

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
LATHROP IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lathrop Irrigation District convened on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 at 4:03 p.m. at 1235 Academy Dr, Lathrop, California. Due to concerns caused by the Coronavirus, the meeting was noticed as an optional online meeting for members of the public and staff.

Board of Directors Present:	Ravi Kotecha, Michael Dell’Osso
Directors Absent:	None
Also Present:	Curtis Bryant, Erik Jones, Keri Richards (via Online), Terry Truscott, Brian Biering, Esq.- Ellison, Schneider, Harris, & Donlan (via phone)
Public Present:	Juan Vega, candidate for appointment to vacant Board position; Albert Peche, candidate for appointment to vacant Board position

There being a quorum present, the meeting was declared in order.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

(At this time, the Board agreed to consider Agenda item 4 ahead of Agenda item 4)

Board members expressed a desire to discuss the qualifications of the candidates for appointment to the vacancy created by the resignation of Scot Moody without the candidates in the room. Counsel advised that they could not require the candidates to leave, however if they were willing to do so the meeting would still be within the limits of the Brown Act. Both candidates left the board room and the Board discussed the candidate qualifications based on the information provided in the Board packet. Upon return, the candidates were advised that the Board had selected Juan Vega as the appointee to the Board. Mr. Peche gave a synopsis of his experience and thanked the Board and staff for considering his application. A motion was made by Director Dell’Osso to appoint Juan Vega to the position. A second was made by Director Kotecha and the motion passed on a 2-0 vote.

Director Kotecha made a motion to nominate Director Vega as the new Board President, a second to the motion was made by Director Dell’Osso. The motion passed on a 3-0 vote. Director Vega made a motion to nominate Director Kotecha as the Vice President. Director Dell’Osso made a second to the motion and the motion was passed on a 3-0 vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF June 29, 2022 Special Board Meeting: Director Dell’Osso made a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 29, 2022 Special Board Meeting. Director Kotecha seconded the motion. Director Vega abstained as was not in attendance at that meeting and the motion was approved by a 2-0 vote.

STAFF REPORTS:

- a. Mr. Bryant advised that the substation project is moving along, the building is being constructed using as much local personnel as possible. Our engineers are working with PG&E to finalize the metering requirements, and it has been agreed that no impact study will be necessary.
- b. Staff advised that there has been an increasing concerning trend where renters have been failing to pay their bills and have been “skipping” out and leaving the District customers with the additional costs. Staff would like to know the legal implications of implementing a mandatory deposit for all rentals, since the District cannot recover through a lien on the property. District Counsel will look into this question for the next meeting.
- c. Staff advised that there are customers whose energy usage is extraordinarily high which poses a risk for any who fail to pay final bills or are disconnected for non-payment. Staff would like to know the legal implications of implementing a mandatory deposit for any service whose monthly usage exceeds a predetermined amount over and above the typical customer usage for the rate class. District Counsel will look into this question for the next meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-03 APPROVING THE DISTRICT EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK: Mr. Jones advised that he had discussed the contents of the proposed handbook with District Counsel and the HR representative from our payroll company, and the language suffices because even though FMLA may not affect our employees, the California CFRA laws are applicable. Director Dell’Osso made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-03, Director Kotecha made a second to the motion and the motion was approved on a 3-0 vote.

Mr. Bryant advised that he has been working to put together a retirement policy which would provide a retirement benefit to employees who participate in the current retirement plan based on the District’s financial status. There was discussion as to the legalities of that proposal and other options. The Board requested staff to bring back a proposal for consideration based on the options discussed.

Staff presented information regarding the current energy markets, and how LID purchases the power procured for delivery to customers. Also discussed was the cost associated with the maintenance of the utility, labor, and other costs in order to keep the District running. Staff advised that with the current increased costs of energy, rates are not keeping up and the trend is unsustainable. The Board requested additional information and would like to see how LID compares to PG&E and other utility rates and would like to do a public meeting to help customers understand what we are facing and why rates need to be addressed again.

DISTRICT ENGINEER’S REPORT: None

TREASURER’S REPORT: Ms. Truscott presented the June 2022 warrants for approval, as well as a report on the District’s cash position. Director Kotecha made a motion to approve the warrants, Director Dell’Osso made a second to the Motion. The motion was approved by a 3-0 vote. The Board reviewed the Cash Balance and Budget to Actual reports presented by Ms. Truscott as well.

OTHER BUSINESS: District counsel advised that the new Board member would need to complete the necessary Form 700 for assuming office. Secretary Richards advised that she would provide that information to Director Vega for completion. Mr. Bryant asked that the website be updated with Director Vegas information.

Next Regular Board meeting scheduled for August 24, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keri Richards

KERI RICHARDS,
Secretary