

**PANOCHÉ DRAINAGE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
August 13, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on August 13, 2024, at 9:00 am. Those present at the meeting were:

Directors:                 Aaron Barcellos, President  
                                  Steve Fausone, Secretary  
                                  Beau Correia, Director  
                                  Wayne Western, Director

Staff:                     Patrick McGowan, General Manager  
                                  Marlene Brazil, Accounting Supervisor  
                                  Juan Cadena, Water Resources Manager  
                                  Chris Carlucci, Maintenance Manager  
                                  Josh Marquez, Contracts Administrator  
                                  Sandra Reyes, Water Master

Others:                    Neill Callis, Turlock Fruit Company  
                                  Palmer McCoy, GBA  
                                  Phil Williams, Legal Counselor

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Barcellos called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Barcellos led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

A quorum of the Board of Directors was present.

**POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

There were no conflicts of interest.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**BOARD TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER APPROVING THE JULY 15, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Upon a motion by Secretary Fausone and seconded by Director Western, the Board approved the July 15, 2024, regular board meeting minutes as presented. The vote on the motion was as follows:

Ayes:                    Barcellos, Correia, Fausone, Western

Nays:                   None

Absent: Linneman  
Abstain: None

**BOARD TO REVIEW AND GIVE DIRECTION TO STAFF CONCERNING THE PANOCHÉ DRAINAGE DISTRICT DRAFT SOLAR POLICY**

General Manager Patrick McGowan reported on a red-line version of the Solar Policy that annotated changes that had been made since the last board meeting. After discussion by the Board, it was noted that the policy is meant to protect the privacy of the growers, as well as any existing solar policies. Also that the policy not interfere with anyone’s ability to install solar and allow participants in good standing to transfer water out of the District if so wanting as long as we are following the Board’s policy for transferring water out. The Board directed the General Manager to utilize his fair discretion to implement the solar policy and suggested revising the wording under 1.a. to read “to reflect direction by the Board, but not limited to.”

Upon a motion by Director Correia, and seconded by Secretary Fausone, the Board approved the Solar Policy with the revised wording being added. The vote on the motion was as follows:

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

**BOARD TO CONSIDER DESIGNATING AS ITS CANDIDATE REPRESENTATIVE FOR MERCY SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT, GRASSLAND BASIN AUTHORITY GENERAL MANAGER PALMER MCCOY**

General Manager Patrick McGowan presented the Board with a notice appointing Palmer McCoy as the Designation of Agent for Sole Purpose of Serving as Director and Agent of Landowner Panoche Drainage District (PDD). Mr. McGowan explained that Mr. McCoy’s appointment to the Mercy Springs Water District (MSWD) Board of Directors had already been approved by Fresno County and that the notice was an instrument to formalize the process for PDD.

Upon a motion by Director Western and seconded by Secretary Fausone, the notice to have Palmer McCoy represent PDD as a landowner to the MSWD Board of Directors was approved as presented. The vote on the motion was as follows:

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

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

- A. Accounts Payable**
- B. Monthly Financials**
- C. FYE 2024 Budget to Actual**
- D. Other financial matters**

Upon a motion by Director Correia and seconded by Secretary Fausone, the board approved the financial reports as presented by Accounting Supervisor Mrs. Brazil. The vote on the motion was as follows:

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

## REPORT ITEMS

### **OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE**

Maintenance Manager Mr. Carlucci reported on the following operations and maintenance activities for the month of July:

- General Maintenance
- Weed Control – Staff sprayed the Courtney drain, Russell drain, Althea drain, Sabbatti drain, and Hammond Drain.
- Charleston Drainage District – Checking oilers on CH-2 pumps.
- Staff worked on flash board riser on the Davidson drain.

### **DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT**

Water Resources Manager Juan Cadena reported on the following drainage management activities for the month of July:

- We are meeting our thresholds and there was hardly any activity happening due to no rainfall.

### **GRASSLAND BASIN AUTHORITY**

The General Manager of the Grassland Basin Authority (GBA) Mr. Pamer McCoy reported on the following:

- The GBA held their board meeting last week and at the meeting the Board approved purchasing a backhoe.
- The GBA finished their 1<sup>st</sup> cutting and the price of Jose Tall Wheat Grass is in the \$60 range, noting that everything had been sold for the next 30 days.
- The GBA is also working on getting some surveying work done on the ponds.
- The GBA also had a walk-through of the Prop 84 work being done.

### **THE BOARD TO RECEIVE UPDATES FROM STAFF ON VARIOUS MATTERS AFFECTING THE DISTRICT**

Staff reported on various items that had been completed, or were ongoing, on the Action Items List presented - dated July 15, 2024. General Manager Patrick McGowan reported that some productive conversations had been held with delinquent landowners/lessees that were resulting in remittances being made. Mr. McGowan also explained the Tile Line Policy is currently being worked on.

### **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

General Manager Mr. McGowan reported on the following:

#### **A. Prop 84 Grant for Westside Regional Drainage Plan**

Mr. McGowan participated in the pre-bid construction walk-through of the proposed re-bordering project on the west side of Russell Avenue. There were 3 contractors present for the site visit and the engineering estimate was approximately 2.5 million. Our current objective is to ensure we position ourselves to have cash in hand to fund the Prop 84 projects.

#### **B. Annexation**

We will be reaching out to the various landowners to have the Landowner Authorization Agreements signed.

#### **C. San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority (SJVDA)**

Nothing to report at this time.

#### **D. Grand Jury Report No. 5 "Fresno County Special District Website Transparency: Seeing Your Dollars at Work"**

Mr. McGowan reported that the Fresno County Grand Jury had audited over fifty District's websites for transparency and that the Panoche Water District was one of the Districts that received a perfect transparency score on the "District Transparency Certificate of Excellence" checklist with a week's notice. Panoche Drainage District has work to do and is following the checklist as needed. The District has 60 days to reply to the Grand Jury on actions they will be taking moving forward. Our plan is to have the Transparency Certificate of Excellence checklist completed at the date of submission.

**E. Election Candidacy**

Mr. McGowan reported that there were no other growers/landowners that had submitted their candidacy forms, so the three current board members that were up for re-election ran unopposed. Mr. McGowan also noted that if Mr. Linneman submits his resignation, then the Panoche Drainage District Board will have to appoint a Director that will serve until 2026. Mr. Linneman has suggested that Mr. Neil Callis be appointed as his replacement.

*At approximately 9:50 am, President Barcellos announced that the Drainage District meeting would be taking a five-minute break.*

*At approximately 9:55 am, President Barcellos announced that the Drainage District meeting would resume.*

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

There were no other items.

**PANOCHÉ DRAINAGE DISTRICT CLOSED SESSION: Conference with Legal Counsel**

At 11:37 am, the Boards met in Closed Session to meet with legal counsel on related anticipated litigation.

At 11:58 am, Mr. Williams stated that no reportable actions were taken in Closed Session.

**PANOCHÉ WATER AND DRAINAGE DISTRICTS CLOSED SESSION: Conference with Legal Counsel**

At 12:06 pm, the Boards met in Closed Session to meet with legal counsel on related anticipated litigation.

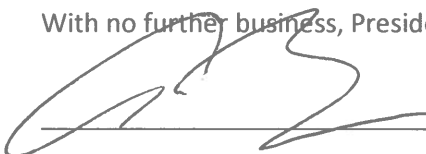
At 12:38 pm Mr. Williams stated that no reportable actions were taken in Closed Session.

**FUTURE MEETING DATES**

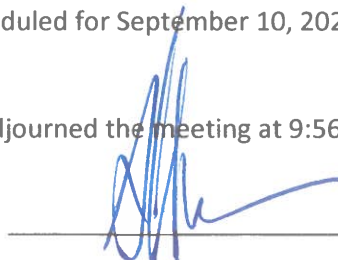
The next regular meeting of the Board was scheduled for September 10, 2024, at 9:00 am.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, President Barcellos adjourned the meeting at 9:56 am.



Aaron Barcellos, President



Steve Fausone, Secretary