

# RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 108

## Minutes of the Special Landowner/Water User Meeting

March 3, 2015

President Durst called the Annual Landowner/Water User meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at Reclamation District No. 108 headquarters, Wilkins Slough, Colusa County, California.

**Trustees Present:** Fritz Durst, Mike Miller, Roger Cornwell and Jon Leonard

**Trustees Absent:** Sean Doherty

**Others Present:** Lewis Bair, General Manager  
Bryan Busch, Assistant Manager  
Chad Navarrot, Operations Manager  
Cathy Busch, Executive Secretary  
Beverly Walls, Bookkeeper  
28 Landowners/Water Users (See Attached List)

President Durst opened the meeting with introductions and welcomed the Landowners and Water Users.

### BUSINESS ITEMS

**Water Outlook** - Manager Bair reported on the inflows to Shasta Lake and how they impact the District's water supply. He reviewed the water temperature and fish survival. In 2014 the fish had an estimated survival rate of five percent. Typical survival is more like 20-25%. The fishery agencies are suggesting that this poor survival rate is due to higher water temperatures in Sept/Oct 2014. The District's contract says that it cannot be cut less than 25 percent, but there is the possibility that in 2015 we could see a larger reduction. It was also stressed that all water transfers are contingent on getting 75 percent water supply.

**Contract Litigation Update** – Manager Bair reviewed the status of the Settlement Contract litigation. He reported that the signing of the contract was founded on a biological opinion that was overturned. After several hearings the judge made the determination that a new environment review would be required. A joint submittal without agreement among parties was submitted requesting direction on how to complete the environmental review and how to proceed during the interim.

**Sites Reservoir** – Manager Bair reported that the District submitted a letter of interest to the Sites JPA for up to 20,000 acre-feet of water at a cost of about \$12 million per year. The State will cost-share the project up to 50 percent, therefore up to 50% of the water would be designated for public benefit for environmental use. The final decision by landowners to invest in the Project will be required by vote in approximately two years. It is important to the District to investigate all options for new water supplies since there is concern about our Settlement Contracts. There was discussion regarding how the District could sell the Sites water during years it was not needed to help cover the cost. Manager Bair went on to describe the Sites Project and noted that water for Sites would come from runoff below Shasta Dam. He asked the Landowners and Water Users to contact himself or President Durst if they had questions and/or concerns regarding the project. Several Landowners and Water Users voiced both concerns and support of the Sites Project.

**Water Transfers** – Assistant Manager Busch reviewed the 2014 water transfers and stated that the District would be offering similar water transfer options for 2015. He said that Project Water transfers (up to 10,000 acre-feet at \$400 acre-foot plus water cost) would be in-basin transfers with CCWD and DWD. Water transferred south of the Delta (up to 20,000 acre-feet at \$650 acre foot with the District withholding 15 percent) would be by crop shifting and/or idling to San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority (SL&DMA). All District proceeds from the water transfers will be dedicated to new long-term water supplies.

**2014 Groundwater Pumping** – Assistant Manager Busch reported that the District pumped groundwater in 2014 only for District use to hedge against the District's USBR contract overuse. Groundwater was also pumped in August and September as part of the Nature Conservancy Shorebird Program. There were no groundwater transfers in 2014. Assistant Manager Busch reviewed the District's past groundwater usage and showed how the groundwater level came back up within a short time after pumping stopped. Water quality also was below the District's water quality standard of 700 dS/m. The District is currently investigating groundwater banking with CCWD and DWD. Groundwater banking would give the District the opportunity to store water in wet years for use in dry years. The annual Groundwater Committee meeting has been set for March 16 at 10:00 a.m. Groundwater issues will be discussed further and Attorney O'Brien will review new legislation, including Groundwater Sustainability Agencies.

**Water Measurement Program** – Manager Bair reviewed the water measurement program and the status of construction. All but a few fields have either the cement measurement box or meter installed. The balance fields should be completed before the start of

water. A Landowner/Water User meeting was held to discuss the price structure for the measurement program that will go into effect in 2016. The District has four options: 1) bill 100 percent on volumetric; 2) one-third volumetric and two thirds fixed volume by crop; 3) one-third acreage fixed cost, one-third measured, one-third volume; and 4) 50 percent acreage and 50 percent measured. The next steps include working with Landowners/Water Users on finalizing a rate structure and billing process for 2016.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no comments from the public and no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Lewis Bair  
Secretary/Manager

Attending Landowner/Water Users Special Board Meeting  
March 3, 2015

Landowner/Water User	Landowner/Water User
Perry Charter	Jim Mumma
Fred Durst	Cameron Kaelin

Darrel Aoki	Starr West
Sue Fuerrillo – Poundstone Bros.	Craig Poundstone
David Alves – Poundstone Bros.	Kerry Andreotti
Caroling Carbajal	Derek Strain
Derek Strain	Fred McFessel
Scott West	Mike Andreotti
Don Huff	Clarke Ornbaun
Kim Gallagher	Marilyn Erdman
Lady Bug Doherty	Mr. & Mrs. Ed Beale
Steve Beckley	Roger Moore
Mike Doherty	Tom Hayes
Candy Dormer	Zeke Dormer
Tom Ellis	