

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
BUENA VISTA WATER STORAGE DISTRICT, BUENA VISTA GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY AND
BUENA VISTA COALITION**

April 17, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Buena Vista Water Storage District was held at the district office at 525 N. Main Street, Buttonwillow, California, on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at the hour of 12:30 p.m.

Call to Order: The President took a roll call at 12:30 p.m.

The following Directors were present:

Mr. Craig Andrew
Mr. Terry Chicca
Mr. Julien Parsons
Mr. John Vidovich

The following Director was absent:

Mr. Jeof Wyrick

Executive Session: The Board went into Executive Session at 12:30 p.m. Discussions began pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(1) for those certain matters of pending litigation listed on the agenda, and Government Code section 54956.9(d)(2) and/or 54956.9(d)(4) for those matters of potential litigation listed on the agenda and Government Code section 54956.8 real property negotiations listed on the agenda.

The Board returned to Open Session at 1:00 p.m. and Mr. St. Lawrence reported that no action was taken in Executive Session that would require disclosure under the Brown Act.

Others present in open session:

Mr. Tim Ashlock	Mr. JB Hay
Mr. Isaac St. Lawrence	Mr. Clifton Lollar
Ms. Marybeth Brooks	Mr. Jake Cauzza
Ms. Angela Thompson	Mr. Tom Toretta
Mr. Amrit Mangat	Mr. Larry Antongiovanni
Mr. Adam Sevier	Mr. Steve Houchin
Mr. Felix Echeverria	Mr. Matt Klassen
Mr. John Echeverria	Mr. Rod Stiefvater
Mr. Rick Riccomini	Mr. Travis Millwee
Mr. Mark Romanini	Mr. Greg Actis
Mr. Jeff Parsons	Mr. Bryan Bone

Minutes: The President stated that copies of the minutes for the meeting held on March 20, 2024, were emailed, and asked if there were any corrections, additions and/or deletions. None were noted, on motion of Director Vidovich, seconded by Director Andrew the minutes were approved.

Ayes:	Directors Andrew, Chicca, Parsons, Vidovich
Noes:	None
Absent:	Director Wyrick
Abstain:	None

Public Statements: President Chicca announced that the State Board held a public hearing on the Tulare Lake Sub-Basin compliance with SGMA and determined to put the Sub-basin on probation.

Consent Calendar: The items on the Consent Calendar were as follows:

- 6. Financial Report:
 - (a) *March Payables
 - (b) *Appropriations & Expenditures

- 8. Landowner and M & O Matters
 - (a) *Maintenance Update

- 9. Water Supply & Related Issues
 - (a) *Watermaster Report

- 10. Project Development and Related Issues:
 - (a) *Belridge Pipeline Project
 - (b) *BV Pipeline
 - (c) *The Palms
 - (d) *Brite Pump Station

- 12. Buena Vista Coalition

- 14. Kern County Water Agency

On motion by Director Vidovich, seconded by Director Andrew, the Board approved the Consent Calendar by roll-call vote.

Ayes: Directors Andrew, Chicca, Parsons, Vidovich
 Noes: None
 Absent: Director Wyrick
 Abstain: None

Financial Report: District Treasurer provided the Board with a written report and verbal report on the district finances. (See also Consent Calendar.)

President Chicca appointed Director Andrew and himself to serve on Audit Committee to review the 2023 District Audit.

Landowner and M & O Matters: Director Parsons announced a potential conflict of interest as he has an ownership interest in the property that is the subject of this agenda item. He then recused himself from discussion and action related to Item 8(b) Main Drain Easement and Quit Claim and left the room. Mr. Mangat explained that the district had relocated the Main Drain and a new easement is needed for the new location and a quitclaim deed to release the old abandoned Main Drain canal location. Staff and Legal Counsel will prepare the required documents. By a motion made by Director Vidovich and seconded by Director Andrew, the easement and quit claim were approved for preparation. Director Parsons returned to the room after the discussion and vote.

Ayes: Directors Andrew, Chicca, Vidovich
 Noes: None
 Absent: Directors Wyrick, Parsons
 Abstain: None

Water Supply: Mr. Mangat gave a verbal report on the district's water supply, water use and banking numbers. Director Vidovich recommended an increase in the 2024 water allocation and made a motion to increase the allocation to 1.50 af/ac, seconded by Director Andrew, the Board approved the 1.50 af/ac water allocation.

Ayes: Directors Andrew, Chicca, Parsons, Vidovich
 Noes: None
 Absent: Director Wyrick
 Abstain: None

Director Vidovich stated that the District should consider a right-of-first refusal for district landowners to purchase water sold by the district and asked for future consideration whether such water should be offered at a discounted price. Director Parsons stated that this type of right-of-first refusal is being discussed at the Rules and Regulations Committee meeting as part of the revisions

to the district's Rules and Regulations. President Chicca stated that as this item is not on the agenda, the Board cannot consider it, but it could be placed on the agenda in the future and suggested waiting until the revised Rules and Regulation are completed.

Mr. Mangat explained the Yuba Water Program stating that the exact price is yet to be determined and deliveries will usually occur between July and November 2024. Staff requested consideration from the Board to allow landowners to purchase the water to be used in the district or taken out of district to other lands in Kern County. Mr. Mangat stated that interested landowners must sign up by May 1, 2024, and it will be first come, first served. By a motion made by Director Vidovich, seconded by Director Andrew the Board approved to allow all landowners in the district to sign up for the Yuba Water Program and have the right to their share of water and allow the water to be taken outside of the district or use within the district, with the price being the cost to the District and point of delivery where the District would take the water.

Ayes:	Directors Andrew, Chicca, Parsons, Vidovich
Noes:	None
Absent:	Director Wyrick
Abstain:	None

Project Development and Related Programs: President Chicca announced that he, Mr. Ashlock and Edrick Guise of Vireo Spark attended the Power and Water Resources Pooling Authority Board of Directors meeting, and the district was given approval to begin the study with PWRPA to review the costs. The scope of the project will include four pump stations and 3 BGRP meters.

BV Groundwater Sustainability Agency: Mr. Ashlock gave an update on the progress of the BVGSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan stating that is uncertain if one plan or multiple plans will be submitted and the pros and cons regarding the management of the white lands were discussed.

Director's Forum: President Chicca announced that Bring Back the Kern is asking the court to allocate 40% of allocated natural flow at First Point to be allocated to fish flow. The District along with other Kern River right holders are opposing this request.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Assistant Secretary