

RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 108

Minutes of the Regular Meeting Of the Board of Trustees

July 21, 2016

President Durst called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 21, 2016 at Reclamation District No. 108 headquarters, Wilkins Slough, Colusa County, California.

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

Trustees Absent: None

Others Present:	Lewis Bair, General Manager	Deke Dormer, Landowner
	Kevin O'Brien, Legal Counsel	Cameron Kaelin, Landowner
	Bryan Busch, Assistant Manager	Don Huff Jr, Landowner
	Beverly Walls, Bookkeeper	Tom Ellis, Landowner
	Steve Beckley, PR Consultant	Rob Meyers, Landowner
	Kim Gallagher, Landowner	Jane Dolan, Sac. River Forum
	Don Huff III, Landowner	John Segale, Public Relations
	Candy Dormer, Landowner	John Louden, Colusa Co Supervisor

Agenda – It was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Doherty and unanimously approved, to approve the Agenda as submitted.

Open Forum

President Durst welcomed the public to the meeting. Manager Bair reported on the current River Operations. He introduced Ms. Jane Dolan, Sacramento River Forum. Ms. Dolan gave a presentation on the Safe Harbor Agreement that allows willing landowners to receive formal assurances under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) that covered actions that will contribute to the recovery of protected species will not result in additional regulatory liability for farming practices. She reviewed the process and emphasized that it was a totally voluntary and confidential program. Ms. Dolan reviewed the landowner and conservation benefits and the process for developing a cooperative agreement. In response to expressed concern about being a neighboring landowner, Mr. Dolan said that the neighboring landowner could enter into an agreement that would create a baseline for the neighbor that would protect them for any additional liability. President Durst asked for clarification for neighboring landowners and recommended that an additional meeting on the Safe Harbor Program be setup.

Mr. Deke Keller reported on the NCWA Leadership meeting he attended in Marysville. They learned more about flood management and hydro power. Mr. Jim Watson, General Manager for the Sites JPA provided a report on the Sites Reservoir Project. After further discussion, President Durst suggested that a meeting be setup on media training.

Manager Bair reported that he was contacted by a landowners regarding inclusion of outside landowners in the District's GSA. Ms. Kim Gallagher said that there is a large concern by private groundwater pumpers in respect to having some say in the Groundwater Sustainability Act and was looking to see if there was other landowner interest in joining RD108 in a manner that would allow the outside landowners a voice. Manager Bair reminded the Board that the Groundwater Sustainability Plan was due in 2017.

The Public Forum ended at 9:20 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 Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Leonard and unanimously approved to approve the consent agenda, including the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on June 16, 2016, and the July Financials for both Maintenance and Irrigation Funds as presented.

Accounts Payable – After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Doherty, seconded by Trustee Reinhard and unanimously approved to approve the accounts payable: Maintenance Fund in the amount of \$710,818 and on-line payments issued in June to be ratified in the amount of \$14,905 and payments issued in July to be ratified in the amount of \$77,149; and Irrigation Fund in the amount of \$498,175 and payments in July to be ratified in the amount of \$44,665.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **Operations Report** – Operations Manager Navarrot was not in attendance and Manager Bair gave the operations report. He said that the new Superintendent has been hired, Gary Marler, and will begin work on August 1. Mr. Navarrot's new title will be Assistant Superintendent and his work will shift focus from Human Resources to more implementation. He reviewed the scheduled work at Rough & Ready Pumping Plant. The trash-rack is scheduled to begin next month with Davis Machine. The SCADA radio system is currently being updated and is about 40 percent completed. Employee Mike Bailey is leaving the District for another equipment operator's job and

the District will be hiring to fill his position. Levee burning for all Districts should be completed within the next three weeks. Westervelt started moving material for SRWSLD, Bullock Bend project yesterday. There will be about 30,000 yards of material for RD108 to be used to elevate District roads.

2. 2016 Water Operations

River Operations – Assistant Manager Busch reviewed the current and projected Sacramento River Diversions with a comparison of 2014, 2015 and 2016. He commented on the flow impacts at Wilkins Slough.

Water Transfers – Manager Bair reported that Assistant Manager Busch is currently completing a 10-year scenario for water transfers with regard to CCWD and DWD five-year transfers. The two districts will be looking to see what their Water Users are willing or can afford to pay.

3. Projects

Emergency Smelt Action – The smelt in the Delta are experiencing very low population numbers. As part of the Governors Smelt Resiliency action, the District is currently pumping Project Water at the Riggs Pumping Plant into the Colusa Basin Drain to be moved through the Yolo Bypass back to generate fish food flowing into the Delta near Rio Vista to try and improve the health of Delta Smelt. The USBR have agreed to give the District credit for Project Water costs plus our pumping costs. In response to a question regarding the Delta, Manager Bair reported that the USBR has borrowed a lot of water for south of the Delta to keep the system running since they are currently restricted from releasing the water from Shasta Reservoir. The impact of this water debt that they are incurring is that if 2017 is a good water year, it will be dampened by the water debt owed by USBR.

Wallace Weir – Manager Bair reported that the first round of Project bids were all rejected and the Project is now back out for re-bid. Bids are due Aug 3.

President Durst said that the District will need to start thinking about the next Project and how the District can participate in Salmon Recovery.

Fish Food Production Project – Manager Bair said that the District is intending to re-submit the cooperative project with California Rice Commission to try and use winter flooding to re-active the flood plain fish food production that historically fed our Rivers and Deltas. The first submittal fell a few points short of being awarded. Metropolitan Water District has offered support in the amount of \$145,000 towards that local cost-share which will increase the project's scoring.

The Project will consist of flooding and draining 5,000 acres in Tract 6 or landowner volunteers. This would ideally occur about three times each winter.

INFORMATION REPORTS

NCWA Report – Trustee Cornwell gave a report of current activities of NCWA.

Sites JPA – President Durst gave a status report of the Sites JPA. July 29, 2016 will be the last day to sign-up to purchase water from Sites for Northern California water users.

Communications Consultant – Mr. Steve Beckley and Mr. John Segale gave reports of current communication efforts on behalf of the District.

Assistant Manager's Report – Assistant Manager Busch reported that the District submitted a grant application for Prop 1 funding to automate 26 canal sites within the District, construct the pipeline from the County Line Road Well to the Main Canal and supplement the flows to the North Steiner Bend Pumping Plant since that pumping plant is unscreened. The estimated cost is \$3 million; Prop 1 \$1.5 million; USBR \$750,000 and; Local Share \$750,000. USBR has awarded those funds and we are waiting on Prop 1.

Assistant Manager Busch reported that he has been attending GSA meetings for both Yolo and Colusa Counties. Yolo County has been approved for its boundary adjustment, which has split the District into two basins. The private groundwater pumpers are starting to look for participation with adjacent GSAs.

Manager's Report – Manager Bair reported that ACWA Fall conference will be held on November 29 thru December 2 in Anaheim. He asked that any Board member interested in attending to contact Cathy in the Office.

Manager Bair reported that he was contacted by Tom Patterson, Roosevelt Ranch, regarding water delivery. When there is water in the Colusa Basin Drain he can get water, but in the years where there is none, he is looking for a water source. His lands are part of the District Lands on the other side of Back Levee. Mr. Patterson is interested in comparing the cost of installing a siphon vs. drilling groundwater wells.

Manager Bair reported on the office remodel. Ms. Ehrke is working on the final details so that the plans can be submitted to Colusa County for permits.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board went into Closed Session at 11:27 a.m. to conference with legal counsel regarding one possible litigation (NRDC v. Jewel) pursuant to subdivision (b) of section 54956.9. The Board came out of Closed Session at 12:05 a.m. and President Durst announced that no action was taken.

RECESS

At 12:33 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 1:15 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 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Lewis Bair
Manager