

RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 108
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Of the Board of Trustees

April 16, 2015

Vice President Cornwell called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 16, 2015 at Reclamation District No. 108 headquarters, Wilkins Slough, Colusa County, California.

Trustees Present: Mike Miller, Roger Cornwell, Sean Doherty, and Jon Leonard

Trustees Absent: Fritz Durst, Jury Duty

Others Present:	Lewis Bair, General Manager	Greg Sutter, Westervelt
	Bryan Busch, Assistant Manager	Mark Young, Westervelt
	Chad Navarrot, Operations Manager	Greg DeYoung, Westervelt
	Cathy Busch, Executive Secretary	34 Members of Public
	Beverly Walls, Bookkeeper	(see attached)
	Michael Larsen, Kearns West	

Agenda – The Agenda was approved as presented.

Open Forum

Manager Bair reported that the District would be getting 75 percent water supply for 2015. Row crops will have priority for water. Rice will slowly be ramped up through the month of May with the last field starting before June 1. It will be an irrigation season very similar to 2014. There are still many fishery concerns to be worked through, such as their concern for the water temperature. Attorney O'Brien commended Manager Bair and Mr. Thad Bettner, GCID, with the success of the 2015 water plan since three days earlier we were looking at a possible lawsuit.

Manager Bair reported on the 2015 proposed water transfers. One year water transfer agreements have been signed with Colusa County and Dunnigan Water Districts for both groundwater and Project water up to 22,000 acre-feet. He said that the Giant Garter Snake may have some impact on the crop idling/crop shifting water transfers since it has been determined that the snakes stay around this area all year long.

The River will be closely monitored with a target water elevation of 3,800 cubic feet per second. There could be further curtailment for water users along the River and landowners with water rights were advised to know what their rights are. Groundwater use in Southern California went

from 250,000 acre-feet to 800,000 acre-feet in 2015. Groundwater levels in our area could drop as much as 70 feet but in the past have proven to come back up within a matter of a few months. Some areas in Yolo County have taken up to three years to recharge.

The public departed the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

3. Bullock Bend Maintenance – Manager Bair reported that he was contacted by a representative from Westervelt regarding a proposed maintenance partnership for the proposed Bullock Bend fish mitigation bank. Maintenance work performed by the District would include vegetation control along the Project Levee and farm berm, weed management, gate repair and minor grading of access roads. Westervelt is also proposing to provide materials and trucking of materials taken from the mitigation bank site for use in building toe roads along the landside levee of the Sacramento River, which is a substantial benefit to the District. One issue has arisen in that Yolo County is requiring Westervelt to provide 88 acres of mitigation for ground taken out of agricultural. Westervelt is currently attempting to get the County's agreement of using the spoil material and trucking as beneficial use in lieu of mitigation acres. Westervelt is asking the District if it would consider providing 88 acres of deeded mitigation in Tract 6 if the County denies their proposed alternative. Westervelt is also seeking a letter of support from the District to Yolo County for their mitigation bank project. After further discussion, it was moved by Trustee Doherty, seconded by Trustee Cornwell and unanimously approved to issue a letter of support for the Westervelt mitigation bank project and to move forward with legal review and selection of a possible mitigation site with a deed restriction located in Tract 6 no more than three miles from the project site. The proposed MOU regarding maintenance of the project was tabled until the May Board meeting.

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 Miller and unanimously approved to approve the consent agenda, including the Minutes of the March 19, 2015 Board meeting, the March 3, 2015 Special Landowner/Water User meeting and the April 2 Groundwater Committee Meeting on March 16, 2015.

Accounts Payable – After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Doherty, seconded by Trustee Leonard and unanimously approved to approved the accounts payable: Maintenance Fund in the amount of \$450,982, on-line payments to be ratified in the amount of \$31,330 and payments to be ratified in the amount of \$1,785 and Irrigation Fund in the amount of \$551 and payments to be ratified in the amount of \$2,223.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Operations Report – Manager Bair reported that KLRDD is getting ready to start their EIP project and that Operations Manager Navarrot was currently at a walkthrough of the Project. Manager Bair reviewed the policy for boards in the cement measurement box. The policy includes that only District staff will add or remove boards; the boards will be placed at field elevation for all deliveries other than rice flood and re-flood; all boards will be removed except for a single one-foot tall board for rice flood-up and re-flood. After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Doherty, seconded by Trustee Leonard and unanimously approved to approve the Board Policy for the cement measurement boxes as stated above and to authorize Manager Bair to draft a letter to Landowners and Water Users with a copy of the Board Policy for the Cement Measurement boxes and clarifying that District staff was the only persons authorized to remove boards from the cement boxes. Manager Bair was directed to send Michael Larsen, Kearns West, a copy of the letter and policy for use in a newsletter.

2. 2015 Water Transfers – Manager Bair reported on the Tehama-Colusa Canal water transfers. The District has submitted a Project Water transfer for Colusa County and Dunnigan Water Districts up to 10,000 acre-feet of water conserved through conservation programs. It is unsure if the USBR will approve the transfer. A letter agreement for groundwater has been signed between the District and Colusa County Water District. The District will start pumping groundwater for District use, conserving surface water for transfer. Once the final groundwater agreements have been approved and signed, this water will be part of the transfer.

Manager Bair reported on the water transfer south of the Delta. The District's transferred amount has increased to over 27,000 acre-feet and Assistant Manager Busch has started to work with landowners for the additional idled fields for transfer. The River will be run very tightly this year with the District at the bottom end. The River flow target water at the Wilkins Slough gage is target for 3,800 cfs.

Manager Bair reported that there is one unique issue with the water transfers that involves River Garden Farms (RGF), so Trustee Cornwell was asked to leave the meeting at 10:25 a.m. Manager Bair reported that RGF was looking to idle lands in the District, combining its water transfer quantity with the District, giving the District a larger payment, therefore benefiting the landowners. There is a concern that it will look like RGF is idling more fields for the transfer. After further discussion, it was moved by Trustee Doherty, seconded by Trustee Leonard and unanimously approved to move idled ground from RD787 to the District without any precedence set that will substantially benefit all District landowners/water users with additional income to the District as a special drought program for 2015 only. Manager Bair will work with RGF on the details of this matter.

After further discussion, it was moved by Trustee Doherty, seconded by Trustee Leonard and unanimously approved to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 15-04 in the matter of establishing District Policies and Procedures for out-of-District Water Transfers in 2015. RESOLUTION NO. 15-05 is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

4. Knights Landing Outfall Gate Project – Manager Bair gave a Project status report. He said that the Project design was changed from a floating design to a cable design with radio operation that has increased the cost of the Project from \$1.8 million to \$2 million. Manager Bair recently met with USBR and the federal Fish and Wildlife Service and they both agreed to work on closing the funding gap of \$500,000. It may also be possible to have this project added to the Governor’s budget under drought funding. DWR has expressed their concern regarding the cost to maintain and operate the facility. The positive benefits and publicity of this project for the District are significant.

5. Notice of Exempt for District-wide Maintenance – After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Doherty, seconded by Trustee Miller and unanimously approved to authorized Manager Bair to file a Notice of Exemption with both Yolo and Colusa Counties for District-wide maintenance.

INFORMATION REPORTS

NCWA’s Report

Trustee Cornwell reported on NCWA meeting. A tour and dinner was setup for Metropolitan Water District (MWD). During that meeting MWD was approached regarding cost-sharing on the

Knights Landing Outfall Gate Project. MWD showed interest in being a part of the project since they are also looking for environmental projects that they can participate with. We will follow-up with this. NCWA also participated in helping the Settlement Contractors get a 75 percent water supply. NCWA has also produced a fact sheet showing that agriculture uses only 42 percent of the water and that the environmental use is large, unlike the data being touted on the news that agriculture uses 80 percent of the water.

Attorney's Report – CLOSED SESSION. The District went into Closed Session at approximately 11:45 a.m. to discuss one possible litigation matter with legal counsel pursuant to subdivision (b) of section 54956.9 (Settlement Contractors). The Board came out of Closed Session at 11:53 a.m. and Vice-President Cornwell announced that no action was taken.

Sites Report - Doherty

Trustee Doherty distributed a list of water users expressing interest in Sites water. He reported that President Durst is no longer the chairman of the Sites JPA, Leigh Mc Daniels, Colusa County Supervisor, has taken that position. Colusa County has offered the old court building in Maxwell has been offered to the JPA for its headquarters. There was discussion regarding opening up the JPA for water buyers or to have them as a separate part of the JPA. Larry Mandelberg was at the last meeting to discuss what the JPA Manager should be. The hiring committee will review the applications to present the top applicants to the Board for selection. The meeting will continue to be here for the next Sites meeting.

Assistant Manager's Report

Assistant Manager reported that he had nothing to report at this time.

Manager's Report

Communications Consultant - Manager Bair introduced Michael Larson, Kerns West, communication's consultant. Mr. Larson distributed copies of the Communications Plan for the District. He said that the communications goals for the District are to increase understanding among landowners and water users regarding the Boards governance and decision making; inform the public about the District's role in California's economy and environmental concerns; showcase the District's innovations, successes and community projects and how they benefit public interest; assist SRWSLD and KLRDD in their communication needs as appropriate. He said the most efficient way for them to stay abroad of the District's current issues is by attending the monthly Board meetings. They will also be drafting newsletters on a regular monthly cycle.

Articles and videos will be published online and with partnering agencies such as the Rice Commission and NCWA.

Tract 6 Lease – Manager Bair said that he needs to work with the Tract 6 Committee regarding the proposed lease changes. Should the District take its 20 percent of the land back for water transfers, what happens for the tenants expense that they have already incurred. It was the consensus of the Board to remand this matter back to the Committee.

RECESS

At 12:00 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 12:40 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 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Lewis Bair
Secretary/Manager