

HILMAR COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 7, 2024

Members Present – Jim Jones, Frank Hilliard, David Anderson, Jim Gerdes, and Tony Salvador.

Members Absent – None.

Public in Attendance – Ms. Ruth Kaber, Mr. & Mrs. Randy Womack and Mrs. Celeste Tremble (Mrs. Tremble arrived @ 7:10 p.m.).

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Action Items

A motion to approve the Consent Items was made by David Anderson and seconded by Tony Salvador. Motion passed 5-0.

A motion to approve Bills Payable: May 2024 was made by Jim Gerdes and seconded by Frank Hilliard. Motion passed 5-0.

A motion to approve the continuation of the emergency order the Board approved at the July 31, 2023, Board meeting, based on the conditions continue as per Resolution 565, was made by Frank Hilliard and seconded by Jim Gerdes. Motion passed 5-0.

A motion to adopt Resolution 570: A Resolution Implementing Annual Adjustment to Facilities, Capital Improvement Fees, Impact Fees, and Inspection Fees Pursuant to Ordinances Set Forth in Title Four of the Hilmar County Water District Code was made by Tony Salvador and seconded by David Anderson. Motion passed 5-0.

A motion to adopt Resolution 571: A Resolution Opposing Initiative 1935 (formerly 21-0042A1) and Joining the NO on Initiative 1935 (formerly 21-0042A1) Coalition, a Growing Coalition of Local Government, Public Safety, Labor, Infrastructure Advocates, and Other Organizations Throughout the State was made by Frank Hilliard and seconded by Tony Salvador. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting – 05/07/24
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The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Jim Jones.

Consent Items – A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Items and changing the heading of the closed session to Public Employee Performance Evaluation (§ 54957) – District Manager.

Public Forum – Mr. & Mrs. Womack were wondering what is the status of the water situation? Curtis Jorritsma stated that the Nitrate water situation would be discussed as part of his District Manager’s Report.

District Manager’s Report –

Curtis Jorritsma reported that the water loss for the month of April was 17.86%. This is still on the higher side. The industry average is 5 to 10%. TSS and BOD are holding steady. TSS was 24 mg/L and BOD was 24.3mg/L. Jonathon continues to do a great job in keeping up with the process at the plant.

Curtis provided an update on the Nitrate exceedance. We continue to send notices with our monthly billing statements. He provided a chart of the results for April. Well # 6 overall has been in compliance and the TID yard had 3 spikes in April. Well #7 continues to exceed the maximum contaminant level of 10mg/L.

Day	Date	Well 6	Well 7	Nyman Blend	TID Yard
Tues	2-Apr	1.6	34.3		1.55
Thurs	4-Apr	1.81	34		1.76
Tues	9-Apr	1.53	33.5		1.81
Thurs	11-Apr	31.5	30.7		31
Tues	16-Apr	1.87	24.9		11.7
Thurs	18-Apr	8.42	26.3		1.77
Wed	24-Apr	1.55	8.79		7.15
Thurs	25-Apr	1.4	17.6		10.9
Tues	30-Apr	1.4	12.07		7.11
Thurs	2-May	1.74	13.1		5.63

The State suggested that we pump more from Well #6. The more we pump from Well #6 the arsenic level tends to rise. We are a groundwater dependent system, and we continue to work on getting a good blend of water supply to our customers. We are still exploring the possibility of a pilot project @ Well #7 with Tailwater Systems. That would cost \$30,000 to \$40,000 to implement. Curtis stated a call he had with SWRCB was not a productive call. Funding is not there, and the State has not seen a good working biological system to treat Nitrates. Other treatment systems are available, but are cost prohibitive at the moment. We will more than likely be issued with a compliance order.

Curtis provided an update on Project W05-2023 Test Holes & Water Sampling. The drilling company drilled to a depth of 740ft and has sampled 4 of the 5 zones. We have not received any lab results yet. We expect to have results soon. We will be starting to drill the second pilot hole on the south end of town.

Curtis also provided an update on the DDW Funding application for loans and grants. He received an email from the Department of Drinking Water yesterday, stating they had reviewed the application and based on the information provided we did not qualify. Curtis quickly replied to the email stating how could that be? And a phone call conversation was immediately scheduled. After the phone conversation, it was determined we meet the criteria to move us towards the top of the list. Additional paperwork will need to be submitted and the process, once documents are submitted, could take up to 9 months.

Curtis informed the Board he attended the CRWA Expo and it was a great conference. He also stated we did implement the semi-weekly pay period for the staff. The Board Members will continue to be paid based on a full month and paychecks will be issued the first paycheck run of the following month.

Curtis reported yesterday, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Special District Grant Accessibility Act, legislation that would codify a first-ever definition of “special district” in federal law. The bill would require federal agencies to ensure special districts are eligible for federal assistance.

Director Reports – Mr. Hilliard is concerned with the capacity at the WWTF. Curtis stated that we plan to complete a Sieve analysis/percolation test at the plant. Capacity will become more critical when we have a new well come online and future development.

Action Items –

- A) The bills that are due to be paid in May were presented. A motion was made and seconded to pay the bills presented.
- B) Curtis stated the Board approved Resolution 565 – Finding an Emergency and Authorizing Abbreviated Emergency Procedures for Construction of a New Well on July 31, 2023. As part of this process, the Board needs to analyze the situation and determine if the situation still constitutes an emergency. After a brief discussion, the Board determined the conditions warrant to continue with an emergency order. A motion was made and seconded to continue with the emergency order.
- C) Curtis presented Resolution 570: This resolution will implement the annual adjustment to Facilities, Capital Improvement Fees, Impact Fees and Inspection Fees Pursuant to Ordinances set forth in our District code. Staff recommended approving resolution 570. A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 570 Implementing the Annual Adjustment to Facilities, Capital Improvement Fees, Impact Fees, and Inspection Fees.
- D) Curtis presented Resolution 571. This resolution is to oppose Initiative 1935. An Association representing California’s wealthiest corporations is spending millions of dollars to promote a deceptive proposition currently eligible for the November 2024 statewide ballot. The proposed proposition limits the ability of voters and state and local governments to raise revenues for government services. The measure would revise the Constitution to allow corporations to sue public agencies, costing residents and taxpayers millions of dollars and disrupting essential services. Staff recommended approving resolution 571. A motion was made and seconded to adopt Resolution No. 571: A Resolution Opposing Initiative 1935 (formerly 21-0042A1) and Joining the NO on Initiative 1935 (formerly 21-0042A1) Coalition, a Growing Coalition of Local Government, Public Safety, Labor, Infrastructure Advocates, and Other Organizations Throughout the State.

Discussion Items –

- A) Curtis stated the Workplace Violence Prevention Plan is a new plan required by SB 533 that needs to be implemented by July 1, 2024. A copy of the plan was provided to all

Board members via email. This will be on the agenda at the next meeting as an action item. He informed the Board to let him know if there are any questions.

- B) Curtis presented a PowerPoint presentation of the first draft of the 2024/2025 Budget. Overall, the District is in an acceptable financial position. The water and sewer entities are doing well, storm drainage we will need to work on. We are expecting to remain balanced. Curtis stated he is very proud of all of our staff, and we are very fortunate to have the staff we do have. Looking at the 24/25 budget, he is looking at an increase of 3.2% COLA and a performance adjustment of 2 to 5%. Curtis asked for input from the Board regarding the proposed new salary increases. Mr. Anderson stated based on the budget and how staff is handling the financial aspects there should be no reason to not increase the salary rates. The other Board members agreed that staff should receive an increase as stated by Curtis.

Mrs. Celeste Tremble arrived at the meeting at 7:10 p.m. After Curtis was done with the discussion items, the Board asked Mrs. Tremble if she had any questions. She asked how long she would have to buy bottled water. Curtis went over what he had already reported on his District Managers Report.

The Directors Convened to Closed Session at 7:16 p.m. to discuss Public Employee Performance Evaluation (§ 54957) – District Manager.

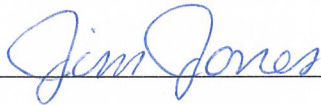
Directors returned to Open Session at 7:31 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.


Respectfully Submitted,



Approved by:



Board Member



Date