

**PANOCHÉ DRAINAGE DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 08, 2022, at 9:00 A.M.**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held in accordance with District Resolution 805-22 proclaiming a local emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic and authorizing the District’s legislative body to hold meetings by web and teleconference, and to make meetings accessible to the public electronically, pursuant to Assembly Bill 361. 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
 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 9:01 a.m.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the Agenda.

ROLL CALL

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 items, which included draft meeting minutes from the May 11, 2021, regular meeting of the Board and the February 22, 2022, special meeting of the Board, and the monthly financial statements for the period ending February 28, 2022. Directors Bennett and Linneman approved the May 11, 2021 meeting minutes at which they were present. After consideration, on a motion by Director Barcellos, seconded by Director Correia, the Board unanimously accepted the Consent Calendar 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 APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT OFFICERS TO SERVE DURING THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING MARCH 1, 2022, THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2023

General Manager Azhderian presented the Board the current roster of Officers. The Directors discussed the potential benefits of changing officers and the practice of other districts to rotate Directors on a predetermined frequency. Mr. Barcellos expressed interest in serving as President; however, other Board members expressed concern about potential conflict of interest due to his role as President of the Grassland Basin Authority. After discussion, on a motion by Director Linneman, seconded by Director Fausone, the Board voted to maintain the current roster with Mr. Bennett serving as President, Mr. Linneman servicing as Vice-President, Mr. Fausone serving as Secretary, and the District’s Accounting Supervisor, Mrs. Marlene Brazil, serving as Treasurer.

The vote on the matter was as follows:

Ayes: Bennett, Linneman, Fausone
Nays: Barcellos, Correia
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 IMMEDIATE RISK TO THE HEALTH OR SAFETY OF ATTENDEES

General Manager Azhderian explained this Resolution was identical to previous versions adopted over the past few months pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, except that it further extended the timeframe in which the Board and public may meet virtually to April 7, 2022. Directors expressed a preference for meeting in person but also an appreciation for the ability to meet virtually due to the uncertainty about the future spread of COVID-19. After consideration, on a motion by Director Barcellos, seconded by Director Correia, 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 AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH PANOCHÉ WATER DISTRICT

General Manager Azhderian presented the Board the draft agreement. He explained that while the Water District, which historically has provided all services to the Drainage District, and the Drainage District have effectively worked together for years without a formal agreement, execution of an agreement would represent a better management practice. General Counsel Williams reviewed the key terms of the agreement with the Board. The Board requested staff prepare a presentation on the roles of the Drainage and Water Districts in drainage management to explore if greater efficiency could be achieved by eliminating the Drainage District. After consideration, on a motion by Director Barcellos, seconded by Director Linneman, the Board unanimously execution of the Agreement 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 ACCEPTING THE GENERAL MANAGER’S ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE DISTRICT’S INVESTMENT POLICY

General Manager Azhderian explained that the Policy requires annual review by the Board and that, in the current absence of the Controller, he had reviewed the Policy with the District’s staff and financial consultants and that no changes were being recommended at this time. After consideration, on a motion by Director Barcellos, seconded by Director Fausone, the Board unanimously accepted the General Manager’s recommendation.

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. The Board requested that the invoices for professional and legal services be provided for review. After consideration, on a motion by Director Correia, seconded by Director Barcellos, the Board unanimously 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

DIVISION REPORTS

- A. Water Resources Manager, Juan Cadena reported on water deliveries and maintenance activities. He said February’s deliveries totaled 1,700 acre-feet and that last week, daily average deliveries were running approximately 10 cubic-feet per second. He said the maintenance crew had repaired 3 air vents on the Main Canal Station 7W pipeline extension, replaced trash racks at the

Contour Canal Station 6E, pulled the recirculation pumps for preventative maintenance, cleaned the T-Canal and Westside drains, sprayed weeds along the San Luis Drain, and were installing stairs at the Grassland Bypass Inlet.

- B. General Manager Azhderian reported the financial accounting staff were beginning work on the fiscal-year end close out and that the water accounting staff were reviewing annual forms submittals to ensure growers wanting to reschedule 2021 water or apply for 2022 water were fully accounted for.
- C. Ethics & Compliance Officer, Lorena Chagoya reported on risk management activities for the month of February. There had been no liabilities or worker's compensation claims nor any reports to the SpeakUp Hotline, she said, however, there was one COVID-19 case, which was not workplace related, and nine internal reports had been resolved. She also said that an internal audit of the SpeakUp Hotline had determined issues with wait time and reporting and that the District was working with the service provider to resolve the issues. On employee trainings, she summarized the trainings completed during the past month, including the updated COVID-19 Prevention Program (CPP), and the job specific safety trainings scheduled for March, including pesticide hazards communications and Lock Out, Tag Out. Lastly, Chagoya reminded Board members that FPPC Form 700's are due April 1st and requested those needing to update their State mandated sexual harassment and AB1234 Ethics trainings to provide their certificates to the District as soon as possible.

PANOCHÉ 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 (1), (2), or (3).

At approximately 12:10 p.m., President Bennett called the joint closed session to order.

At approximately 2:28 p.m., President Bennett adjourned the joint closed session.

JOINT CLOSED SESSION REPORT

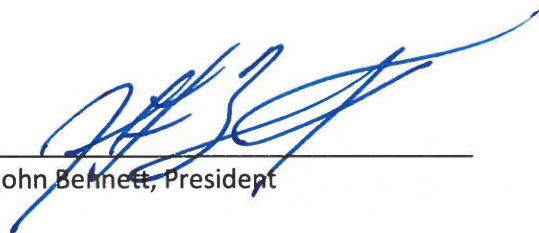
General Counsel Williams reported the Boards met jointly with legal counsel in closed session and took no reportable action.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

A special meeting of the Board was scheduled for March 29, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. The next regular meeting of the Board was scheduled for March 8, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business on the agenda, President Bennett adjourned the meeting at 2:29 p.m.



John Bennett, President



Steve Fausone, Secretary