

# **RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 108**

## **Minutes of the Regular Meeting Of the Board of Trustees**

May 21, 2015

President Durst called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2015 at Reclamation District No. 108 headquarters, Wilkins Slough, Colusa County, California.

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

**Trustees Absent:** Mike Miller

**Others Present:** Bryan Busch, Assistant Manager  
Chad Navarrot, Operations Manager  
Cathy Busch, Executive Secretary  
Beverly Walls, Bookkeeper  
Michael Larsen, Kearns West  
13 Members of Public (See Attached List)

Kevin O'Brien, Legal Counsel  
Daren Cordova, MBK Engineering  
Mike Hall, Conaway  
Tim Durbin, Conaway  
Steve Beckley, PR Consultant

**Agenda –** The Agenda was approved as presented.

### **Open Forum**

President Durst welcomed the public to the meeting and opened the Public Forum. Assistant Manager Busch reviewed the District's water supply. He said that because of the diversion limitation and the tight control of the River flows, in early May Water Users had up to a 10-day wait for water, which after May 15 has been cut back to a 24-hour notice. He thanked landowners and water users for their patience with working with staff.

Assistant Manager Busch gave an update on the water transfers. The one year Project Water transfer with Colusa County Water District and Dunnigan Water District has been approved by the USBR and the two districts have begun to take water. The one year crop idling/shifting transfer to San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority has been approved for 29,575 acre-feet. USBR representatives held a site visit to confirm idle fields and that the proposed Giant Garter Snake Plan is being followed. There was discussion regarding the groundwater transfer to Colusa County and Dunnigan Water Districts. The District is waiting on final approval from USBR and is currently working under a letter agreement with USBR, and Colusa County Water District and Dunnigan Water District. Assistant Manager Busch reported that the District monitors the 12 DWR monitoring wells plus District owned wells for both level and quality as part

of the groundwater transfer program. Water levels have been comparable to 2014 groundwater pumping.

Attorney O'Brien reported on the State Water Resource Control Board (Board) workshop he attended. He reviewed the TUCP (temporary urgency change petition) which allows the Board to relax water quality standards in the Delta this year. The USBR developed an operations plan for 2015 water with certain requirements to the Settlement Contractors in order to retain their 75 percent. There was a lot of concern regarding the cold water for the fish and a lot of positive feedback for the Settlement Contractors holding to the operations plan. President Durst commended District staff on running water this year and working out the water transfer programs.

The public departed the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

## **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 April 16, 2015 Board meeting.

**Accounts Payable** – After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Doherty and unanimously approved to approved the accounts payable: Maintenance Fund in the amount of \$371,377, on-line payments to be ratified in the amount of \$19,212 and payments to be ratified in the amount of \$5,700 and Irrigation Fund in the amount of \$48,223 and payments to be ratified in the amount of \$6,244.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

**1. Operations Report** – Operations Manager Navarrot gave a presentation on the Water Measurement software, showing what the watermen input and what reports are available. He reported that the watermen are recording up to 120 records per day and that each gate is read at least every four days. Operations Manager Navarrot commended the watermen on their hard work in making this program work. President Durst commented that the Board needs to have a

plan for total implementation, including a rate structure, a timeline with problems and solutions, and training for Water Users.

**4. Knights Landing Outfall Gate Project** – Assistant Manager Busch showed a brief clip that was recorded to promote the Knights Landing Outfall Gate Project (KLOG). Trustee Cornwell stated that the clip can be viewed at the Sacramento Valley Water webpage. Assistant Manager Busch reported that KSN is working on completing the 60 percent design for the Project permits so that the Project can be completed this year. One issue of concern is the amount of time it may take to get the gate operators. President Durst suggested that the District might be able to pre-order the gate operators as long as there were assurances that the cost could be reimbursed through grant funding.

**2. 2015 Water Operations & Water Transfers** – In response to a question about the Giant Garter Snake, Assistant Manager Busch reported that the District will keep the canals and drains wet for use as a corridor should the Giant Garter Snake move through the area of the fields participating in the water transfer in the designated snake habitat.

The Board discussed Fall water. President Durst suggested that groundwater might be used for a Fall Shore Bird Project. Operations Manager Navarrot cautioned that with more fall programs where we keep water in the canals and drains longer, we shorten the time for maintenance. He said that as the system is now, the District has issues moving drainage out of the District fast enough so that it does not back into Landowners' fields. President Durst suggested a 30,000 acre-foot reconnaissance to see what it would cost to update the District's system so that it would drain the District more efficiently. It was noted that fields that participated in the water transfer would need to apply for a waiver similar to last year, so that they can participate in a Fall Shore Bird Program should there be one.

**5. MOU for Bullock Bend Maintenance** – After discussion, this matter was moved to the June meeting so that Trustee Miller could be in attendance.

## **INFORMATION REPORTS**

### **NCWA's Report**

Trustee Cornwell reported on NCWA meeting and current issues being discussed.

**Attorney's Report – CLOSED SESSION.** The District went into Closed Session at approximately 11:30 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 11:55 a.m. and President Durst announced that one action was taken. It was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Leonard to authorize payment of \$250,000 to Sites JPA as a partial payment of funding designated for Sites Reservoir and to amend the 2015 budget to show a total of \$250,000. In response to a question regarding what benefits that the District hopes to receive from the Sites Project, Present Durst replied that the District hopes to see additional environmental water supply from Sites, thereby reliving pressure from District supply and also as a future water source.

**Sites Report –** President Durst said that he had nothing to report at this time.

#### **Assistant Manager's Report**

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

**Conaway Groundwater Presentation –** President Durst asked the Conaway representatives to introduce themselves. Mr. Bob Thomas, General Manager, gave a background of the considerations that Conaway looked at when they drafted their surface-water and groundwater program. Mr. Daren Cordova, MBK Engineering, reviewed the historic ground surface displacement and groundwater levels. He pointed out that Conaway monitors both their own wells and wells adjacent to the Conaway lands in Yolo County and that they are very conscious of groundwater levels and subsidence in the area. Conaway has entered into an agreement with both Woodland and Davis to transfer surface water rights to them, which will cut down on the groundwater that they currently pump. In 2014 approximately 30,000 acre-feet of groundwater was pumped and subsidence was a problem. The 2015 the groundwater transfer is 15,000 acre-feet and includes studies on subsidence. Conaway is also looking at other options to mitigate subsidence, including surface water injection for groundwater recharge.

#### **RECESS**

At 12:20 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 12:50 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bryan Busch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent flourish at the end.

Bryan Busch  
Assistant Manager