

February 11, 2015  
Tracy, CA 95304

Pursuant to adjournment, January 14, 2015, the Board of Directors of the Banta-Carbona Irrigation District met at 9:00 a.m. at 3514 W. Lehman Road, Tracy California on the above named date.

**PRESENT:** Directors: James M. McLeod, Glenn Robertson, Keith Robertson, Roger Elissagaray and James Thoming

**OTHERS PRESENT:** General Manager David Weisenberger, Secretary Margaret Howe and District Counsel Jeanne Zolezzi

**ABSENT:** None

#### ITEM 1 - MINUTES & TREASURER'S REPORT

Director Glenn Robertson made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2015 board meeting as presented. Director James Thoming seconded the motion and it carried by the following vote; Ayes: Directors James McLeod, Roger Elissagaray, Keith Robertson, Glenn Robertson and James Thoming; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: None

Secretary Howe presented the Treasurer's report and after review by the Board it was filed for audit.

#### ITEM 2 - MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary how reported the District received a request from the Family Farm Alliance for a 2015 contribution. The Family Farm Alliance is an advocate for family farmers, ranchers, irrigation districts and other ag-related businesses in the seventeen Western states. The focus of the Alliance is to ensure the availability of reliable, affordable irrigation water supplies to Western farmers and ranchers. The District made a contribution to the Alliance of \$5,000 in 2013 and 2014. After some discussion, Director Roger Elissagaray made a motion to authorize a contribution to the Family Farm Alliance in the amount of \$5,000. Director James Thoming seconded the motion and it carried by the following vote; Ayes: Directors James McLeod, Roger Elissagaray, Keith Robertson, Glenn Robertson and James Thoming; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: None

#### ITEM 3 - MANAGER'S REPORT & DISCUSSION ITEMS.

##### **MANAGER'S REPORT February 11, 2015**

PP #1 River Gauge 6.8, River @ Fishscreen 2.50 msl., Vernalis 1210 cfs. Currently pumping 65 cfs

**WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK** – Looking at reservoir storage numbers on the San Joaquin River upstream of BCID's diversion point and comparing them to last year's numbers at this time here is what we find:

	Mid-January 2014	Last Month 2015	This Month 2015	Difference
	(AF)	(AF)	(AF)	(AF)
New Melones Reservoir	1,045,796	551,051	589,647	+38,596
Don Pedro Reservoir	1,041,411	798,023	849,111	+51,088
Exchequer Reservoir	<u>219,846</u>	<u>71,404</u>	<u>72,220</u>	+ <u>816</u>
Total	2,307,053	1,420,478	1,510,978	+ 90,500

Flow on the San Joaquin River is currently 1,210 cfs as compared to last year at this time when the flow was 1,000 cfs. Last year we had a storm event at about these same dates in February. The lowest flow at Vernalis in the last thirty days was at 750 cfs before the recent storms.

**MAINTENANCE** - The #1-30 motor in PP #6 that was at Stanley Electric for repairs is re-installed at pp #6. Repairs on the #1-30 cfs pump in PP #6 are complete by Geiger Manufacturing in Stockton, Ca. It is re-installed and running. The two 30 cfs pumps in PP #6 are pumping a total of 65 cfs.

Another motor short circuited in PP #3, the #3-40. We increased heating of the buildings and increased air flow with fans to keep the motors drier and to dry them out. We tented some of the motors and put fans and heaters within the tarped tents. Meanwhile as Bockmon and Woody Electric conducts preventative maintenance in the pumphouses they are meggering the motors.

After megging all of the motors in the pumphouses we had two that showed they were too wet and needed special attention to dry them out.

Also in PP #3 we had to pull the Cascade pump, the #5-40cfs pump. It has had a leak through the top along the shaft. It was thought that packing needed to be tightened. Delta Pump was called out to take a look at it. They determine that the bottom bearing seal was bad and was causing it to leak. The leak had reached a point that it was deemed best to pull the pump and have it fixed. It is in Delta Pump Inc.'s shop in Stockton California.

The District was informed that Valley Pattern Inc. of Stockton California will be closing its doors later this year. Valley Pattern is the company that made the patterns for the District's 20, 40, and 60 cfs pumps in about the years 1978 – 1980. Valley Pattern has been pouring impeller castings for the District for thirty years. They have been commissioned to pour two more 20 cfs pump impellers and two 40 cfs pump impellers before they close in May 2015. These will be stored for future use.

Increasing the heating wattage in the pumphouses will be looked at as well as having motors equipped with heaters when they are rewound. The 75 hp motor that was the first to short circuit has been equipped with heaters so that when the motor is off the heaters will be on. This will be a feature added to all motors when they are re-furbished.

As a result of studying this issue and looking at potential electricity loads in pumphouses during the winter it was discovered that the District may want to consider putting some ultra low head hydro generators on the return pipes at pumphouses. During the winter there is a small flow from lift canal bank drainage accretions that flow backwards through the lift canal. There are flows going past pumphouses three, two and one. This may generate enough electricity to offset our winter heating and lights load.

The box culvert in front of old PP #5 was extended by 32 feet with 66 inch pipe so that at any time that we wish to proceed on construction of new PP #5 it can be started during the irrigation season. The extension consists of laying 66 inch re-enforced concrete pipe in the bottom of the lift canal.

As required by the USBR water conservation program our district is currently mapping turnouts, pipelines, and canals. Data has been gathered on our facilities using a GPS unit provided by Quartaroli and associates. Quartaroli and Associates are preparing to put them on an internet based interactive map with a google earth photo background. The field work is being performed by district employees and is about 99% complete. The GPS data has been downloaded in Quartaroli's office every couple of days. Once they have all of the data they will apply it to maps. The data will be available over google earth types of views.

#### **PONDWEED and ALGAE CONTROL –**

We are still working on tracking down DFG people to help determine if they will allow Triploid Grass Carp in our canals. Imperial Irrigation District (IID) said that they are getting excellent control and have clean canals as a result of using these fish. IID sells these fish to others in California under the supervision of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDF&W). The receiving district must first obtain a permit from the CDF&W before ordering any fish from IID. IID will then produce the fish and at about 12 inches of growth ship the fish to you. The Triploid Grass Carp is a Chinese Grass Carp that has its reproductive ability removed via removal of specific chromosomes. All fish are tested for the missing chromosomes while being observed by the CDF&W before shipping the fish out. In addition, all of the fish are tagged with a unique tag number and are recorded as to who owns the fish. They do not want these fish in areas that have not been pre-approved by CDF&W.

At the CVPWA convention in Reno last month I was pointed towards a retired DFG employee that they thought would know about grass carp. I talked to him at the SLDMWA meeting last week and it turns out he doesn't know anything about them except that SLWD tried to get them several years ago but was not successful. He did not remember why they were not successful. He did say that DFG is nearly paranoid about having more species being accidentally introduced into San Joaquin Valley streams.

**SWRCB** - We continue to monitor State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) activities and meetings related to water rights and the drought. On September 24, 2014 they held a workshop to discuss a letter request they received from the State and Federal water Projects requesting that the SWRCB collect more detailed information from delta diverters about the diverter's right and the amount of their right. Jeanne Zolezzi and I attended the workshop. The state and federal water project representatives along with some state and federal water contractors offered oral comments on the subject of getting more diversion information from the south and central delta water diverters. Basically they want the SWRCB to go out and beat the bushes for information about diversions in the delta.

There was a process that was a directive of the SWRCB in their July 3<sup>rd</sup> emergency regulation resolution curtailing all post 1914 water diversions for 2014. SWRCB staff is directed to have a plan completed by January 31, 2015 that is the result of process that includes water right holders' participation. On Friday, January 30, at 4:30 pm they did release their Dry Year Program Report as to how to improve implementation and enforcement of water rights in 2015. This document is under review by legal counsel and myself.

The BCID also received a SWRCB Informational Order the first week of February to provide more detailed information about the water rights we claim and the usage we had under those rights in 2014. In addition it asks for monthly updates this year as to how much the BCID is diverting in 2015. This order was given to all water rights on the San Joaquin and Sacramento River systems as well as Delta diverters.

The BCID also received a letter from the SWRCB I mid January advising us that we may be subject to curtailment in 2015 if dry conditions persist. This notice was sent to all water rights holders on the San Joaquin River as well as the Sacramento River.

**SPUR DIKE** - I will be met with Chris Neudeck and Bill Darsie of KSN Engineering of Stockton California along with a couple of trustees from the McMullin Reclamation District Friday, January 16, 2015 to talk about the proposed Spur Dike Project and get their feedback. Mary Hildebrand and a Mr. Cardoza were the two trustees that participated. From a levee protection perspective they saw the merits of the spur dike project to protect their levee. From a fellow diverter perspective they were concerned with the additional sand that may go down stream and harm their diversion points. They felt that would be a concern to other diverters in their Reclamation District. They also observed that the Corps may not want anymore sand coming towards the shipping channel as they already have to dredge thousands of tons for the shipping channel now. Mary said that her dad Alex pushed for years to have two or three locations on the San Joaquin River as permanent dredging locations to keep sediment from entering the delta. The whole group did not hold out much hope that the corps would support such a project as this would be preventative and the corps generally only takes action for emergencies.

Prepared by David Weisenberger, General Manager

#### ITEM 4 - DIRECTOR AND STAFF ITEMS

Staff has ordered 3 new Ford Pickups to replace 2 of the District's existing vehicles and the 1 that was wrecked in 2014.

A scoping Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) meeting was held in the Banta-Carbona Irrigation District office on January 27, 2015. One of the issues being discussed was the possibility of forming a larger GSA with subgroup members. The group wanted to get the necessary paperwork and filing done as soon as possible, but have since discovered that the Department of Water Resources is not ready yet.

Staff reported they have been working with a private consultant, Alex Pineda, to review the District's current computer layout for necessary updates and security. Mr. Pineda will be available to speak to the Board, if they would like. The Board requested staff see if Mr. Pineda would be available to do a presentation at the March Board meeting.

Secretary Howe reminded the Directors their 2015 Form 700's are due April 1, 2015.

Director Thoming inquired if it would be cost effective to enclosed the pump houses and put in a forced air system to keep the motors dry.

#### ITEM 5 - REVIEW CURRENT WATER SUPPLIES AND 2015 WATER SUPPLIES AVAILABLE TO THE DISTRICT, POTENTIAL RATIONING, AND SCHEDULING THE USE OF AVAILABLE WATER SUPPLIES. ACTION AS NECESSARY.

General Manager Weisenberger reported the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has not announced an allocation for the 2015/2016 CVP Water year. The District currently has 24,644 acre feet of water to carry over into 2015. Mr. Weisenberger expects, under the current weather conditions, the District to be able to pump from the San Joaquin River through April and possibly through May. At that time the District would have to start using its stored water and that would carry us through August and possibly September.

#### ITEM 6 – CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE WEST SIDE IRRIGATION DISTRICT (TWSID) FOR BCID TO DO A TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT OF A PORTION OF BCID PRE-1914 WATER RIGHTS IN 2015 TO TWSID. ACTION AS NECESSARY.

Dave Kaiser, General Manager of TWSID, was present to discuss a possible temporary of assignment of a portion of the BCID Pre-1914 Water Rights in 2015 to TWSID. The Board reviewed the proposal presented by Mr. Kaiser and discussed several issues with him. The Board felt that since there is no guarantee TWSID will take any water, there should be a non-refundable payment of \$50,000. Director James Thoming made a motion to approve the proposal from TWSID with the condition that TWSID make a non-refundable payment of \$50,000 prior to any pumping. Director Roger Elissagaray seconded the motion and it carried by the following vote; Ayes: Directors James McLeod, Roger Elissagaray, Keith Robertson, Glenn Robertson and James Thoming; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: None

**ITEM 7 – CONSIDER EXCHANGE/PURCHASE OF YUBA C1 WATER WITH WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT FOR THE 2015/2016 WATER YEAR. ACTION AS NECESSARY.**

Westlands Water District has rescheduled 2013 CVP water available for exchange/purchase. They would like to exchange their rescheduled water for Banta-Carbona Irrigation District's 2014 allocation of Yuba C1 Water during the 2015/2016 contract water year. Banta-Carbona's 2014 allocation of Yuba C1 Water is approximately 200 acre feet. Banta-Carbona would agree to pay the O&M charges on the rescheduled 2013 CVP water, to reimburse Westlands for the Warren Act Fees and conveyance costs on the Yuba C1 Water and the 2015 rescheduling fee for the amount of water rescheduled and exchanged. After some discussion, Director Roger Elissagaray made a motion to approve the exchange and authorize the General Manager to execute the agreement. Director Glenn Robertson seconded the motion and it carried by the following vote; Ayes: Directors James McLeod, Roger Elissagaray, Keith Robertson, Glenn Robertson and James Thoming; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: None

**ITEM 8 – CONSIDER FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WHEELING WATER FROM SAN JOAQUIN RIVER TO THE DELTA-MENDOTA CANAL (DMC) AND POSSIBLE WWD/SLWD FUNDING. ACTION AS NECESSARY**

General Manager Weisenberger reported he had been approached at the Mid-Pacific Water Users Conference in Reno by both Martin McIntyre, General Manager of San Luis Water District, and Jose Gutierrez, of Westlands Water District, regarding possible funding for improvements to Banta-Carbona's water delivery system. Mr. Weisenberger presented a draft letter to Martin McIntyre regarding the costs of capacity upgrades and necessary funding. The Board reviewed the letter and authorized General Manager Weisenberger to continue discussions with San Luis Water District and other districts that might be interested.

**ITEM 9 – CONSIDER AND REVIEW PLANS AND COSTS OF PUMP STATION #5 REPLACEMENT PROJECT. ACTION AS NECESSARY.**

General Manager Weisenberger reported he met with Dick Hearth regarding electrical costs for the Pump Station #5 replacement project and with Dahl Consultants, Inc. for engineering costs and plans.

**ITEM 10 – UPDATE ON STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD (SWRCB) PROCEEDINGS REGARDING CURTAILMENT DIRECTIVES AND ORDERS TO WATER RIGHTS HOLDERS ON THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER AND THE SACRAMENTO RIVER BASINS. ACTION AS NECESSARY.**

General Manager Weisenberger reported the District received a SWRCB Informational Order the first week of February to provide more detailed information about the water rights claimed by the District and the District usage under those rights in 2014. In addition it requests for monthly updates this year as to how much the District is diverting in 2015. This order was given to all water rights on the San Joaquin and Sacramento River systems as well as Delta diverters. The Board discussed the Informational Order with District Counsel Jeanne Zolezzi. She advised them that even though the District is not legally required to provide the information requested, it would give the SWRCB more accurate data on current water usage. The Board directed to staff to complete and file the necessary documents.

The District also received a letter from the SWRCB in mid January advising us that we may be subject to curtailment in 2015 if dry conditions persist. This notice was sent to all water rights holders on the San Joaquin River as well as the Sacramento River.

**ITEM 11 – CLOSED SESSION:**

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS**

Property:	District's Pre-1914 Water Rights
Agency Negotiator:	David Weisenberger and Jeanne Zolezzi
Negotiating Party:	State Water Resources Control Board
Under negotiation:	Water Rights

The Board returned to open session with no announcement.

**ITEM 12 - UPDATE ON 2015 WARREN ACT CONTRACT 15-WC-20-4659 WITH THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION. ACTION AS NECESSARY.**

General Manager Weisenberger reported is still waiting on clarification from the Bureau of Reclamation on when the District would be able to pump water under the new Warren Act Contract and if the District would be able to transfer water.

**ITEM 13 – REPORT ON VIABILITY OF BUILDING SPUR DIKES IN THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER AT THE BCID DIVERSION POINT TO PROTECT THE FISH BYPASS DISCHARGE OUTFALL AND TO MINIMIZE ANNUAL DREDGING MAINTENANCE IN THE RIVER. ACTION AS NECESSARY.**

General Manager Weisenberger met with Chris Neudeck and Bill Darsie of KSN Engineering of Stockton California along with a couple of trustees from the McMullin Reclamation District Friday, January 16, 2015 to talk about the proposed Spur Dike Project and get their feedback. Mary Hildebrand and a Mr. Cardoza were the two trustees that participated. From a levee protection perspective they saw the merits of the spur dike project to protect their levee. From a fellow diverter perspective they were concerned with the additional sand that may go down stream and harm their diversion points. They felt that would be a concern to other diverters in their Reclamation District. They also observed that the Corps may not want anymore sand coming towards the shipping channel as they already have to dredge thousands of tons for the shipping channel now. Mary said that her dad Alex pushed for years to have two or three locations on the San Joaquin River as permanent dredging locations to keep sediment from entering the delta. The whole group did not hold out much hope that the corps would support such a project as this would be preventative and the corps generally only takes action for emergencies.

**ITEM 14 – CONSIDER PROVIDING WATER SERVICE TO KASSON CONTRACT HOLDERS OUTSIDE OF THE CONTRACT SERVICE YEAR AND REVIEW AGREEMENT ACKNOWLEDGING CONDITIONS FOR SERVICE. ACTION AS NECESSARY.**

Secretary Howe asked the Board about allowing Kasson Contract Holders receiving water service outside of the contract service year. There have been no requests for service at this time, but with the dry conditions she expects may be requests before the next board meeting. Director Roger Elissagaray made a motion to allow the Kasson Contract Holders to receive water service outside the contract service year through December 2015, providing the landholder sign an agreement acknowledging the cost of the water would be at the current outside the district rate and it would be deducted from their annual allocation of water. Director James Thoming seconded the motion and it carried by the following vote; Ayes: Directors James McLeod, Roger Elissagaray, Keith Robertson, Glenn Robertson and James Thoming; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: None

**ITEM 15 - APPROVAL OF WARRANTS.**

Director Keith Robertson moved that the February 2015 Warrants in the amount of \$229,287.14 be approved for payment. Director Glenn Robertson seconded the motion and it carried by the following vote; Ayes: Directors James McLeod, Roger Elissagaray, Keith Robertson, Glenn Robertson and James Thoming; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: None

At the end of the meeting Director James Thoming asked to return to ITEM 4 and announced that after his many years of service he has decided to retire from the Banta-Carbona Irrigation District Board of Directors. The President of the Board thanked him for his service and directed staff to take the necessary steps to fill the vacancy.

The meeting was then adjourned to Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully,

Margaret G. Howe