

A meeting of the GFWD was opened at O'Neill Agri-Management Office on November 18, 2019 starting at 1:30 PM.

PRESENT: Paul Stewart, Diane Kirk, Ken Basila, Steve Emmert, Tom Campagne and Don Roberts
ABSENT: Seth Kirk
PUBLIC: Garth Pecchenino - QK Consulting; Staci Silva - New Current for Westchester Group;
Michael Naito - Farmer

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On a motion by P Stewart and a second by D Kirk, the minutes of the regular meeting of October 21, 2019 and the Special Meeting of October 28, 2019 were unanimously approved as emailed
3. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: No potential conflicts were identified.
4. WATER SUPPLY: There is no change in the supply. Still at 95% CI 1 and 0% CI 2.
5. SYSTEM MAINTENANCE: Three meters are currently being repaired. Sergio's Welding is making a new upright for a weir in the creek. Planning to repair bent frame on canal gate at the north end of boundary in GF Canal. Still planning to replace cracked line between Gallo and Naito in December.
6. GSA/GSP (SGMA):
 - a) GSA/GSP -Discussed the letters from Fresno Irrigation District and North Kings GSA regarding the Madera Subbasin overall plan. Davids Engineering under contract with Madera County had established the base lines for water supply to the subbasin and it was the Board consensus that Davids should respond to these letters. Garth was directed to write to Stephanie Anagnoson, Director of Madera County Water & Natural Resources, expressing GFWD position on Davids responsibility in this issue. It appears the Fresno Groups are trying to make claims to water that is not within their subbasin.
 - b) Draft Basin Coordination Agreement - After discussion the Board took no action on this item. Consideration of possible action on any Coordination Agreement will be an agenda item for the December Board meeting. Tom reminded everyone the the submittal deadline to DWR is January 31, 2020.
 - c) "218 Assessment" Process - Garth reported the ballots for Prop 218 Election were sent out by registered mail. Don said he thought we were going to send a letter prior to mailing the ballots. There has been some confusion by a few landowners. Upon a motion by P Stewart and a second by D Kirk, the Board unanimously agreed that the District should send a letter to landowners, farm operators and farm managers to give additional explanation on the Prop 218 process. Don was directed to handle this.

At the Special Board meeting, the Board approved having two neutral parties count the ballots at the December Board meeting and report the results at the meeting. Michael Naito agreed to participate and Don will contact Roy Catania to see if he would be available as the other observer.

Tom indicated the 218 Public Hearing should be the first action item at the December 16th meeting. After the Public Hearing is opened for any testimony or questions, then any walk-in Ballots would be collected. The Ballots would next be given to the "neutral observers" for the Ballot count and tally. Don asked who is to cast the Ballot on behalf of Gravelly Ford - the Manager or the Board President. Upon a motion by D Kirk and a second by K Basila, the Board voted unanimously to authorize Don on behalf of the district to cast the vote to "approve the proposed annual Specialized Assessment to implement the Groundwater Sustainability Plan".

Don received an email from MID which stated:

- a) MID is a public agency and should be exempt from this assessment
- b) MID has requested their parcel be de-annexed from GFWD
- c) the property is rangeland and should not be subject to the assessment for "implementation of the GSP"

Don stated he thought the "218" was based on benefits and he did not believe the MID property was receiving any "benefit" from this entire process.

The question is current land use. Don advised it was being leased out for grazing. He also stated there is no well on the property. Garth said that MID could change the land use for irrigation. Don said based on all the EIR studies done on the property, he did not believe this to be possible. If this assessment is placed on the property, the total GFWD assessments would exceed the current rental income value. The County is not assessing rangeland as part of their SGMA related assessments. Garth said MID could detach. The Board previously indicated this was a solution that could be acceptable. It was decided that meeting with MID would be a starting point to resolving this issue. Don will pursue this option.

7. **MADERA REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP:** Don advised he was out of town and did not attend the October meeting. The meeting minutes included a "Draft 2020 Budget" which will be voted on next month. Don indicated it was not clear to him what the proposed budget and possible extras included, so he would not request any action without additional clarification. DWR has indicated the Plan Update is fully approved, however, the Group is still waiting for official written confirmation on this.

Prop 1 funding - Mountain Counties: Indian Lakes Smart Meter project for \$500,000 has been selected.

Valley Counties: The City of Madera is working on their application for Smart Meters.

8. **RECHARGE PONDING BASIN:** Nothing to report. This item will only be included on future agendas if there is something to report.
9. **ANNEXATION:** Don advised the requested changes have been made to the MSR portion of the Application. Don will follow up with the County consultant.
10. **FINANCIAL REPORT:** a) The Board was presented with a summary of the November 18, 2019 bills, the November 18, 2019 summary of the District's Temporary Investments and the November 2019 Income & Expenses for the year, along with the monthly totals of Temporary Investments for 2017, 2018, and 2019. On a motion by D Kirk and a second by K Basila, the Board voted unanimously to approve payment of the November bills in the amount of \$26,655.20.
11. **CORRESPONDENCE & MANAGER'S REPORT:** Don reported the district has received an "Award Certificate" from JPIA for not having any claims in the last year. Don also advised he authorized Raymond James to reinvest \$250,000 in a CD to mature in July 2020. The District has a CD that will mature in December and it would be reinvested for a period of four months.
12. **BOARD COMMENTS:** None
13. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting declared adjourned at 2:20 PM.

Next regularly scheduled meeting is for Monday December 16, 2019 at 1:30 PM at the O'Neill Agri-Management Office.