

# RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 108

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

March 17, 2016

President Durst called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 17, 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  
Bryan Busch, Assistant Manager  
Chad Navarrot, Operations Manager  
Cathy Busch, Executive Secretary  
16 members of Public (List Attached)

Kevin O'Brien, Legal Counsel  
Beverly Walls, Bookkeeper

**Agenda** – It was moved by Trustee Cornwell and seconded by Trustee Doherty 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 March rains have changed the top water dialog for Northern California. Discussions are now focused on more of a flood release operation and not questioning whether the system has enough cold water. Shasta Reservoir is encroached into the flood diagram and is considering releasing the necessary water in a manner that will also improve spawning gravel quality. Overall the water situation looks good and RD108 is expected to receive 100 percent of its water supply. Because of the March rains, it is unlikely that water transfers from crop idling will be possible due to Delta conveyance limitations. There is still a need of water south of the Delta, but it appears that only groundwater substitution transfers will be considered as it can be made available during the periods when Delta conveyance capacity exists. Should the west side of the Valley decide to use surface water in lieu of groundwater to help the recharge, the District might have Project Water available.

The Northern California Water Association (NCWA) leadership members gave a report on their second Water Leadership meeting. They had three speakers, Kevin O'Brien, Charlie Hoppin and Amy Brown.

Ms. Cathy Busch reported that Nominating Petitions were available for the open seat on the Board. The Petitions must be completed and back to the office no later than April 13 at 5:00 p.m. If more than one petition is submitted the District will hold an election, if only one Petition is submitted that person will be appointed to the Board.

The Public Forum ended at 9:10 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 February 18, 2016 Board Meeting as submitted.

**Accounts Payable** – After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Leonard and unanimously approved to approve the accounts payable in the following amounts: Maintenance Fund for \$974,503, including Sites JPA Development and Construction costs for 2016 (\$214,500); and Yolo County In-Lieu taxes (\$156,721), payments made in February to be ratified totaled \$160,384; and March on-line payments for \$22,474, Irrigation Fund for \$145, and March payments for \$1,337.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

**1. Operations Report** – Operations Manager Navarrot gave a presentation showing the work being completed for the Strain/West drainage system. He commended District staff on the good work that they did. In response to a question, he reported that the vibrations at the Emery Poundstone Pumping Plant, because of the low River levels, did not damage the pump. He said that there were some problems with the screen brushes due to high River flows and would not recommend the District diverting water during high River flows.

**2. 2015 Water Operations** – Assistant Manager Busch reported that because of the March rains there will not be water transfers by crop idling. The water buyers from South of the Delta have agreed to pay the legal and engineering costs related to water transfer discussions with the completion of a purchase agreement. After further discussion, it was moved by Trustee Doherty, seconded by Trustee Cornwell and unanimously agreed to authorize Manager Bair to sign a water transfer agreement in order to be reimbursed for legal and engineer costs.

Manager Bair reported that the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) was seeking funds to help amend the water transfer environmental document. The term of the amendment would be 10 years and would increase the amount of water the District could transfer. After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Leonard and unanimously approved to authorize up to \$6,000 to amend the water transfer environmental document with the SLDMWA and to increase the amount of RD108 water to 40,000 acre-feet.

The Tract 6 Committee officially recommended that the tenants be notified that the District will not reserve any part of Tract 6 for water transfers during 2016. After further discussion, it was moved by Trustee Doherty, seconded by Trustee Leonard and unanimously approved to release the Tract 6 tenants from reservation of lands for a water transfer for 2016.

### **Public Hearing**

President Durst opened the Public Hearing at 9:32 a.m. Manager Bair reviewed the process for the Prop. 218 Hearing to set water rates. This is a protest vote which means that if 50 percent of the District fields (one vote per parcel) place a protest vote disapproving of the new water rate, the Board would not be able to adopt the new rate structure. If a majority protest was not reached, the Board could consider adopting the new rate. Manager Bair reviewed the proposed rates. The protest votes were counted and results were: seven 7 parcel votes protested based on the flat per acre rate component; seven 7 parcel votes protested based on the impact to Wheat and Safflower rate only; and four 4 parcel votes protested the total increase. There were a possible of 311 parcels (votes) in the District, therefore there was no majority protest. The Public Hearing closed at 10:20 a.m.

The Board went back into Regular Meeting at 10:22 a.m. and after further discussion regarding the concerns expressed by those that protested, it was moved by Trustee Doherty, seconded by Trustee Cornwell and unanimously approved to adopt the volumetric Water Rates consistent with the Prop 218 Memo to Landowners dated February 1, 2016 and attached hereto and made a part hereof. It was further moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Leonard and unanimously approved to use the proposed rates consistent with the Report Detailing the Cost of Service by Davids Engineer dated January 15, 2016 for the 2016 Water year.

**3. California Water Resolution** – Manager Bair reported that this process has potential, but the other participants are finding it difficult to resource the effort. Trustee Cornwell reported that we need to develop the fix in order to get anything accomplished.

**4. Fishery Project Update** – Manager Bair reported that USBR has contributed another \$97,000 toward KLOG costs. We now have a timeline for the Wallace Weir Project which anticipates a construction start of Aug 1. The project has approximately 10,000 man hours of work in a 3-month window. That work is in a very small footprint which will present a challenge for the contractor to make the schedule work. A meeting has been setup for April 4 with the fishery agencies to review all the proposed projects listed in the Salmon Action Plan.

**5. Prop 1 Storm-water Planning Grant with Yolo WRA** – Assistant Manager Busch reported on the proposed Prop 1 Storm Water Grant. The proposed project would flood Tract 6 fields during high River flows and release the water back into the River at lower flows, releasing fish food back into the River for the young salmon.

**6. Water Use Efficiency Grant & Adopt Resolution No. 16-06 Authorizing Application for Calfed Water User Efficiency Grant and Cal Prop 1 Water Efficiency Grant** – Assistant Manager Busch reviewed the proposed Calfed and Prop 1 Efficiency Grants and the proposed project. After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Doherty, seconded by Trustee Leonard and unanimously approved to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 16—06 in the matter of Authorizing Application for Calfed Water Use Efficiency Grand and Cal Proposition 1 Water Efficiency Grant and further authorizing Manager Bair to do all things to move forward with this Project if the grants are approved.

## **INFORMATION REPORTS**

**NCWA Report** – Trustee Cornwell gave a report of current activities of NCWA. There is a meeting tomorrow at Downey Brand to discuss Bay Delta Water Quality, the Wallace Press Report and the Annual Meeting. He also reported that NCWA is opposed to the Dam Train legislation because of issues added to and included in the legislation.

President Durst commended Mr. David Guy on his leadership on all the ongoing water issues, starting discussions with legislators, agency leads and staff on these issues building trust on both sides.

**Sites JPA** – President Durst gave a status report on the Sites JPA. He said that Ms. Kim Vann is the new Board Chair and he was Vice Chair. He reported that Ms. Vann ran a good meeting

and that the JPA was heading in a good direction. It was decided that the JPA should go back to the water agencies in the north one more time before offering water to South of the Delta.

**Communications Consultant** – President Durst commented that the District needed to work with John Segale to market the success of the Salmon Recovery Projects.

President Durst departed the meeting at 11:30 a.m. and Vice-President Cornwell took over the meeting.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

The Board went into Closed Session at 11:33 a.m. to conference with legal counsel regarding two anticipated litigations (California Water Fix Comments, Settlement Contracts) pursuant to subdivision (b) of section 54956.9. The Board came out of Closed Session at 11:40 a.m. and President Durst announced that the Board did not take action.

**Assistant Manager's Report** – Assistant Manager Busch reported that the agreements for the Flood System Repair Project have been signed and Operations Manager Navarrot has ordered the gravel material for the levees. The District has submitted the one-year progress report for the System-wide Improvement Framework Plan.

Assistant Manager Busch reported on the Power and Water Resource Pooling Authority (PWRPA) has a Cap and Trade allowance that the District can request for energy conservation projects. After further discussion, it was moved by Trustee Doherty, seconded by Trustee Leonard and unanimously approved to authorize Assistant Manager Busch to work with PWRPA on a letter regarding Cap and Trade.

Assistant Manager Busch provided an update on the effort to comply with the new State Laws generally referred to as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. He stated that Yolo and Colusa Counties were both moving forward with their programs. Yolo County is seeking to do a groundwater basin boundary modification which would create a Yolo County "Basin". This will require RD108 to coordinate between two basins. This had been anticipated for some time and is supported by the District.

**Manager's Report** – Manager Bair reported that he will be presenting as part of a Sacramento Valley Panel at a State Board Workshop scheduled for tomorrow to discuss River Operation and Water Temperature.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no comments from the public and no further business to come before the board, President Durst adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Lewis Bair  
Manager