# PANOCHE DRAINAGE DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS March 14, 2023, at 9:00 A.M.

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held at 52027 West Althea Ave., Firebaugh, CA 93622. Those present at the meeting were:

Directors Present: Aaron Barcellos, President

Steve Fausone, Secretary Beau Correia, Director Wayne Western, Director

Directors Absent: None

District Staff Present: Ara Azhderian, General Manager

Juan Cadena, Water Resources Manager

Others Present: Philip Williams, General Counsel

Palmer McCoy, Grassland Basin Authority

Michael Linneman, Linneman Farms (via phone from unnoticed location)

#### ANNOUNCEMENT PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54952.3

Pursuant to the Brown Act, President Barcellos 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 Barcellos called the regular meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

#### **REVIEW OF AGENDA**

There were no changes to the Agenda.

#### **ROLL CALL**

For purposes of a quorum, Vice-President Linneman was considered absent. A quorum of the Board and presence of the District's Officers were confirmed.

# **POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

No conflicts were reported.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

# **CONSENT CALENDAR**

General Manager Azhderian presented the Board with the Consent Calendar, which included draft minutes from the February 14, 2023, regular meeting and the March 1, 2023, special meeting of the Board; and the monthly financial statements for the period ending February 28, 2023. After

consideration, on a motion by Director Correia, seconded by Director Western, the Board accepted the Consent Calendar as presented.

The vote on the matter was as follows:

Ayes:

Barcellos, Fausone, Correia, Western

Nays:

None

Abstain:

None

Absent:

Linneman

# THE BOARD TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS

General Manager Azhderian presented the Board with the District's accounts payable. After consideration, on a motion by Director Fausone, seconded by Director Correia, the Board approved payment of the bills as presented.

The vote on the matter was as follows:

Ayes:

Barcellos, Fausone, Correia, Western

Nays:

None

Abstain:

None

Absent:

Linneman

#### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

General Manager Azhderian presented the Budget-to-Actual Report noting that expenses were tracking well with projections. The Board requested a final Budget-to-Actual Report after the close-out of the 2022-23 fiscal-year.

#### DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Grassland Basin Authority General Manager, Palmer McCoy, provided the Board an update on activities at the San Joaquin River Improvement Project. General Manager Azhderian reported on Grassland Bypass Project activities.

# **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

General Manager Azhderian updated the Board on Proposition 84 grant funded Westside Regional Drainage Management Plan implementation activities noting that with the recent wet weather, field work has been on hold.

### **DIVISION REPORTS**

- A. Water Resources Manager Juan Cadena reported February water deliveries of only 713 acre-feet and that current deliveries were averaging only 15 cubic-feet per second. He reported maintenance crews had installed or repaired canal gates at turnouts 10W-S, 10E-2, and 86; cleaned Lateral 2 turnout 204, and the crossing at 500 Ditch 50 Gate, installed new trash racks and fixed 30 linear feet of washout on the Russell Ditch. Lastly, Cadena reported Cal Poly ITRC was still processing the data it requested from the District and that Reclamation had scheduled inspections on May 10<sup>th</sup> of the District's turnouts on the Delta-Mendota and San Luis canals.
- B. General Manager Azhderian reported that accounting staff was working on the fiscal-year close-out process, preparation the Drainage District's FYE 2023 budget, and supporting the Drainage District's FYE2022 financial statements auditing process. He said the Watermaster was reviewing 2023 water year applications and assisting growers that had not yet submitted the required forms

and processing the February ag and M&I water billings and the monthly reporting of water usage and payments to the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority and Reclamation.

# PANOCHE WATER & DRAINAGE DISTRICTS' JOINT CLOSED SESSION

General Counsel Williams announced that the Panoche Water and Drainage Districts Boards would meet jointly in closed session for a conference with legal counsel on anticipated litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9, Subdivision (d), Paragraphs (2) or (3).

At approximately 9:45 a.m., President Barcellos called the joint closed session to order.

At approximately 11:34 a.m., President Barcellos adjourned the joint closed session.

#### JOINT CLOSED SESSION REPORT

General Counsel Williams reported the Boards met jointly with legal counsel in closed session and no reportable action was taken.

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

No reports were given.

# **FUTURE MEETING DATES**

The next regular meeting of the Board was adjourned to 9:00 a.m. on April 18, 2023.

# **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business on the agenda, President Barcellos adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Aaron Barcellos, President

Steve Fausone, Secretary