

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
KINNELOA IRRIGATION DISTRICT
March 16 , 2004**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Directors Brain, Pickard, Sorell and Stock.

STAFF PRESENT: Shirley Burt

CONSULTANT PRESENT: William Kruse, Esq.

CALL TO ORDER: The Executive Session of the Board was convened at 1910 Hours by the Acting Chair, Steve Sorell, with only Members of the Board and Legal Counsel in attendance.

STATEMENT REGARDING EXECUTIVE SESSION:

After the Executive Session, the Board convened in open session at 1957 Hours. The Acting Chair, Steve Sorell, reported that the Board had met in Executive Session to discuss the General Manager position and that no decisions were made during the meeting. He noted that a quorum of four Board Members were present and that the Agenda was before the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ben Walker stated that he reviewed Linda Williams letter and found a number of items that were disturbing problems that were caused by inaction of the Board. He enumerated the following -- 1) loss of two good General Managers, 2) inability of the Board to select a new General Manager, 3) staff insubordination, 4) potential fine to the KID of \$99,000. He stated that the basic problem is the failure to install the necessary checks and balances --good operating procedures that are enforced. He suggested that the Board consider the following suggestions -- 1) Put effective checks and balances into the operation of the KID, 2) Get rid of insubordination if it exists, 3) Keep the pure water flowing reliably and effectively, 4) Concentrate on keeping the overall costs down. He further suggested that 1) Mel be kept on the Board as Chair, providing him with full pay for the amount of time he puts in to work on the above problems making the solutions both Board and Operation, 2) Have Chris work closely with Mel in developing these solutions, 3) Set a completion date of 120 days for review and implementation. He stated that he predicted the selection of the General Manager would be much easier at that time whether it be Chris, Mel, or an outsider.

The Chair, **Steve Sorell**, stated "We respectively disagree with some of your statements, but appreciate your input.

Frank Griffith stated that he has attended most of the Board Meetings and thinks that there are more controls now than ever before. He stated that the process the Board is going through to hire people is the right thing, and that a lot of the things on the list are rumor and have nothing to do with reality. He further stated that for people to stand up and talk about these things in a public place like it is gospel is wrong and that people should be sure about what they are talking about

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before discussing it in a public place.

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Ken Scott stated that he wanted to comment regarding a suggestion that Bert had made at the school meeting regarding the consideration of putting the water District up for sale. He stated he feels very strongly that should not be done. He further stated that the last thing he would want to do would be to put in a phone call with a problem and have it go to Covina, Los Angeles, or some distant location and wait a week for a response and two weeks for a resolution. He said one of the things he held in high regard is the ability of the Kinneloa Irrigation District to respond quickly and effectively which has been his experience on two or three occasions.

Bert Tibbet stated he is concerned that District 3 is not represented on the Board at this time and requested to know what the Board's plans were in regard to filling this position. The Chair, **Steve Sorell**, replied that signs have been posted in accordance with the law advertising the opening in the Division and that two candidates have come forth. He stated that the Board will be interviewing those applicants as well as considering others things. He noted that there is still a window of opportunity to make an appointment before the matter would have to go to the Board of Supervisors.

Jo DeCarolis stated that she would like to confirm Ken's statement that she has always had good results whenever she had a problem and the service has always been very prompt.

REPORT OF AD HOC COMMITTEE TO SELECT GENERAL MANAGER

The Chair reported that the Ad Hoc Committee, consisting of Directors Brain and Pickard, had received the resumes of applicants outside of the area, narrowed those applicants down to one person who they interviewed and also interviewed Chris and Mel. The Chair commended the Committee for the time and effort they put into process. He further stated that both members of the committee had recommended that an offer of employment be extended to Melvin Matthews. It was M/S (Pickard/Brain) - "That Mel Matthews be appointed to the General Manager position"

Director Sorell then requested comments from the Board.

Director Stock stated that he was reluctant to appoint anyone at this time because he had contacted other small water companies in the area, two and three times our size in terms of meters, and markedly reduced in staffing as General Managers of those companies work three days a week with their administrative budgets comparable if not less than ours. He further stated that he was concerned that the Board was not going to go out and look at these options first, and maybe look at ourselves--our staffing, our work load. He stated that he was reluctant to vote for a General Manager at this time for want of more information as he is not sure we need a full time manager at this time. It was then M/S/C-"**That Mel Matthews be appointed to the**

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General Manager position” with Directors Brain, Pickard, and Sorell voting aye, and Director Stock abstaining.

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Director Sorell then appointed Director Brain to confer with the District’s Legal Counsel and have District Counsel negotiate an employment letter and report back to the Board promptly.

STAFF REPORT

The Administrative Assistant, Shirley Burt, reviewed the Staff Report as included in the Board Packet.

Frank Griffith asked to comment about the turn arounds in the Pasadena Glen. He stated that after the 1993 fire, the Fire Department surveyed the area and places were built with the understanding that certain things were done, but that there are a lot of turn arounds that have not been put in. He suggested that if the District is going to be involved in this particular turn around, he would suggest that they follow the standards as set by the Fire Department as the Fire Department must approve all changes that are made to these turn arounds.

Director Sorell stated that that is why the Board requested the District Engineer to review the situation and make recommendations.

Linda Williams stated that the turn around as it exists is the minimum that the Fire Department would accept, but that the Contractor has damaged it and the site was never protected with a recorded easement.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 17, 2004 were unanimously approved except for the typographical error on the last line of page one where “218” should be listed rather than “18”.

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Financial Report of February 29, 2004 was reviewed and unanimously approved for filing. Check #1700 was questioned as to the category it was charged against and it will be checked as to the accuracy of this budget item.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

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Approval of General Manager's Contract.
Replacement of Division III Director

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2030 hours. The next Regular Meeting will be held on April 20.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Burt
Secretary To The Board