

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
OF THE  
BROWNS VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
FEBRUARY 27, 2020**

At 5:00pm President Woods called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Browns Valley Irrigation District to order. Directors present were Bordsen, Wheeler, Lowe and Maslan. Also in attendance were Manager McNally, Clerk Springsteen and Operations Manager Shrader.

**1. Minutes:** The Minutes of the February 27, 2020 Regular Board Meeting were approved on a motion by Director Lowe, seconded by Director Wheeler. All ayes, motion passed.

**2. Public Forum:** Residents from Mountain View Terrace inquired about status of receiving BVID water in their area.

**3. The Board will consider adopting the 2020 Budget.** Director Lowe, seconded by Director Maslan moved to approve the 2020 Budget as presented. All ayes, motion passed.

**4. Manager’s Report:**

**COLLINS LAKE STATUS**

DATE	REMAINING SUPPLY VOLUME	%	LAKE ELEVATION	DIST BELOW SPILL	RELEASES	GEN OUTPUT
<b>TODAY</b>	<b>33,040 AF</b>	<b>66.7%</b>	<b>1,164.8 FT</b>	<b>18.2 FT</b>	0.0 CFS	<b>0 kW</b>
1 YEAR AGO	49,500 AF	100.0%	1,184.0 FT	SPILLING	0.0 CFS	1,043 kW

**STAFF ACTIVITIES**

Staff is continuing to monitor the dry conditions as customers are starting to call and ask for water. With the reservoir being so far behind, and another month remaining of winter, charging the ditches remains hard to justify.

On Tuesday, February 18, 2020, the Manager participated in a conference call with YWA General Manager Curt Aikens to discuss progress on the Voluntary Settlement Agreement. According to Mr. Aikens, the settlement is being looked upon favorably by the State and things are moving forward. However, I (and the Member Units) have several questions for Steve Grinnell that are scheduled to be answered in the next couple weeks. The first is how the additional 50,000 acre-feet in flows will not affect the member units in most years as Mr. Grinnell assured, and secondly, since YWA is being paid for this water, will they consider paying pumpers to cover this shortage if necessary?

On Tuesday, February 25, 2020, the Manager met with YWA staff to discuss the latest earnings from the Power Enhancement Agreement. Mr. Aikens recognized that power generated with BVID’s water should also be eligible for “carbon free credits” and the addition is estimated to net the District another \$25K to \$30K per year. Carbon free credits are credits purchased by various communities that choose to buy power from clean energy sources only and are willing to pay a premium for it.

On Wednesday, February 26, 2020, the Manager met with ACIP Energy again to discuss the PPA process for solar. Staff suggested it would be counterproductive to buy the energy from a third party company when we have the resources to purchase the infrastructure and produce our own energy from day one. ACIP explained that the benefit of the PPA to public agencies is to allow the provider to capitalize on tax credits, depreciation that the District cannot, as well as the ability to avoid prevailing wages, and pass each of those savings onto the District. Another option is to prepay the PPA at 85% and then own the system at year 7 and ACIP will provide more information on that option. Nevertheless, without a compelling reason to demonstrate purchasing a system outright is less advantageous than the PPA structure, including an assurance that those savings are truly being passed on, the Manager's opinion remains that it might be better to purchase a system outright, even if some degree financing is required.

## **CURRENT PROJECTS**

### **Conserved Water Transfer**

All indications point to both Conserved Water and Groundwater Substitution transfers this year. The Manager has spoken with Dudley Ridge regarding the CWT and the Accord is scheduled to meet with the buyers group in Sacramento in mid-March 2020 to discuss volume and pricing.

### **Pumpline Canal**

Mr. Charlie Mathews called and requested the District look at utilizing the Cordua Canal to deliver more capacity along the Pumpline Canal by BVID selling it to several properties that the water can be delivered to via gravity from the Cordua Canal (i.e. Spring Valley Road Farms). Per Mr. Mathews, the benefits would be as follows:

- Increased capacity on the Pumpline Canal (estimated 20-30 cfs);
- Savings realized by not pumping (an acre foot costs approximately \$9 to pump, whereas Cordua would charge \$5+/- to wheel);
- BVID would sell the water at its current rate.

Although staff concurs there are obvious benefits, several concerns are as follows:

- Who controls the water?
- How is the water measured? (Presumably metered at the Cordua Canal to be delivered into BVID, but also how is it recorded at the river for YWA tracking?)
- YWA and SWRCB concurrence – Can BVID and Cordua legally divert water at a different location without jeopardizing water rights? If not, will YWA permit BVID to take project water at the Cordua Canal with the understanding that the place of use will remain unchanged?
- Will customers with the ability to be served by this mechanism have a way to unfairly circumvent the “waiting list?”
- Will customers with the ability to be served by this mechanism have the ability to choose to purchase less expensive Cordua water?
- Does wheeling BVID water in ditches constructed by private farmers violate any CEQA or other regulatory requirements?

With Board concurrence, staff will research these issues with legal counsel as well as the Yuba Water Agency.

### **SB 88**

Staff and Wildeye installed the telemetry hardware for measuring the lake depth in real time. This was done by running the cable through conduit and sinking the sensor to the bottom of the reservoir near the penstock intake. To date, pursuant to SB 88, the District has telemetry equipment at the powerhouse, at the Upper Main pump and is now able to report hourly data for lake elevation.

### **Virginia Ranch Dam**

Uma Hinman is working on the 4<sup>th</sup> revision of the Emergency Action Plan. Of the nearly 700 plans statewide, only 20+/- have been accepted by CalOES, which indicates a systemic problem on their end.

## **PAST MEETINGS**

- 02/18/20 The Manager attended a Member Unit Meeting to discuss the Voluntary Settlement Agreements.
- 02/20/20 The Manager will attend a Yuba River Endowment Board meeting at YWA.
- 02/25/20 The Manager met with Uma Hinman to discuss revisions to the EAP.
- 02/25/20 The Manager met with Mary Gabel (YWA) to discuss carbon credits and how they affect the Power Enhancement Agreement.
- 02/25/20 The Manager attended an Ag Leadership reception at Montna Farms.
- 02/26/20 The Manager met with David Vincent to look at alternative funding sources for solar.
- 02/27/20 The Manager attended a Groundwater Sustainability Committee meeting at Yuba County.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- 03/04/20 The Manager is meeting with Katie Burdick and Company to discuss possible additional IRWMP projects.
- 03/04/20 The Manager is attending a Groundwater Management Workshop at YWA.
- 03/06/20 Director Maslan and the Manager are attending the annual NCWA meeting in Chico.
- 04/30/20 Sexual Harassment Training for the Board and Management at BVID.

## **DISTRIBUTION MAINTENANCE / OPERATIONS**

### **Upper District**

Operations Crew have been busy with various projects throughout the district, ditch cleaning continues as time permits. Most of the cleanup has been trees from the Cascade Fire.

Crew has been cleaning up in front of the office; new lighting has been installed as well as the parking lot striping being repainted.

Work has been completed on the new concrete weir for the O'Brien pump station.

A new meter has been installed for George Starr.

The installation of the new lake level sensor has been completed; 350' of conduit was sunk to the bottom of Collins Lake. The sensor should be functional before the start of water season.

Staff has been receiving applications for the open Utility Worker 1 position. We have several promising applicants and will be interviewing the end of next week.

### **Future Projects**

Move the mainline for the Spring Valley Road realignment.

Six new services to install.

**5. Director's Comments and Reports:** None

### **6. Correspondence:**

- Letter dated February 12, 2020 to BVID from FERC regarding Reminder of Responsibilities
- YCWA Voluntary Settlement Agreement Proposal
- YCWA Kurt Aikens retirement letter

**7. Adjournment:** President Woods adjourned the meeting at 6:05PM