

**PANOCHÉ DRAINAGE DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
January 11, 2022, at 9:00 A.M.**

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held in accordance with Resolution 800-21 proclaiming a local emergency and authorizing remote teleconference Board meetings through January 13, 2022, pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, and to make the meetings accessible to the public electronically. Those present at the meeting were:

Directors Present: John Bennett, President
 Michael Linneman, Vice-President
 Steve Fausone, Secretary
 Aaron Barcellos, Director
 Beau Correia, Director

Directors Absent: None

District Staff Present: Ara Azhderian, General Manager
 Juan Cadena, Water Resources Manager
 Lorena Chagoya, Ethics & Compliance Officer

Others Present: Philip Williams, General Counsel
 Diane Rathmann, Of Counsel
 Palmer McCoy, Grassland Basin Authority

ANNOUNCEMENT PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54952.3

Pursuant to the Brown Act, President Bennett announced that Directors do not receive compensation or a stipend for simultaneous or serial order meetings of Panoche Water District, Panoche Drainage District, Panoche Financing Authority, and/or the Panoche Resource Conservation District.

CALL TO ORDER

President Bennett called the regular meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

General Manager Azhderian requested Agenda Item 7 be deleted as it was mistakenly carried over from the previous Agenda. The Board concurred and the Item was removed.

ROLL CALL

A quorum of the Board and presence of the District’s Officers were confirmed.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts reported.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CONSENT CALENDAR

General Manager Azhderian presented the Board with the Consent Calendar, which included monthly financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2021. After consideration, on a motion by Director Fausone, seconded by Director Linneman, the Board accepted the Consent Calendar as presented.

The vote on the matter was as follows:

- Ayes: Bennett, Linneman, Fausone, Barcellos
- Nays: Correia
- Abstain: None
- Absent: None

THE BOARD TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON THE SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY GRASSLAND BASIN DRAINAGE STEERING COMMITTEE

General Manager Azhderian presented the draft Resolution and explained that following the departure of Director Stearns from the Drainage District Board, it was necessary for the Board to appoint his replacement to represent the District on the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority’s Grassland Basin Drainage Steering Committee. After consideration, on a motion by Director Barcellos, seconded by Director Fausone, the Board elected to appoint Director Linneman to serve as Director and Director Barcellos to serve as Alternate on the Steering Committee.

The vote on the matter was as follows:

- Ayes: Bennett, Linneman, Fausone, Barcellos, Correia
- Nays: None
- Abstain: None
- Absent: None

THE BOARD TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER A RESOLUTION DETERMINING THAT DURING THE GOVERNOR’S PROCLAIMED STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, MEETING IN PERSON WOULD PRESENT IMMINENT RISK TO THE HEALTH OR SAFETY OF ATTENDEES

General Manager Azhderian explained the proposed Resolution was identical to the one adopted by the Board at the last meeting except that it extended the proclaimed state of emergency and ability for the Board and public to meet virtually until February 10, 2022. After consideration, on a motion by Director Fausone, seconded by Director Barcellos, the Board unanimously adopted the Resolution as presented.

The vote on the matter was as follows:

- Ayes: Bennett, Linneman, Fausone, Barcellos, Correia
- Nays: None
- Abstain: None
- Absent: None

THE BOARD TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS

General Manager Azhderian presented the Board with the District’s accounts payable. Upon review, the Board requested information on the outstanding balance of the loans to the Drainage District by the Water District. After consideration, on a motion by Director Barcellos, seconded by Director Linneman, the Board approved payment of the bills.

The vote on the matter was as follows:

Ayes:	Bennett, Linneman, Fausone, Barcellos, Correia
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Manager Azhderian presented the Board the monthly FY 2021-22 Budget-to-Actual Report. Upon review, the Board requested information on the legal and financial audit budgets and a breakdown of the Drainage Service Fee costs.

DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT REPORT

General Manager Azhderian reported on water quality monitoring results for the Grassland Bypass Project, noting the Project continues to meet water quality objectives, and ongoing activities at the San Joaquin River Water Quality Improvement Project. He also presented a proposed budget adjustment by the Grassland Basin Authority, which was forecasting a budget surplus of \$636,000 and requesting to use the surplus cash to purchase equipment, reduce future-year members’ dues, and increase the GBA reserve. The Board discussed the pros and cons of the request and a potential refund and deferred further discussion to the next GBA Board meeting.

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

General Manager Azhderian updated the Board on the status of the Proposition 84 grant funded work, including the Tile Sump SCADA Project, potential land acquisition, and other drainage conveyance improvements.

DIVISION REPORTS

- A. Water Resources Manager Juan Cadena reported the Water District’s December deliveries were about 85 acre-feet and that no deliveries had occurred since December 10, 2021. He said crews were working on Pump Station 13E, setting up a new delivery box, pump, and pipeline. Lastly, Cadena reported crews would be working to build a Prop 84 funded all-weather road to the Grassland Bypass Channel inlet gates. He reported the work had been originally budgeted under the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority’s Grassland Drainage Steering Committee’s budget but staff had been able to get approval from the Department of Water Resources to utilize grant funds instead saving the District approximately \$120,000.

- B. General Manager Azhderian reported financial accounting staff were working on calendar year-end accountings and annual payroll tax reports. He said water accounting staff were preparing to send 2023 water year applications, forms, and information requests and processing the December usage billings.

- C. Ethics & Compliance Officer Lorena Chagoya reported on the District's activities relating to regulatory compliance, human resources, and risk management for the month of December. She stated that there were no liability or worker's compensation claims, however, there were three unrelated, positive COVID-19 cases, which have been mitigated and resolved. Chagoya also indicated that there were no reports on the SpeakUp hotline, however, there were three internal reports, which have all been resolved. She also provided a brief overview for 2021, stating that there were a total of thirty (30) internal reports resolved during the year and that the District maintained a high score of 90% or better at every quarterly safety inspection. Chagoya said there were a total of three claims for property damage and one claim for liability but that there had been no worker's compensation claims during the year. Chagoya also reported the District had hired a new part-time housekeeper and said farewell to the Controller and an equipment operator. Lastly, Chagoya updated the Board on upcoming and completed safety trainings.

PANOCHE WATER & DRAINAGE DISTRICTS JOINT CLOSED SESSION

General Counsel Williams announced there was no need for a Joint Closed Session.

REPORTS ON OTHER ITEMS PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54954.2(a)(3)

No reports were given.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

A special meeting was scheduled for January 25th at 9:00 a.m.. The next regular meeting of the Board was scheduled for February 8, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business on the agenda, President Bennett adjourned the meeting at 10:03 a.m..



John Bennett, President



Steve Falsone, Secretary