthouse Farms representatives, Justin Groves and Troy Elliott, who reported on Bolthouse's use of new technology and farming practices to help offset the financial burdens of farming. A RTK Base Station is a permanent ground reference station which is used to reduce the inaccuracies of GPS technologies caused by natural satellite drift in orbit or scrambling by military for international defense purposes. Bolthouse would like to expand their Network coverage to farming areas by installing several base stations on surge tanks within Semitropic. By doing so, a program called Trimble Auto Pilots would implement an automated steering system on tractors, harvesters and farm equipment, which could provide service to Bolthouse but also be available to others within the District.

Policy issues were discussed which included equipment being installed at Bolthouse's expense for the benefit of other landowners with no liability to Semitropic, the terms of an agreement and possible interference problems.

On motion by Director Crettol, seconded by Director Page, the Board authorized execution of an agreement between Bolthouse Farms and the District for installation of permanent ground reference stations on District surge tanks, subject to final legal counsel and staff review.

At 12:55 p.m. Bolthouse Farms representatives left the meeting. At that time, Director Fabbri and District landowner, Gary Singh joined the meeting.

### **Consider Policy for Firm Water Service Contract**

Manager Boschman introduced District landowner, Gary Singh, who owns about 115 acres just south of the landfill on Scofield. The Manager stated that in 1995 the Board considered Principles for two types of Landowners Contracts for the In-Lieu Service Area which included: 1) Intermittent Water Service Contract and 2) Firm Water Service Contract. To date, no other landowner has a Firm Water Service Contract; however, Mr. Singh has expressed interest in a Firm Water Supply Contract and would like to discuss the possibility with the Board.

Mr. Singh stated that his pump broke just before harvest and he received water from the District to finish irrigating his crop. He plans to have repairs made to his well, but is also considering a Firm Water Supply Contract and then give the District access to his well. Discussion followed with the main point being that it may be cost prohibitive. Mr. Singh will continue further discussions with staff at a later date.

At 1:40 p.m. Gary Singh left the meeting.

### **Design/Build Team Construction Update**

W.M. Lyle's representative, Rick Amigh, reported on the design and budget development of Phase 2B of the Project, along with permitting and easements. Hanson Pipe commenced manufacturing of the 54-inch and 60-inch wet cast RCP at the Shafter plant and the 36-inch RCP pipe at the Sacramento plant

Discussion followed on the proposed pilot arsenic treatment facility at the Junction Pumping Plant, south of the solar plant. A preliminary plan and budget have been discussed.

At 1:50 p.m. Rick Amigh left the meeting.

### **INFORMATIONAL AND UP-DATE ITEMS**

Manager Boschman's written report on "District Activity During August 2008" dated September 2, 2008 was accepted for filing. In addition, Manager Boschman presented the following:

## **Water Supply Update**

Manager Boschman reported that the 35% allocation from the State remains the same and the District continues to offer 50% supply for its Contract water users. The Manager presented a quick review of the change in crop patterns from 1982 to the present, indicating significant changes from row crops to permanent crops.

## **Status of Delinquencies**

The total amount of Contract Water Delinquencies is \$12,955.73. The accounts include Bloemhof Ag Enterprises - \$2,058.53 and Maya Dairy - \$10,897.20.

## **Banking Project Update**

Manager Boschman reported on discussions with Dirk Reed of Black & Vetch on a proposed pilot treatment plant to use drain water or shallow water for treatment of salts. Mr. Reed is preparing Principles of Agreement and plans to continue further discussions with staff.

The Manager also reported that representatives from MWD and San Bernardino have been working on a crop rotation concept with District representatives. District staff may soon contact landowners to inquire of potential interest.

Manager Boschman led discussion on the Pumpback Operations and ideas to help the process run smoothly including water quality issues and determining which wells to operate, the trigger point to start the process to pay water users for energy expenses and gathering data for timely reimbursements.

## **Energy Activities**

O & M Superintendent, John Lynch, reported that the District had a load shed problem with 2 engines that failed when representatives from EnerNoc ran the engines without turning on the radiator cooling fans which ultimately led to overheating the engines. It cracked the engine heads which will need to be replaced.

## **Legal Counsel**

At 2:30 p.m. the District's legal counsel, Ernest Conant, stated that a closed session was needed pursuant to the following:

- a. Conference with legal counsel to discuss pending litigation (Gov't Code Section 54956.9(a)-*California Groundwater Association, et al. v. Semitropic Water Storage District*)
- b. Conference with legal counsel to discuss anticipated litigation (Gov't Code Section 54956.9(b))
- c. Conference with Real Property Negotiators (Gov't Code Section 54956.8)  
Negotiators: Will Boschman and Rick Wegis  
Parties: Various landowners
- d. Personnel Matters (Gov't Code Section 54957)

All visitors left the meeting. Scott Kuney joined the meeting via conference call to report on pending litigation issues.

At 3:30 p.m. Director Crettol and Ernest Conant left the meeting and Ernest Conant continued to participate via phone.

At 3:50 p.m. the Board reconvened to open session. President Wegis stated that several items were discussed, including environmental issues and land negotiations.

On motion by Director Waterhouse, seconded by Director Page, the Board authorized land negotiations with Daniels Farms.

### **Poso Creek IRWMP**

District Engineer, Paul Oshel, reported on various meetings involving the Poso Creek IRWMP and its potential participation in the newly formed Tulare Lake Basin IRWMP Group.

### **Consultants Reports**

John Jones reported that the County recently approved the District's design for Flow Path Wells and issued five permits for drilling. Mr. Jones also reported that the rig will soon be moving to a new drilling site at Poso Creek and Scofield Road. Some of the pumps and motors have arrived and staff will begin installing them on the wells that have been completed.

Mr. Jones has been working with staff and County officials on abandoning the burn dump on Scofield and Poso Creek. When the cap is complete, the County will inspect and officially abandon the burn dump, putting it on inactive status with no charges due.

### **Consulting Engineer's Report**

Mr. Richard Rhone from Bookman-Edmonston, GEI Consultants, Inc. presented the "Consulting Engineers' Report on Projects for Semitropic Water Storage District" for work during August 2008, which was accepted for filing.

Mr. Rhone also reported on engineering activities related to various projects including Poso Creek IRWMP Grant Programs, design of the 2008-2009 Winter Improvements and construction activities for the P-565 Distribution System.

### **Adjournment**

At 4:20 p.m. the meeting was adjourned by President Wegis until Wednesday, September 24, 2008 at 12:30 p.m. at the District office to continue the business of the District.

James A. Crettol, Secretary

APPROVED:

Fredrick A. Wegis, President