

Kings River Conservation District

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Date & Time: December 12, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. **Location:** Kings River Conservation District Offices

Called to Order: 1:30 p.m. **Adjourned:** 3:30 p.m.

Attendees: **Directors:** David Cehrs, Ph.D. (President), D. Paul Stanfield (Vice President), Gregory Beberian, Ceil W. Howe Jr., Mark McKean, Norman B. Waldner, Mike Yoshimoto

KRCD Staff: David Merritt, Christine Simon (Assistant Secretary), Paul G. Peschel (Secretary), Randy Shilling, Brian Trevarrow, Cristel Tufenkjian

Consultants & Others: Steven Haugen (Kings River Water Association)

Absent: **KRCD Staff:** Casey Creamer, Eric Osterling

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 the Minutes

Presenter: President Cehrs

Discussion:

None.

Actions:

It was moved by Director Howe, seconded by Director McKean, and carried by Directors Beberian, Cehrs, Howe, McKean, Stanfield, Waldner and Yoshimoto that the Minutes of the November 14, 2017 Regular Board meeting be approved.

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

Discussion:

North American Weather Consultants (NAWC) staff meteorologist Todd Flanagan reported that the Kings River Weather Modification Program is operational. Flanagan informed the Board of current state and regional conditions and projections.

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 December 10, 2017 was 530,758 acft with a vacant space of 663,242 acft. On that date, the calculated natural inflow to the Reservoir was 418 cfs. Storage is being released from Pine Flat Dam at approximately 574 cfs.

Actions:

None.

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

Discussion:

Director Beberian reported on ACWA's legislative concerns as expressed at ACWA's Fall 2017 Conference and the approval of the Agricultural Committee (formerly the Agricultural Initiative).

President Cehrs reported on concerns regarding WaterFix expressed by individuals at the ACWA's Fall 2017 Conference as well as the introduction of the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) FloodMAR terminology.

Actions:

None.

6. Staff Reports**Presenter: Paul Peschel**

Discussion:

Paul Peschel, General Manager; provided updates to supplement his written report to the Board. Of particular interest, Peschel informed the board on progress related to the federal budget, tax reform, federal appointments, infrastructure funding assistance, and de-regulation efforts. Peschel summarized state reports on climate change, the State Water Project, the state's budget and revenue in regard to the cap and trade program, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) rulings, state appointments, and the Kings River Fishery Management Program, and letters of support and opposition sent from KRCD.

David Merritt, Deputy General Manager; reported to the Board maintenance activities conducted at the Jeff L. Taylor Power Plant at Pine Flat Dam. Merritt summarized results from the annual electrofishing population survey and revisiting care and capacity of fish fry.

Cristel Tufenkjian, Manager of Community & Public Relations; reported on social media activity conducted through KRCD's social media accounts. Tufenkjian also reported on the dissolution of the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, of which KRCD was a member. Tufenkjian summarized highlights from ACWA's Fall 2017 Conference, including her activity on the Communications Committee and Outreach Task Force.

Randy Shilling, Deputy General Manager; summarized highlights from ACWA's Fall 2017 Conference, focusing on WaterFix discussions. Shilling also reported on the construction south of the KRCO offices, with an expected completion date of March 2018.

Actions:

None.

12. Closed Session

Presenter: President Cehrs

Discussion:

The Board adjourned to Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4) to confer with its Legal Counsel regarding the initiation of one matter of potential litigation.

13. Reconvene to Open Session

Presenter: President Cehrs

Actions:

No reportable action.

7. RDA Oversight Committee Appointment

Presenter: Randy Shilling

Discussion:

On July 1, 2018, more than 400 Redevelopment Agencies (RDA) oversight boards in California will be consolidated into just one oversight board per county. KRCO is one of 26 independent special districts in Fresno County that may serve on the committee. The Board Chairman is the District's representative on the committee (by law), and the board may appoint alternates.

The selection committee will select a special district representative to serve on the Fresno County RDA oversight board. The nomination period ends January 4, 2018.

Actions:

Dr. Cehrs appointed Beberian (Fresno) and Stanfield (Kings) as his alternates for the RDA Oversight Committee.

8. Resolution No. 17-03 Application for Flood Emergency Response Grant

Presenter: David Merritt

Discussion:

Deputy General Manager David Merritt presented information about the Resolution for Board consideration. The purpose of this grant is to provide funding for local emergency responders to work with DWR to improve local flood emergency preparedness and response. DWR recognizes that a coordinated flood emergency response throughout the state requires active engagement of the local emergency responders. As a result, the grant program promotes coordination of flood emergency response using the SEMS/NIMS structure as well as improved communication and working relationships among special districts, local governments, and their respective counties.

Under this grant program, DWR will provide financial assistance through a grant agreement with participating agencies to ensure local agencies have a robust flood emergency plan in place with adequate flood preparedness and response capacity and resources. Local

governments should work closely with their local districts in both the development of plans and reimbursement of funding. Additionally, this grant program can assist counties in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley to satisfy a requirement of the Central Valley Flood Protection Act of 2008. The act added California Water Code Section 9621, which requires counties in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley to collaborate with cities within their jurisdictions to develop flood emergency plans.

There is no cost share requirement with this grant. The goal is to include LiDAR data with the local levy assistance grant. This would avoid the use of general funds.

Actions:

It was moved by Vice President Stanfield, seconded by Director McKean, and unanimously carried by Directors Beberian, Cehrs, Howe, McKean, Stanfield, Waldner, and Yoshimoto to authorize the General Manager or Appointee to prepare the necessary data, make investigations, sign, and file such application with the California Department of Water Resources, and take such other actions as necessary or appropriate to obtain the grant funding.

9. Budget Augmentation

**Presenter: Randy Shilling
David Merritt**

Discussion:

The Deputy General Manager of Business Operations, Randy Shilling, presented for Board consideration adjustments to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-2018 Budget. In the November 14, 2017 meeting, the Flood Maintenance Committee received a presentation on the current status of flood maintenance activities and a detailed explanation of maintenance items that need to be done this year. This includes increasing the General Channel Maintenance Expense account 52133 by \$140,000 from the prior budgeted amount of \$83,000 to \$223,000, and the Bank Protection Expense account 52136 by \$80,000 from the prior budgeted amount of \$126,000 to \$206,000. The record water year last year brought with it erosion and sediment that needs to be dealt with before the next rainy season comes and special attention is needed to complete erosion repairs on the South Fork of the Kings River.

Actions:

It was moved by Director McKean, seconded by Director Howe, and unanimously carried by Directors Beberian, Cehrs, Howe, McKean, Stanfield, Waldner, and Yoshimoto to approve an augmentation to the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget.

10. Water Storage Power Development

Presenter: David Merritt

Discussion:

Based on the age of these prior studies, changes in state regulation, environmental, public benefit, and hydrologic/climate changes within the Kings River Watershed and service area, staff seeks to conduct studies and preliminary assessments of water supply enhancement projects for the Kings River service area.

Actions:

It was moved by Director Beberian, seconded by Director McKean, and unanimously carried by Directors Beberian, Cehrs, Howe, McKean, Stanfield, Waldner, and Yoshimoto to increase the Professional Services budget by \$190,000 and authorize the General Manager or

Appointee to execute an agreement with Stantec to prepare a Feasibility Study and advise and assist staff with further evaluation of raising Pine Flat Dam and constructing Rogers Crossing and Mill Creek reservoirs.

11a. Financial Report: Budget Expenditures

Presenter: Randy Shilling

Discussion:

While reviewing the Financial Report, as detailed in the agenda packet, Shilling drew the Board's attention to the budget-to-actual reports and the investment report.

Actions:

None.

11b. Review of Monthly Disbursements

Presenter: Gregory Beberian

Discussion:

Director Beberian reported that he reviewed the bills, found them to be in order, and recommended that they be approved.

Actions:

It was moved by Director Beberian, seconded by Director Stanfield, and unanimously carried by Directors Beberian, Cehrs, Howe, McKean, Stanfield, Waldner, and Yoshimoto that bills in the amount of \$712,791.59, as presented in the schedule of Disbursements and Current Accounts Payable, were approved and ordered paid.

14. Other Items for Discussion

Presenter: President Cehrs

Discussion:

None.

Actions:

None.

Adjournment

Adjourned: 3:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

Paul G. Peschel
Board Secretary

_____ approved on January 9, 2018
Board President