

RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 108

Minutes of the Regular Meeting Of the Board of Trustees

June 16, 2016

President Durst called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 19, 2016 at Reclamation District No. 108 headquarters, Wilkins Slough, Colusa County, California.

Trustees Present: Fritz Durst, Jon Leonard, Roger Cornwell and Sean Doherty

Trustees Absent: None

Others Present:	Lewis Bair, General Manager	Deke Dormer, Landowner
	Kevin O'Brien, Legal Counsel	Cameron Kaelin, Landowner
	Bryan Busch, Assistant Manager	Fred Durst, Landowner
	Chad Navarrot, Operations Manager	Gardner Armstrong, Landowner
	Cathy Busch, Executive Secretary	Blair Volez, Landowner
	Beverly Walls, Bookkeeper	Hilary Reinhard, Landowner
	Steve Beckley, PR Consultant	Scott Monckton, Landowner
	Don Kitamura, Landowner	Kim Gallagher, Landowner
	Don Huff III, Landowner	Don Huff Jr, Landowner
	Marty Stripling, RGF	Candy Dormer, Landowner
	Derek Strain, Landowner	Eileen Diepenbrock, Attorney

Agenda – It was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Doherty and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda as submitted.

Open Forum

President Durst welcomed the public to the meeting and opened the meeting to questions. Landowner Durst asked about the Outside Drainage issue and was told that it was on the agenda for action at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Kim Gallagher asked if the District could or would consider including independent pumpers outside of the District to become part of the District's GSA as done by Glenn Colusa Irrigation District (GCID). Ms. Gallagher stated that she had lands just outside of the District and would be interested in learning more about the possibility of being a part of the District's GSA.

Manager Bair gave a report on the Sacramento River (River) operations and the pressures that the Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) is getting from the Department of Fish and Wildlife to hold more water behind Shasta for temperature control later in the year for salmon. He explained what the impacts could be to agricultural diverters if the River diversions are decreased. The District should hear next week the final decision regarding Shasta operations.

Manager Bair reported that the District is currently working on an Alternative Water Analysis to inform District Landowners and Water Users related to investing in Sites Reservoir or other backup water supply options like groundwater pumping or periodic fallowing. Manager Bair asked landowners to please contact him if they would like to participate in and/or discuss this issue. This Analysis will help improve its potential water needs from the Sites Project or other sources.

The Public Forum ended at 9:18 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board went into Closed Session at 9:18 a.m. to conference with legal counsel regarding one possible litigation (El Dorado Pumping Plant) pursuant to subdivision (b) of section 54956.9. Trust Cornwell and Attorney O'Brien excused themselves and departed the meeting. The Board came out of Closed Session at 10:25 a.m. and President Durst announced that the Board directed staff to moved forward with discussions with River Garden Farms regarding this issue.

ADMINISTRATION

Public Participation: There were no further comments from the Public at this time.

Consent Agenda – After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Doherty, seconded by Trustee Cornwell and unanimously approved to approve the consent agenda, including the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on May 19, 2016 with one correction, and the June Financials for both Maintenance and Irrigation Funds as presented.

Accounts Payable – After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Doherty, seconded by Trustee Leonard and unanimously approved to approve the accounts payable: Maintenance Fund in the amount of \$228,128 and on-line payments issued in May to be ratified in the amount of \$63,485 and payments issued in May in June to be ratified in the amount of \$26,843; and Irrigation Fund in the amount of \$772,494 and payments in June to be ratified in the amount of \$11,370.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **Operations Report** – Operations Manager Navarrot reported on maintenance within the District. In response to a question, he reported that the measurement program seems to be working well and commended staff for their efforts.

2. 2016 Water Operations – Manager Bair reported on the operation of the Sacramento River and the possible impacts to the District’s water supply should NMFS restrict USBR releases from Shasta. The District participates in several conference calls per week with the Settlement Contractors, USBR to coordinate the water requirements of the Sacramento River diverters. Should it be decided that the releases from Shasta will be cut further a Special Board meeting will be called to discuss the Districts possible actions.

3. Projects

- **Wallace Weir** – Manager Bair reported that the Project design has been completed and the Project is fully funded. The on-site borrow material did not meet the required specifications for the permanent part of the weir, so material has been found off-site. The project is also overlapping with an emergency smelt food supply action. That action will run water through the job site until July 22, approx. 1 week before the start of construction.

- **Office Remodel** – The District has adopted the CEQA document and it was filed with Colusa County. It should take about 2 or 3 months to obtain the required permits before construction can start.

4. SGMA – Assistant Manager Busch reported that Colusa County is seeking funding assistance to cover the cost of David’s Engineering help at the next GSA Workgroup meeting. This cost is estimated to be about \$8,610. The District is being asked to help cost-share in the workgroup cost for \$3,000. After further discussion, it was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Leonard and unanimously approved to cost-share for David’s Engineering assistance with the GSA issue, with the District getting future credit if future funding is needed.

5. Local Water Transfers – Assistant Manager Busch reported on a meeting with CCWD and DWD regarding water transfers. He pointed out the concerns that the two districts have and that it will take surface water being at a lessor cost to landowners than groundwater in order to promote the use of the surface water. Manager Bair reported that USBR is seeking Project Water to purchase for the smelt emergency action program. If the USBR purchases the water the District will be relieved of the full costs, whereas if CCWD and DWD purchase water in 2016 the District would still pay the capital component for the water. It was the consensus of the Board to table this discussion until the USBR has made a determination on the smelt recovery program water.

6. Water Measurement Policy Amendment – Manager Bair reviewed the proposed amendment to the Water Measurement Policy. It was further proposed that the actual bill will be equal to double the estimated water rate instead of the measurement water with a penalty of \$10 per acre per month for the period out of compliance with water being diverted for irrigation. After

discussion, it was moved by Trustee Doherty, seconded by Trustee Cornwell and unanimously approved to amend the Water Measurement Policy as proposed. The Water Measurement Policy with highlighted changes is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

INFORMATION REPORTS

Attorney's Report – Attorney O'Brien reported on the NRDC vs Jewel lawsuit. The Settlement Contractors (Contractors) have received a scheduling notice. The Contractors will be filing a notice to dismiss the new claims relating to salmon that should be ruled on in August.

NCWA Report – Trustee Cornwell gave a report of current activities of NCWA. Manager Bair reported on the CalWaterFix that Mr. David Guy, NCWA, is the lead on. He is working with MBK on modeling to show how the operation of the system will impact Northern California.

Sites JPA – President Durst gave a status report of the Sites JPA. He said a Public Relations consultant has been hired and the JPA Board is working on a job description. July 29 will be the final date to submit interest for water from Sites for Northern California before being opened to Southern California.

Communications Consultant – Mr. John Segale gave a report of current communications efforts on behalf of the District. Assistant Manager Busch and Mr. Steve Beckley are working with USGS on promoting the story of monitoring snakes on Tract 6.

Assistant Manager's Report – Assistant Manager Busch reported that the river is at 3,200 cfs and dropping lower than in 2015. He reported that the ballots for the election to replace Trustee Miller have to be delivered to the office or post marked by Tuesday June 14, with ballots opened on Friday June 17.

Manager's Report – Manager Bair reported that interviews have been held for the position of Superintendent and we have narrowed the search to two candidates. It was the consensus of the Board that Manager Bair determine who he feels will best meet the District's needs and hire him for the position.

Manager Bair reviewed the Outside Drainage Program. The area has been split into Areas 1, 2 and 3. Landowner Fred Durst has expressed his concern that not everyone was signed up. After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Doherty, seconded by Trustee Leonard and unanimously approved to authorize Manager Bair to send letters out suspending the Outside Drainage fees,

keeping the agreements in place for water quality issues beginning January 1, 2017. This decision was largely based on the reduced volume of inflow experienced since the agreements were established

Manager Bair reported on the issues that the District has been having with their phone and internet systems. Currently the internet system is being tested for download and upload speeds. The speeds need to be on the higher end to support the internet phone system. Staff will be researching and testing both system and the estimated costs to upgrade as needed.

RECESS

At 12:33 p.m. the meeting recessed for lunch. Those present at the meeting were invited to join the Board for lunch. The meeting reconvened at approximately 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no comments from the public and no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Lewis Bair
Manager