

Browns Valley Irrigation District
Post Office Box 6, Browns Valley, CA 95918

**AGENDA OF THE
BROWNS VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

WHEN
Thursday
August 26, 2021
5:00 pm

WHERE
Teleconference via Zoom
Browns Valley, CA
95918

This meeting will be conducted by Zoom Video Conference and Audio Teleconference Only.

The Browns Valley Irrigation District supports the orders and directives from the California Department of Public Health and the California Governor's Office in the effort to minimize the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 enables meetings of legislative bodies to be conducted by way of a teleconference. Governor's Executive Order N-33-20 directs all individuals in the state to stay at home or their place of residence except those individuals designated as essential by the Federal Government or the Office of the Governor.

The public is invited to listen, observe and, at designated times provide comments during the meeting by either method provided for below.

For members of the public interested in viewing and having the ability to comment at the public meeting via Zoom, an internet enabled computer equipped with a microphone and speaker or a mobile device with a data plan is required. Use of a webcam is optional. Login information is below.

Join Zoom Meeting (Copy and paste link into the search field of an internet browser):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86041349820>

Password: **123456**

To participate via the audio only teleconference, dial-in to the meeting using the information below.

Audio Only Dial-in 1-888-475-4499 Meeting ID: 860 4134 9820

Public comment may also be provided in writing via email to the General Manager at bvid@bvid.org.

Written public comment received via email prior to the adjournment of the meeting will be included in the record. If received before the end of the Board's discussion of an agenda item, email/comments about the item will be read or summarized by District staff.

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OF THE
BROWNS VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT
AUGUST 26, 2021**

President Lowe called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Browns Valley Irrigation District to order. Directors present were Bordsen, Woods, Lowe and Sokoloski. Director Wheeler was absent. Also in attendance were Secretary / Clerk McNally. Administrative Services Manager Springsteen and Operations Manager Shrader were absent.

1. Minutes: The Minutes of the August 12, 2021 Regular Board Meeting will be reviewed by the Board for approval. A motion by Director Woods, seconded by Director Bordsen to approve the August 12, 2021 minutes. Directors Bordsen, Lowe, Woods, and Sokoloski ayes, Director Wheeler absent. Motion passed.

2. Public Forum: None

3. The Board will receive a presentation from Collins Lake regarding proposed improvements to the campground and boat launch areas. The Board received a presentation from Mr. Jacob Young of Collins Lake who gave an overview of scheduled improvements at the campground and boat ramp. No action taken.

4. Manager’s Report:

COLLINS LAKE STATUS

DATE	REMAINING SUPPLY VOLUME	%	LAKE ELEVATION	DIST BELOW SPILL	RELEASES	GEN OUTPUT
TODAY	3,200 AF	6.5%	1,117.0 FT	66.0 FT	66.2 CFS	130 kW
1 YEAR AGO	20,970 AF	42.4%	1,149.1 FT	33.9 FT	76.7 CFS	392 kW

Dry conditions continue as BVID ends the fourth month of the irrigation season. Community efforts on conservation continue to maintain the projected route which is slightly better than the 2015 customer usage. Estimates with current consumption patterns shows an arrival at minimum pool (1,109 feet surface elevation, or 7,500 acre feet) during the week of September 13, 2021.

YUBA RIVER STATUS (PUMPLINE CANAL)

DATE	MAX DIVERSION RATE (BVID/YWA CONTRACT)	BVID WATER RIGHT (CURRENT MONTH)	CURRENT DIVERSION*
TODAY	90 CFS	47.2 CFS	15.77 CFS

**If the current diversion exceeds BVID monthly water right, the difference is deducted from the District’s “Project Base Supply.”*

Lower District supplies on the Yuba River continue as expected. The District is limited to its monthly water rights allocation (47.2 cfs), plus any remaining project base supply and demand has begun to taper

down. The irrigation season will end September 30, 2021 and on October 1, 2021, when the fall allocation begins, the District will continue receiving its water right per corresponding month, which is normal since project base does not extend past September:

MONTH	FALL DIVERSION RATE
September	47.2 CFS
October	47.2 CFS
November	35 CFS
December	13 CFS

It is important to remember that per the Water Supply Agreement, any water saved during the irrigation season cannot be applied toward the fall allocation. This is due to the fixed fall allocations that are established with tight tolerances consistent with fish flow requirements.

STAFF ACTIVITIES

Management is monitoring the COVID 19 resurgence and is prepared to increase protective measures consistent with County and/or State standards. This includes another office closure and management staff working from home on a rotating schedule, if the conditions are appropriate. Management is fully outfitted with the equipment and networking access to perform all office functions remotely, including call forwarding and VPN access to the server and files.

Yuba Water Agency staff has prepared a long-term forecast assessment for the upcoming winter and spring. Although the data is not certain, and things can change, indications show a La Nina condition that gives even odds between a wet or dry water year. However, our area in California generally trends drier during La Nina conditions. The data also shows that the month of November appears to be the only month that has potential below average geopotential height anomalies. The remaining months indicate above average geopotential height anomalies, which generally equate to drier conditions. In summary, November is predicted to be the wettest month.

If true, and storms occur early in the season, we may see another “snow on dry ground” phenomenon where there is minimal spring runoff. Although this does not affect the Dry Creek watershed into Collins Lake, it may very much affect the Yuba River project base supply from New Bullards Bar like we encountered this year. As we have discussed, there is little threat to BVID’s pre-1914 water right as long as the requisite 47.2 cfs is measured at the Slate Creek gage.

Staff has received a notice of curtailment for all water rights post 1883 through the end of August, and some pre-1914 water rights curtailments will continue through September, but it is unclear which those are. SWRCB staff intends to send weekly updates. Staff has asked MBK to prepare the required response certifications prior to September 3, 2021.

As of August 26, 2021, there has only been one applicant for the General Manager position.

The Operations Manager, along with Utility Workers Josh Kugelman and Dan Ward, conducted interviews for the open Utility Worker I position. Management has decided to do another round of interviews in hopes of finding that perfect fit. There are two vacancies.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Collins Lake

Staff is working to locate appropriate contractors to provide aerial and submerged surveys of Collins Lake. The ROV to inspect the intake structure is scheduled for September 14, 2021.

Virginia Ranch Dam

Staff is working with Dr. Lon House to analyze power purchase options and so far, the best alternative is to move forward with the RES-BCT program which offsets the power used by the District at its various pumps, shop and office. Staff is now comparing the program with other private purchase agreements and will report soon at a future meeting.

Sicard Pipeline Project

Management is working with Yuba Water to begin the process of purchasing pipe and hopes to begin construction of the first 7,000-foot section. It is estimated that the first phase will save approximately 2,000-acre feet of water in Collins Lake of the 2,800-acre feett savings associated with the entire project. Two critical issues that will require further action in the short term:

- Addressing the exponential increase in the cost of pipe. Staff estimates the first 7,000 feet of pipe will cost more than \$1 million, which is far more than the estimates received during the concept and design phase of the project. Staff will need direction at a future Board meeting to determine whether scaling the project down has a strategic benefit.
- Updating the District's Purchasing Policy. The current policy is from 1983 and does not address various elements as required for the grant by the Bureau of Reclamation. Staff intends to work with legal counsel to develop an updated policy prior to the September 9, 2021 Board meeting.

PAST MEETINGS

08/25/2021 The Technical Services Manager attended the monthly YWA Groundwater Workshop.

FUTURE MEETINGS

N/A

DISTRIBUTION MAINTENANCE / OPERATIONS

Upper District

Customers in the upper district are continuing to do their part in conserving Collins Lake water.

Releases are averaging around 130 acre-feet per day. Lake level appears to be on target for the September 13 shut off date.

The Virginia Ranch Dam Power plant is back online, Don Moss with Henwood energy was able to repair several little problems and get us back up and running.

PG&E removed the Osprey nest on the pole above the power house, PG&E placed a nesting platform that should keep nest debris out of the power lines and power from being interrupted.

The Able Pipeline experienced outages due to breaks, they have been repaired and back online.

A new service was installed on the Township Pipeline.

Crew moved a service box on Fred Circle.

The Thousand Trails ditch is being mechanically cleaned, the ditch bank is being repaired and improved in many bad and narrow sections along the ditch.

Staff continues to be busy with service calls and repairs.

Lower District

Demand has decreased and the pumps are running at 16 CFS.

District well is off.

5. Director's Comments and Reports: None

6. Correspondence: Curtailment orders from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

7. Closed Session: Public employee appointment or employment involving the unrepresented position of General Manager (Government Code section 54957(b)).

8. Open Session: The Board will report any action taken in closed session.

- The Board directed staff to schedule an interview for the General Manager applicant.

9. Adjournment: 6:28 PM