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

Convened at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 9, 2021

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Waterhouse on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at 12:30 p.m. via Conference Call. Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20, Issued by Governor Newsom on March 17, 2020, and guidance by the California Department of Public Health dated March 16, 2020, the meeting was conducted by teleconference due to the COVID-19 Virus Pandemic. The District offices are located at 1101 Central Avenue, Wasco, California. Those joining the meeting included:

> Directors: Jeff Fabbri, Phil Portwood, Tom Toretta,

> > Todd Tracy, Dan Waterhouse and Rick Wegis;

Via Teleconference: Tim Thomson;

General Manager, Jason Gianquinto; Other Participants:

District Controller, Bobby Salinas;

District's Legal Counsel, Steve Torigiani; BHK Auditors, Geoff King & Mark Gehring;

Via Teleconference:

District O & M Superintendent, John Lynch;

District Engineer, Isela Medina;

District Contract Administrator, Becky Ortiz; District Accounting Supervisor, Mariela Garza; District Executive Secretary, Marsha Payne; District's Consulting Engineers, GEI Consultants,

Inc., Represented by Larry Rodriguez;

Balance Public Relations Representative, Dean Florez;

Kevin Assemi, Lindsay Cedarquist,

Don Wright, Stacie Ann Silva, Floyd Wicks,

Geoff Vanden Heuvel, Brent Hankins,

Jake Cauzza, John Gaugel, Kristie Robinson, John Ocana,

Greg Wegis, Morgan Houchin, Leta Spenser, and

Leland Meibeyer.

President Waterhouse opened the meeting and welcomed all guests. Roll call was taken for Board Members, District Staff and Consultants.

ACTION ITEMS

Note: The President announced all Action Items will be conducted by a Roll Call vote.

Consider Acceptance of 2020-2019 Audited Financial Statements

District Controller, Bobby Salinas reported that on June 7, 2021, the Finance Committee met with Barbich Hooper & King (BHK) representatives, to review and discuss the 2020-2019 Audited Financial Statements.

Geoff King and Mark Gehring (BHK) reviewed the Audit Report and Financial Statements with the Board, stating that the audit opinion was clean with no difficulties or disagreements with the accounting information and no significant changes. The main points discussed with the Board included cash, water banking activities and accounting of contracts, exchanges, transfers, debt and interest rate swap, investments and accounting of grant funding.

Manager Gianquinto stated that with a 5% allocation from the State, the District has received Banking Partners' request for a full recovery of water in 2021.

Director Toretta stated that the Finance Committee had a good meeting and discussion with the Auditors and, therefore, the Committee recommends acceptance of the 2020-2019 Audited Financial Statements.

On motion by Director Toretta, seconded by Director Portwood, the Board accepted the 2020-2019 Audited Financial Statements for filing. The President called for a roll call vote on the motion. The following is a record of the roll call vote:

Ayes: Directors Fabbri, Portwood, Thomson, Toretta, Tracy, Waterhouse and Wegis

Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: None

The President announced that the motion carried. Geoff King and Mark Gehring left the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Director Tracy, seconded by Director Portwood, the Agenda was approved as posted. The President called for a roll call vote on the motion. The following is a record of the roll call vote:

Ayes: Directors Fabbri, Portwood, Thomson, Toretta, Tracy, Waterhouse and Wegis

Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: None

The President announced that the motion carried.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Regular Semitropic Water Storage District Board Meeting and GSA Board Meeting on May 12, 2021 were presented for approval.

On motion by Director Toretta, seconded by Director Portwood, the Minutes of the Regular Semitropic Water Storage District Board Meeting and GSA Meeting on May 12, 2021 were approved as presented. The President called for a roll call vote on the motion. The following is a record of the roll call vote:

Ayes: Directors Fabbri, Portwood, Thomson, Toretta, Tracy,

Waterhouse and Wegis

Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: None

The President announced that the motion carried.

Treasurer's Reports

The Treasurer's Reports for May 2021 were presented for review and approval.

On motion by Director Toretta, seconded by Director Portwood, the Treasurer's Reports for May 2021 for Semitropic Water Storage District and Semitropic Improvement District were approved for filing. The President called for a roll call vote on the motion. The following is a record of the roll call vote:

Ayes: Directors Fabbri, Portwood, Thomson, Toretta, Tracy,

Waterhouse and Wegis

Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: None

The President announced that the motion carried.

Financial Reports

District Controller, Bobby Salinas, reviewed the Financial Reports along with the Actual and Projected Cash Flow Report for May 2021. The year-end balance is projected to be about \$15.4M, before the 2021 Budget update.

Accounts Payable

The Cash Disbursement List for June 9, 2021 was presented for review and payment. Discussion followed regarding the cost for Et Analysis this year as compared to last year.

On motion by Director Portwood, seconded by Director Toretta, the Board authorized payment of the Accounts Payable as listed on the June 9, 2021 Disbursement List for Semitropic Water Storage District and Semitropic Improvement District. The President called for a roll call vote on the motion. The following is a record of the roll call vote:

Ayes: Directors Fabbri, Portwood, Thomson, Toretta, Tracy,

Waterhouse and Wegis

Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: None

The President announced that the motion carried.

A copy of the Disbursement List presenting the payments that were approved is attached hereto as "Exhibit A."

Consider 2021 Budget Update

Controller Bobby Salinas stated that the original 2021 Budget was adopted by the Board in October 2020 and was based on an assumed 60% allocation and no Water Banking activity. District Staff and the Finance Committee met recently and reviewed the June 2021 Budget Update based on a 5% allocation from the SWP and with the currently projected Water Banking activity. The end-of-year cash balance is project to be approximately \$14.7 M, depending on the status of capital expenses and actual Water Banking revenue. Discussion followed regarding the cash reserve account and the status of water recovery activities.

On motion by Director Fabbri, seconded by Director Wegis, the Board accepted the June 2021 Budget Update for filing. The President called for a roll call vote on the motion. The following is a record of the roll call vote:

Ayes: Directors Fabbri, Portwood, Thomson, Toretta, Tracy, Waterhouse and Wegis

Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: None

The President announced that the motion carried.

Consider Continuation of Emergency Declaration (Public Contract Code Sect. 22050 (a)(1)) to Address Immediate Replacement of Lateral CE Near HSRA Peterson Road Bridge Overpass

The Manager reported that each month, while the project is on-going, the Board must revisit the Emergency Declaration monthly and take action each month to continue the Emergency Declaration until the project is completed.

District Engineer, Isela Medina, reported that the project has been completed and the Notice of Completion has been filed with the County of Kern. Therefore, Manager Gianquinto stated that the Continuation of Emergency Declaration is no longer needed and no further action is required.

Consider GEI Task Order 09-2020 (Rev. 1) for Cox Canal Intertie Project Budget Augmentation

District Engineer, Isela Medina, presented Task Order 09-2020 (Rev 1) for a budget augmentation on the Cox Canal Intertie Project. Due to various unforeseen delays and rising costs, associated with COVID-19, construction has taken longer and is more costly to complete. This budget augmentation will provide additional services to complete the project through construction and inspections. The Board approved the original budget of \$257,500 for construction management and engineering services in June, 2020. An additional amount of \$87,935 is suggested, bringing the total budget amount to \$345,435. Discussion followed.

On motion by Director Wegis, seconded by Director Toretta, the Board authorized execution of Task Order 09-2020 (Rev. 1) for Construction Management and Engineering Services for Cox Canal Intertie Project Budget Augmentation. The President called for a roll call vote on the motion. The following is a record of the roll call vote:

Ayes: Directors Fabbri, Portwood, Thomson, Toretta, Tracy,

Waterhouse and Wegis

Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: None

The President announced that the motion carried.

Consider Landowner Request for Turnout X39 Torigiani Farms

Isela Medina reported that the District recently received a request from District landowner, Ronald Torigiani, for installation of a turnout and connection to District facilities through the Stored Water Recovery Unit (SWRU) expansion. WM Lyles submitted a cost estimate for installation of the turnout which could be completed by the end of the year. Discussion followed.

On motion by Director Wegis, seconded by Director Tracy, the Board authorized MWM Lyles construction of Turnout X39 connecting landowner's property to District facilities from the SWRU. The President called for a roll call vote on the motion. The following is a record of the roll call vote:

Ayes: Directors Fabbri, Portwood, Thomson, Toretta, Tracy,

Waterhouse and Wegis

Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: None

The President announced that the motion carried.

It was noted that Steve Torigiani left the room before discussion began and during action on this item.

Consider Approval of Construction of the SWRU XYZ Pipeline Extension

Manager Gianquinto stated that this item is not ready for discussion. The item was tabled for consideration at a later date.

Consider Clarification of Policy for Acceptance of Groundwater and Wheeling with Respect to Replacement Wells

The Manager reported that the Policy and Procedure Committee met on May 17, 2021. A Memorandum from that meeting was presented to the Board for clarification on District policy for acceptance of groundwater and wheeling with respect to replacement wells.

As more particularly provided in said memorandum, the Committee determined that if a well is truly a replacement well, which is located very close to the original well and similar in depth, pump size, water quality, etc., then it can be connected as a replacement well. If there are notable changes to the new well, it will be considered a new well and subject to the latest water quality limits. The landowner must enter into either a groundwater pumping agreement or a contract for Intermittent Water Deliveries In Lieu of Groundwater Pumping to have access to the District's irrigation water distribution system to wheel groundwater within the District's system. Discussion followed.

For future reference, the Manager will file his "Memorandum for Clarification of Policy for Acceptance of Groundwater and Wheeling with Respect to Replacement Wells." No other action was needed.

SEMITROPIC WSD GSA UPDATE

At 1:35 p.m., the Board President, Dan Waterhouse, declared a meeting of the Semitropic Water Storage District Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

Manager Gianquinto reported that Staff and GEI Consults continued working on implementation of the GSA's Landowner Water Budget Program (Management Action No. 1) pursuant to SGMA.

District Staff continues to work with Landowners to prepare combined Et Statements, answer questions regarding the 2020 Et Statements and processing both payments and credits.

The GSA meeting concluded at 1:45 p.m. See the separate Minutes of the Semitropic Water Storage District GSA Meeting for discussion topics and any action taken.

CONSULTANT REPORTS

Build/Design Team Construction Update

W.M. Lyle's Representative was not able to attend but had submitted a written report. The Manager stated that due to shortages, the supply of polymer was exhausted in mid-May and

operations at the Raw Water Processing Plant were halted until additional polymer was delivered. It appears that delivery problems are solved and deliveries of polymer should now arrive in a timely manner.

The Pond Road Solar Interconnection Facilities are ready to operate but a DC under/over voltage alarm test remains to be done per PGE. This requires a short shut down of the Pond Road substation, which would impact the District's pumpback operations. District staff has requested approval to operate on an interim basis until the current pumpback operations are completed. PG&E has yet to respond to this request, so District staff has contacted the SWSD account representative for assistance.

On the XYZ System Extension, engineering continued on the two new pipeline extensions and turnouts.

The Lateral CE Pipeline Replacement Project has been completed and final as-built documents will be distributed soon.

Consulting Engineer's Report

Larry Rodriguez from GEI Consultants, Inc. presented the "Consulting Engineers Report on Projects for Semitropic Water Storage District" for work during May 2021, which was accepted for filing.

GEI completed the 2020 Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report and it has been submitted to the Department of Water Resources for review.

Construction management services on the Cox Canal Intertie continued with observation of construction activities and contract administration.

GEI continued support with engineering review of California Rail Builder's 60% submittal of design plans, specifications and basis of design regarding the new section of canal P-1030.

GEI is making progress on development of the groundwater model, including completion of the Integrated Water Flow Demand Calculator (IDC) component and integration with the MODFLOW model.

At its May 12, 2021 meeting, the Board authorized Task Order 4-2021 for Final Design and Bid Services on the Leonard System Extension. A meeting was held for GEI and District staff to coordinate the schedule for a final proposal of design and preparation of a construction bid package.

Balance Public Relations

Dean Florez of Balance Public Relations reported on various legislative bills of interest to the District. Work is being done to amend the Revis bill (AB 252).

Discussion followed regarding the recall effort underway for Governor Gavin Newsom, and President Biden's proposed grant program for infrastructure, including storm water and pipeline replacement.

SEMITROPIC WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
PUBLIC HEARING JUNE 9, 2021
TO HEAR OBJECTIONS TO PRELIMINARY ROLL FOR
GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL PROJECT
SERVICE CHARGES AND TO FINALIZE THE RATES AND
ROLLS FOR 2021 (COLLECTED 2021-2022)

President Waterhouse called the Hearing to order at 2:00 p.m. and stated that this was the time and place for the public hearing to hear any objections to the preliminary roll for General Administrative and General Project Service Charges and to finalize rolls and rates for said charges to 2021-2022.

NOTE: Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20, issued by Governor Newsom on March 17, 2020, and guidance by the California Department of Public Health dated March 16, 2020, this meeting is conducted by teleconference due to the COVID-19 Virus Pandemic.

The President introduced the Board members, staff and consultants who were present.

District's legal counsel, Steve Torigiani, stated that at its May 12, 2021 meeting, with adoption of Resolutions Nos. BW 21-02 and PP 21-02, the Board fixed the amounts to be collected for the General Administrative and General Project Service Charges for 2021 for the Buttonwillow Improvement District and Pond-Poso Improvement District, and based on these charges and the Preliminary Rolls the preliminary rates were established and the Preliminary Rolls were made available for public inspection on May 12, 2021. Mr. Torigiani offered the following items to be marked as indicated and attached to the Minutes:

Affidavits of Publication prepared by The Bakersfield Californian showing Publication of the Notice of Filing of Preliminary Roll and Fixing Preliminary Rates at this Hearing.

To be marked as "Exhibit B-BW and "Exhibit B-PP"

Affidavit of Mailing of Notice of this Hearing to landowners in the Buttonwillow And Pond-Poso Improvement Districts expected to receive a charge.

To be marked "Exhibit C"

A reduced copy of the map in the roll of Semitropic Water Storage District and The Buttonwillow and Pond-Poso Improvement District for reference as needed.

To be marked "Exhibit D"

A Memorandum from Manager Jason Gianquinto dated June 9, 2021.

To be marked "Exhibit E"

On motion by Director Wegis, seconded by Director Toretta, the Board approved inclusion of said Exhibits as part of the Minutes. The President called for a roll call vote on the motion. The following is a record of the roll call vote:

Ayes: Directors Fabbri, Portwood, Thomson, Toretta, Tracy, Waterhouse and Wegis

Noes: None Abstain: None Absent: None

The President announced that the motion carried.

Manager Gianquinto reported that preliminary rates per acre were calculated by dividing the charges fixed by the Board at the May 12, 2020 meeting for each classification by the number of acres in the respective classification. The preliminary rates developed are as follows:

For Buttonwillow Improvement District, the General Administrative Service Charge is \$1.50 per acre and the General Project Service Charge is \$137.90 per acre. The Special Minimum General Project Service Charge for recreational land and irrigated native pasture is \$9.40 per acre. The previously approved New Lands Surcharge remains unchanged at \$500 per acre-foot of consumptive use and is estimated to be approximately \$1,750.00 per acre assuming 3.5 acre-feet per acre of consumptive use each acre of land developed after July 1, 2017.

For Pond-Poso Improvement District, the General Administrative Service Charge is \$1.50 per acre and the General Project Service Charge is \$137.90 per acre. The Special Minimum General Project Service Charge for recreational land and irrigated native pasture is \$9.40 per acre. The previously approved New Lands Surcharge remains unchanged at \$500 per acre-foot of consumptive use and is estimated to be approximately \$1,750.00 per acre assuming 3.5 acre-feet per acre of consumptive use each acre of land developed after July 1, 2017.

President Waterhouse asked for any public comments or objections to the matters set forth in the Preliminary Roll or the preliminary rates with regard to the Buttonwillow Improvement District and Pond-Poso Improvement District.

No written or verbal objections or comments were received or made prior to or at the hearing, and President Waterhouse closed the Hearing.

Legal counsel, Steve Torigiani stated that now is the time and place set by the Board to adopt the final Roll and fix the General Administrative and General Project Service Charges. He stated the action taken by the Board would be in the form of resolutions requiring a roll call vote.

On motion by Director Tracy, seconded by Director Portwood, the Semitropic Board of Directors passed and adopted <u>Resolution No. BW 21-04:</u>

RESOLUTION FINALIZING ROLL OF GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL PROJECT SERVICE CHARGES; FIXING RATES PER ACRE FOR

SAID CHARGES; ORDERING THAT THE SAME BE COLLECTED FROM THE OWNERS OF LANDS RECEIVING THE BENEFIT THEREOF AND ELECTING THAT SUCH CHARGES BE COLLECTED BY THE COUNTY OF KERN (2021; COLLECTED 2021-2022)

The President called for a roll call vote on the motion. The following is a record of the roll call vote:

AYES: Directors Fabbri, Tracy, Thomson, Toretta, Waterhouse,

Portwood, and Wegis

NOES: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

On motion by Director Fabbri, seconded by Director Portwood, the Semitropic Board of Directors passed and adopted <u>Resolution No. PP 21-04:</u>

RESOLUTION FINALIZING ROLL OF GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL PROJECT SERVICE CHARGES; FIXING RATES PER ACRE FOR SAID CHARGES; ORDERING THAT THE SAME BE COLLECTED FROM THE OWNERS OF LANDS RECEIVING THE BENEFIT THEREOF AND ELECTING THAT SUCH CHARGES BE COLLECTED BY THE COUNTY OF KERN (2021; COLLECTED 2021-2022)

The President called for a roll call vote on the motion. The following is a record of the roll call vote:

AYES: Directors Fabbri, Tracy, Thomson, Toretta, Waterhouse,

Portwood, and Wegis

NOES: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

In furtherance of collection of the General Administrative and General Project Service Charges by the County, the following resolution was offered:

On motion by Director Fabbri, seconded by Director Portwood, the Secretary was authorized to execute the agreement and the Directors passed and adopted <u>Resolution No. ST 21-</u>04:

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN COUNTY OF KERN AND THE SEMITROPIC WATER STORAGE DISTRICT FOR THE COLLECTION OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS (GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL PROJECT SERVICE CHARGES)

The President called for a roll call vote on the motion. The following is a record of the roll call vote:

AYES: Directors Fabbri, Portwood Thomson, Toretta, Tracy,

Waterhouse and Wegis

NOES: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

President Waterhouse declared the public hearing closed at 2:15 p.m.

INFORMATIONAL AND UP-DATE ITEMS

Manager Gianquinto discussed his written report on "District Activity During May" dated June 4, 2021, which was included as part of the Board packet. In addition, the following items were presented:

The Manager reported that the District continues to operate in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order N-33-20. The District office and field office remain closed to the public and District staff are adhering to the social distancing guidelines. District staff is participating in meetings by conference call or video conferencing. On June 26th, in adherence to the updated guidance from the CDPH, the District updated its COVID-19 Policy to include the requirement to wear face coverings per the CDPH guidance. It is anticipated that on June 15, 2021, the Governor will update the Executive Order.

Manager Gianquinto reported that on May 10th the Governor updated the April 21st Drought Declaration to include 43 additional Counties covering the following watersheds: Klamath River, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and the Tulare Lake Watershed which includes Kern County. The Drought Declaration also includes provisions on Paragraph 9 "to support the movement of water from areas of relative plenty to areas of relative scarcity", and Paragraph 11 provides a suspension of various CEQA requirements on the return of water to the California Aqueduct.

The Manager reported on the 2021 Banking Operations, noting that Recovery Operations are scheduled to cease on June 14th for the irrigation season. Recovery will commence again in the fall. With the Drought situation and reduced deliveries from both the State and Federal Systems, groundwater levels appear to be going down. O & M Superintendent, John Lynch stated that there is concern about lowering the bowls in wells. Discussion followed.

District Engineer, Isela Medina, reported on grant funds received on the Leonard Avenue Extension which was broken into three (3) different projects and supports the District's Recovery Program.

At 2:25 p.m. President Waterhouse adjourned the Regular Board meeting.

Closed Session

At 2:30 p.m. the meeting continued with Closed Session.

Participants included:

Directors: Jeff Fabbri, Phil Portwood, Tim Thomson, Tom Toretta,

Todd Tracy, Dan Waterhouse, and Rick Wegis;

Others: General Manager, Jason Gianquinto;

District O & M Superintendent, John Lynch;

District Controller, Bobby Salinas; District Engineer, Isela Medina;

District Contract Administrator, Becky Ortiz; District Accounting Supervisor, Mariela Garza; District Executive Secretary, Marsha Payne; District's Legal Counsel, Steve Torigiani; and

Special Legal Counsel, Kevin O'Brien.

The District's legal counsel, Steve Torigiani, stated that a closed session was needed to discuss various closed session matters.

The District's legal counsel reported on the following items of pending and anticipated litigation:

a. Conference with legal counsel Re: Pending Litigation (Gov't. Code § 54956.9(d))

- 1) Various applications filed for Kings River Water by Semitropic WSD, et al.; Petition for Change of Points of Diversion, etc. (License 11521) filed by Kings River Water Assn.; and related matters and proceedings, before the State Water Resources Control Board
- 2) California Department of Water Resources v. All Persons Interested, "Complaint for Validation" Re: SWP Contract Extension Amendment, Sacramento Superior Court, Case No. 34-2018-00246183
- 3) State of CA Dept. of Trans. v. Semitropic WSD, Kern County Superior Court, Case No. BCV-19-100326
- 4) State v. Pond Poso Improvement District of Semitropic Water Storage District, Kern County Superior Court, Case No. BCV-19-1007686
- 5) Buena Vista Water Storage District v. Kern Water Bank Authority, et al. Re: KWBA Kern River EIR, Ventura County Superior Court, Case No. BCV-19-100122; Second Appellate District, Division 6, Case No. B309764
- 6) Sierra Club v. California Department of Water Resources, etc. Re: Consolidated CEQA Case and "Complaint for Validation" Re: Delta Program Revenue Bonds, Sacramento County Superior Court, Case No. 34-2020-80003517
- 7) Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District v. Kern County Water Agency, et al., Kern County Superior Court, Case No. BCV-21-100418
- 8) Central Delta WA v. DWR, et al., 3rd Appellate Dist., Case No. C078249: Center for Food Safety v DWR, 3rd Appellate Dist., Case No. C086215 (consolidated for oral argument)

b. Conference with legal counsel Re: Anticipated Litigation: Possible exposure to litigation pursuant to Gov't. Code § 54956.9 (d) (2).

1) Two Potential Cases

- c. Conference with legal counsel Re: Anticipated Litigation: Possible initiation of litigation pursuant to Gov't. Code § 54956.9 (d) (4).
 - 1) Two Potential Cases
- d. Conference with Real Property Negotiator (Gov't. Code § 54956.8)

District's Designated Representative: General Manager Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

- 1) Property: State Water Project Supplies
 - a. Negotiation With: California Department of Water Resources, Kern County Water Agency and its Member Units, And State Water Contractors
- 2) Acquisition of Water Supplies
 - a. Negotiation with: Multiple sellers

At 4:40 p.m. the Board reconvened to open session.

President Waterhouse stated that several items were discussed. No reportable action was taken.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. by President Waterhouse.

APPROVED:

/s/ Todd Tracy, Secretary

/s/ Daniel Waterhouse, President