

# RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 108

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

October 15, 2015

President Durst called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 15, 2015 at Reclamation District No. 108 headquarters, Wilkins Slough, Colusa County, California.

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

**Trustees Absent:** Jon Leonard and Sean Doherty

**Others Present:**

Lewis Bair, General Manager	Kevin O'Brien, Legal Counsel
Bryan Busch, Assistant Manager	Steve Beckley, PR Consultant
Chad Navarrot, Operations Manager	Brandon Ertis, David's Eng.
Cathy Busch, Executive Secretary	Jeff Davids, Davids Eng. Phone
Beverly Walls, Bookkeeper	Jim Watson, Sites JPA
9 members of Public (See Attached List)	

**Agenda –** It was moved by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Cornwell and unanimously approved to approve the Agenda as presented.

### Open Forum

President Durst welcomed the public to the meeting and opened the Public Forum. Manager Bair reported that the Settlement Contractors are working with USBR to move water that would have been diverted under their contract for decomposition in October available in November since that timing will benefit waterfowl and shorebirds even though it will reduce the efficacy of decomposition to some degree. Should the delay be approved, it will give the District up to 3,500 acre-feet of water from November 1 through December 10. As soon as the program is approved, the District will notify rice growers of its availability. Should there be more demand than supply, the water will be distributed through a lottery system. Manager Bair said that at this time riparian water will be available unless the District is notified differently. In response to a question, Manager Bair reported that it will be his recommendation during the meeting to offer additional rice decomp/waterfowl habitat water should Term 91 be lifted.

Manager Bair reported that the federal Fish and Wildlife Service data is showing even lower outmigration numbers than 2014, although it's still early in the migration season. If the lower

numbers hold true, this will add considerable pressure to the 2016 water supplies should above average rainfall not occur.

Manager Bair announced the groundbreaking event for the Knights Landing Outfall Gate Project on October 22 and invited landowners and water users to attend.

Manager Bair reported that there are 145 Settlement Contractors. A Sacramento River Settlement Contractors Association (SRSCA) is being created to share information and provide the Settlement Contractors a stronger unified voice on water issues. The SRSCA will focus on SRSC issues supported by the strength of NCWA. Notice will be sent out soon to encourage all Contractors to join the SRSCA.

The Public Forum closed at 9:15 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 Miller, seconded by Trustee Cornwell and unanimously approved to approve the consent agenda, including the Minutes of the October 15, 2015 Board meeting and the Finance Committee Meeting held on October 6, 2015.

**Accounts Payable** – After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Miller and unanimously approved to approve the accounts payable: Maintenance Fund in the amount of \$753,511 (\$406,837 KLOG Payment to Shimmick Construction) and on-line payments and payments issued in September/October to be ratified in the amount of \$476,444 and Irrigation Fund in the amount of \$73,687 and payments to be ratified in the amount of \$9,596.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

**1. Water Measurement Presentation** –Manager Bair introduced Mr. Brandon Ertis and Mr. Jeff Davids (by phone), with David's Engineering. Mr. Ertis gave a presentation on the Water Measurement Program and explained the proposed water rate structure, invoicing and available Water User data that would be sent to Water Users. It was suggested that a Water Measurement Workshop be held for Water Users. The Water Measurement Software will show the Water User

how much water he/she is using in each field. The water usage will be downloaded daily and potentially accessible to the Water User on-line.

**2. Operations Report** – Operations Manager Navarrot reported that a pump at Poundstone Pumping Plant was pulled for inspection due to concerns while pumping at very low River levels this summer. No damage to the pump was discovered. He commended the Watermen on a job well done with the trial run of the Measurement Program. Operations Manager Navarrot asked the Board to consider River gate replacement at the Rough and Ready Pumping Plant because of their poor condition. The low River level would provide the perfect time to replace the gates. After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Miller and unanimously approved to purchase five gates for Rough and Reading Pumping Plant so they can be replaced during low River levels.

**3. 2015 Water Operations – Fall Water** – Manager Bair reported that the District put in for approximately 3,500 acre-feet of non-riparian winter water for rice decomp and waterfowl habitat. As soon as the District gets confirmation for this water, rice growers will be notified. Should there be more demand for the water than supply, water will be allocated by a lottery system. The Board discussed the rates for the Fall water, it was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Miller and unanimously approved to set the Fall water rate for program water at \$24.40 for a one-time flood and authorized Manager Bair to offer Fall water at 50 percent of the rate if the River has high flow. In response to a question, it was the consensus that no groundwater would be offered for Fall water.

**4. Knights Landing Outfall Gate Project (KLOG)** – Manager Bair gave an update on the KLOG Project. The Project press event is scheduled for October 22 at 10:00 a.m. He also reported that two of the three funding sources are in place.

**5. Wallace Weir Project Consideration** – Manager Bair reviewed the proposed Wallace Weir Project and the role that the District would take. This project is important since it will prevent salmon from entering the Colusa Basin Drain, the District's back levee. One issue with the Project is cash flow. After further discussion, it was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Miller and unanimously approved to authorize Manager Bair to enter into agreement with the State but to never exceed \$2,000,000 of cash flow funds for planning of the Wallace Weir, based on a commitment letter from DWR for 100 percent project funding.

**6. 2016 Draft Financial Budget** – Manager reviewed both the Maintenance and Irrigation Funds 2016 Financial Budget with the Board. He pointed out that the Capital Outlay account included a used water truck, three new pickups and a disc (\$165,000) and a new office copier. It was his recommendation that the Board review the budget and provide comments at the next meeting.

## **INFORMATION REPORTS**

### **NCWA's Report**

Trustee Cornwell reported that NCWA would be hosting a meet and greet for Sacramento Valley Partners including water agencies, politicians and NGO partners on October 29 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**Attorney's Report – CLOSED SESSION** – The Board went into Closed Session at 11:40 p.m. to conference with legal counsel regarding anticipated litigation, pursuant to subdivision (b) of section 54956.9 (Settlement Contractors). The Board came out of Closed Session at 11:50 a.m. and President Durst announced no action taken.

**Sites Report** – President Durst gave an update on the Site's Project and the performance of Mr. Jim Watson, the new General Manager. The Sites Reservoir Project seems to be gaining recognition throughout the State as the preferred large storage project for Prop 1 public benefits.

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

Assistant Manager reviewed the water diversions for 2015. The FSRP project will begin as soon as a contract can be signed. This Project will add needed gravel to levee roads.

**Manager's Report** – Manager Bair said that he had nothing further to report.

## **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

Lewis Bair  
Manager