

Kings River Conservation District

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Date & Time:	July 11, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.	Location:	Kings River Conservation District Offices
Called to Order:	1:32 p.m.	Adjourned:	3:33 p.m.
Facilitator:	President Cehrs	Note taker:	Christine Simon
Attendees:	Directors: David Cehrs, Ph.D. (President), D. Paul Stanfield (Vice President), Mark McKean, Norman B. Waldner, Gregory Beberian, Ceil W. Howe Jr., Mike Yoshimoto KRCD Staff: David Merritt, Christine Simon, Paul G. Peschel, Randy Shilling, Brian Trevarrow, Cristel Tufenkjian, Casey Creamer, Eric Osterling, Campbell Gilkey Consultants & Others: Steven Haugen (Kings River Water Association), Steven Stadler (James Irrigation District) <small>arrived 3:00PM</small>		
Absent:	None		

Minutes

1. Additions or Deletions from the Agenda

Presenter: President Cehrs

Discussion:

None.

Actions:

None.

2. Public Presentations or Comments

Presenter: President Cehrs

Discussion:

None.

Actions:

None.

3. Approval of Minutes of the June 13, 2017 Regular Board Meeting

Presenter: President Cehrs

Discussion:

- a. Amend the June 13, 2017 minutes to reflect Vice President Stanfield as the facilitator.

Actions:

- a. It was moved by Director Howe, seconded by Director Yoshimoto, and carried by Directors Beberian, Cehrs, Stanfield, Howe, McKean, Waldner, and Yoshimoto that the Minutes of the June 13, 2017 Regular Board meeting be approved, as amended.

4. Water Conditions and Weather Conditions**Presenter: Steve Haugen**

Discussion:

- a. Kings River Water Association (KRWA) Watermaster Steve Haugen summarized a report on water conditions stating that the total storage available to KRWA units in Pine Flat Reservoir as of 2400 hours on July 9, 2017 was 1,165,151 acft with a vacant space of 28,849 acft. On that date, the calculated natural inflow to the Reservoir was 9,070 cfs. Yesterday was 8,334 cfs.
- b. Storage is being released from Pine Flat Dam by approximately 8,479 cfs. Precipitation is over 30"; the average-to-date is 18.98".
- c. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletin 120 July 4, 2017 Update (B120UP) reflects that we are 227% of average for unimpaired runoff.
- d. Haugen summarized a presentation regarding 2016-2017 Pine Flat flood release and runoff forecast, discussing the factors that led to an earlier runoff year than is normal.
- e. Using 2011 data, KRWA ended flood releases mid-July 2017 and is anticipating a 50% probability of conducting a winter flood release depending on Fall 2017 irrigation demands and rainfall during the Winter 2017-2018 season.
- f. Discussed the Office of Emergency Services' protocol to warn affected individuals of flood risks.

Actions:

None.

5. Directors' Reports**Presenter: President Cehrs**

Discussion:

- a. Director McKean complimented Deputy General Manager David Merritt and his levee staff for work minimalizing property damage due to flood this year.
- b. Director Beberian thanked KRCD staff for helping individuals with questions.
- c. President Cehrs commented that the Pine Flat Dam releases drew a crowd on June 23, 2017 with an estimated 100 spectators in attendance.

Actions:

None.

6. General Manager's Report**Presenter: Paul Peschel**

Discussion:

- a. Paul Peschel, General Manger, provided updates to supplement his written report to the Board.
 1. Peschel provided updates on the following federal actions taken:
 - i. House released legislation that restricts the White House Office of management and budgeting ability to assess the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) water resource projects. The legislation limits their role to their historical cost-benefit analysis approach.
 - ii. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), USACE and Department of the Army proposed a rule to rescind the 2015 Waters of the Unites States (WOTUS) Clean Water Act definition. This action will not change how WOTUS is currently applied due to the 2015 rule being in suspension, but does mean that work needs to be done to redefine WOTUS.
 - iii. Congress is back in session and focusing on the health care overhaul, the debt ceiling, 2018 federal budget resolution, and advancing the 12 major appropriations spending bills that need to be approved for the budget (these include energy & water development and agriculture).

- iv. A cyber-attack on a non-operational system within a nuclear plant occurred in Wolf Creek, Kansas. The attack did not disrupt operations.
- 2. Peschel provided updates on the following bills:
 - i. H.R. 23 (Valadao) GROW Act is being opposed by Senators Feinstein, Harris, and Governor Brown. The belief is that it will pass the House of Representatives and meet resistance in the Senate. Both KRCD and KRWA support this Act.
 - ii. In an effort to minimize duplication of efforts, H.R. 3043 Hydropower Policy Modernization Act of 2017 designates Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as the lead agency for coordinating and reviews and establishing consistent procedures for the licensing process. If passed, KRCD expects this will help our Jeff L. Taylor Hydropower Plant relicensing efforts.
 - iii. H.R. 2936 (Westerman) The Resilient Federal Forest Act was introduced. This legislation proposes to ease legislation on forest thinning efforts; there is strong environmental opposition.
 - iv. SB 506 (Nielsen) Department of Fish and Wildlife: lake or streambed alteration agreements: Internet Web site. Passed the Senate.
- 3. Peschel provided updates on the following state activities:
 - i. Two recently-released biological opinions show general support for the Water Fix project, but the project is meeting resistance in the form of litigation from environmental agencies.
 - ii. Governor Brown is focusing efforts to renew the Cap-and-Trade Program, a funding source for the High Speed Rail.
 - iii. The State Water Resources Control Board is
 - 1. Attempting to finish the delayed statewide Conservation Rules.
 - 2. Creating a Human Right to Water Program. A public meeting will be held on Thursday, August 10, 2017 6:00-8:00pm located at the Ted Willis Community Center in Fresno.
 - 3. Reviewing the Central Valley Water Board Tulare Lake Basin Plan Amendment.
 - 4. Launching a data management open web resource.
 - iv. DWR and the Water Education Foundation are hosting a "Land Subsidence in the San Joaquin Valley" briefing on Wednesday, August 16, 2017 8:30am-3:30pm at California State University, Fresno.
- 4. Peschel provided updates on the following KRCD activities:
 - i. Conducting a high-level exploration at various areas for potential hydroelectric/energy storage opportunities.
 - ii. Tim Quinn, ACWA Executive Director, conducted a conference call regarding developing an initiative to maximize the recharge capability of this region. The approach is intended to be bottom-up and to obtain constituents' input.

Actions:

None.

7. Public Information

Presenter: Cristel Tufenkjian

Discussion:

- a. Cristel Tufenkjian, Manager of Community & Public Relations, reported the following items to the Board:
 - 1. Introduced Campbell Gilkey, a Communications intern.
 - 2. Introduced Fisheries Management Program website, available at krfmp.org.
 - 3. Peschel commended Tufenkjian and Isner for their work on the Fishery website.

Actions:

None.

8a. Power Resources, Flood O&M, and Environmental Status Report Presenter: David Merritt and Presentation

Discussion:

- a. David Merritt, Deputy General Manager, presented the following information to the Board:
 1. Pine Flat generated in 138,093.1MW for the month of June 2017.
 2. 24/7 Flood Patrols recommenced on June 18, 2017.
 3. Higher than normal flows in the South Fork resulted in significant seepage in various areas. These higher flows resulted in a levee failure on June 22, 2017 on the right bank below the confluence of Clarks Fork and Crescent Bypass and eventual boil problems. All issues were resolved and we will be focusing efforts on discovering the underlying issues that caused these problems.
 4. Experiencing debris in current flood flows and fell trees. Will resolve issues when flows decrease.
 5. KRCD will apply for funds under PL 84-99 where the levee breach occurred; the application is due to the USACE by August 7, 2017.

Actions:

None.

8b. Business Operations Status Report and Presentation Presenter: Randy Shilling

Discussion:

- a. Randy Shilling, Deputy General Manager, presented the following information to the Board:
 1. The power benefit was \$2.5 million for this past quarter, which was the fifth highest generation year since the Jeff L. Taylor plant was built.
 2. Staff are working through recurring Public Records Act requests in addition to Transparent California; we now receive a request every two months from an organization that asks for copies of our Purchasing Orders.
- b. Eric Osterling, Manager of Water Resources, reported the following:
 1. Osterling attended a Prop 1 Planning Grant Workshop at Fresno Irrigation District June 13, 2017. The workshop focused on the draft grant solicitation and award amounts. Locals GSAs are waiting to develop scopes of work and strategies until DWR comes forward with clarification on certain compliance and eligibility requirements.
 2. June 30, 2017 deadline passed for GSA formation. Last minute negotiations occurred in the Kings Subbasin, resulting in a newly formed South Kings GSA within the Central Kings GSA's geographic boundaries. The cities of Sanger and Caruthers are now within the Central Kings GSA and all other communities within Consolidated Irrigation District have opted to join the South Kings GSA. The Subbasin is completely covered by GSAs with no overlaps; any risk of State Board intervention has been avoided for now.
 3. In cooperation with the Center for Irrigation Technology, the American Groundwater Trust is hosting a Measuring Groundwater Pumping for SGMA Compliance Workshop event at Fresno State on Wednesday, July 19, 2017.
 4. Director Cehrs commended Osterling for being appointed to the Kings County Water Commission.
- c. Casey Creamer, Manager of Water Quality, provided the following updates to the Board:
 1. Updated participation in the Sustainable Conservation Block Grant, which studies on-farm potential Nitrate-leaching. An outreach meeting and tour that occurred June 14, 2017 at Terranova Ranch, reporting the results of Sustainable Conservation's study and discussing the benefits of on-farm recharge for groundwater quality. Sustainable Conservation will be

issuing a final report soon and KRCD will participate in further discussions with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board regarding on-farm recharge.

2. Creamer took Adam Laptuz, Assistant Executive Officer on the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board on a tour for our area and the diverse farmers within our region.
3. Creamer and the Board discussed the differences between flood and drip and on-farm recharge/irrigation.

Actions:

None.

9. Annual Report of Reimbursements

Presenter: Paul Peschel

Discussion:

- a. Shilling summarized the District's Annual Report of Reimbursements for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2017, in accordance with Government Code Section 53065.
- b. Informational item.

Actions:

- a. None.

10. Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Strategic Plan

Presenter: Paul Peschel

Discussion:

- a. The Strategic Plan was updated to include recommendations from the last board meeting.
- b. Peschel recommended the Board consider and adopt the updated 2017-2018 Strategic Plan.

Actions:

- a. It was moved by Director McKean, seconded by Director Howe, and carried by Directors Beberian, Cehrs, Stanfield, Howe, McKean, Waldner, and Yoshimoto that the General Manager's Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Strategic Plan be approved, as presented.

11a. Financial Report: Budget Expenditures

Presenter: Randy Shilling

Discussion:

- a. Randy Shilling, Deputy General Manager of Business Operations, summarized the June 2017 budget expenditures and investment report to the Board.
- b. KRCD completed the 16-17 fiscal year and spent 71% of the budget. Exceedances in a few budget categories were due to flood repair issues. We will still receive bills for services done in June 2017 and will apply those bills for the previous budget year and will appear in the audit report for the 16-17 fiscal year.

Actions:

None.

11b. Review of Financial Statements

Presenter: Director McKean

Discussion:

- a. Director McKean reported that he had reviewed the bills, found them to be in order, and recommended that they be approved.

Actions:

- a. It was moved by Director McKean, seconded by Director Howe, and unanimously carried by Directors Beberian, Cehrs, Stanfield, Howe, McKean, Waldner, and Yoshimoto that bills in the amount of \$620,318.00 as presented in the schedule of Disbursements and Current Accounts Payable, were approved and ordered paid.

Other Items for Discussion

Presenter: President Cehrs

Discussion:

None.

Actions:

None.

Submitted by:

Paul G. Peschel
Board Secretary

Board President approved on August 8, 2017

