

# RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 108

## Minutes of the Regular Meeting

### Of the Board of Trustees

August 15, 2013

President Durst called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 15, 2013 at Reclamation District No. 108 headquarters, Wilkins Slough, Colusa County, California.

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

**Trustees Absent:** None

<b>Others Present:</b>	Lewis Bair, General Manager	Kerri Andreotti, Landowner
	Kathryn Chandler, Asst. Manager	Maureen Andreotti, Landowner
	Bryan Busch, Asst. Manager	Pete Andreotti, Landowner
	Chad Navarrot, Operations Manager	Starr West, Landowner
	Cathy Busch, Executive Secretary	Scott West, Landowner
	Beverly Walls, Bookkeeper	Rick Strain, Landowner
	Jeff Johnston, F&W Service	Dave Nelson, Attorney

### ADMINISTRATION

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

**Public Participation:** There was no public present at this time.

**Consent Agenda** – After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Miller and unanimously approved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

### Accounts Payable

After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Doherty and unanimously approved to approve the August Accounts Payable: Maintenance Fund in the amount of \$353,305; on-line payments to be ratified in the amount of \$16,872; payments to be ratified in the amount of \$360,000 and Irrigation Fund in the amount of \$753,557.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

- 1. Operations Report** – Superintendent Navarrot reported on the wiring at the Wilkins Slough Pumping Plant. There is degradation of the wiring with part of the wire being old and part new which has caused some arcing. The Board directed staff to get a quote to make the needed repairs to reduce the risk to the pump motors. Superintendent Navarrot reported that there are a lot of canals within the District that need maintenance work done to repair narrow bank roads and bank erosion. He will draft a list of canals in order of priority for the Board's review. It was also noted the importance of vegetation on the canal banks to prevent erosion and should be discussed at the next annual landowner meeting.
  
- 2. Adopt Resolution No. 13-08** – President Durst welcomed the family of Trustee Andreotti and expressed the Board's condolences on his passing. It was moved by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Doherty and unanimously approved to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 13-08 in the matter of recognition and memory of the life and service of Trustee Arnold Andreotti, who will truly be missed. RESOLUTION NO. 13-08 is attached hereto and made a part hereof.
  
- 3. Presentation by Calif. Dept. Fish and Wildlife** – Manager Bair reported on the Winter Run salmon that was found in the Colusa Basin Drain (Drain) this year and the rescue efforts on behalf of local and State agencies. Mr. Jeff Johnston, Calif. Depart of Fish and Wildlife (CDF&W), gave a presentation regarding how the salmon might have gotten into the Drain and possible short and long term remedies. The CDF&W is seeking authorization from the District to setup a monitoring and trapping site on the District's Back Levee approximately 1.4 miles south of County Line Road. After further discussion, it was moved by Trustee Doherty, seconded by Trustee Cornwell and unanimously approved to authorize Manager Bair to work with the Calif. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) on an agreement for access to the proposed trapping and rescue site approximately 1.4 miles south of County Line Road and to work with CDFW for short and long term resolution of salmon in the Colusa Basin.
  
- 4. Fall River Smoothing Program** – Manager Bair reported that the Fall River Smoothing Program is moving forward. The District held a landowner meeting to explain to landowners and water users what the program was and heard their concerns. The benefit of the Program will be that the District will be able to deliver water without being interrupted if Term 91 is called. The biggest issue with the Program will be that winter water will have to be scheduled since the

District will have a limited diversion. Manager Bair stressed that the District is not locked into the program and could choose not to participate if it is shown water cannot be stored. The District would encourage water users to start rice decomp water in October and will incur charges by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) for moving base supply from earlier months for the additional water needed in October. Manager Bair was directed to contact the USBR to see if the water movement fee could be waived for this project, if not the cost to move the water should be shared over the full flooded acreage.

One concern that water users had was their participation in the NRCS Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) and the need to hold water in their fields for a specified number of days. The Smoothing Program could have a major impact on the WHIP. When the NRCS representative was asked about landowners not being able to keep water on the field for the specified number of days it was explained that there were two programs: one program would have no impacts, while the higher level and payment program could add an additional year to the landowners contract if the landowner was unable to comply. It was also stated that if the landowner did all they could to comply, NRCS would take that into consideration.

Manager Bair reviewed the past history of the winter water diversions. He said that the District would propose flows of 150 cfs. Starting water October 1 should have the participating acres flooded by November 15, with all fields started before maintenance flows would be allowed. After further discussion, it was moved by Trustee Doherty, seconded by Trustee Cornwell and unanimously approved to participate in the River Smoothing Program. It was further moved by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Cornwell to extend the irrigation season for fall flooding. This motion failed due to a lack of two-thirds vote.

**5. 2013 Rice Decomp Water Rates** – Manager Bair reported on 2012's Winter Water Rates. He said that water started in October included the USBR water moving fee of \$7 per acre-foot. It was proposed that the water moving fee be shared over all water deliveries since the District will be encouraging Water Users to start water in October. After further discussion, it was moved by Trustee Doherty, seconded by Trustee Cornwell and unanimously approved to set the winter water diversion to share the water moving charge with all winter water diverters. District staff was directed to draft a River Smoothing Program Policy including the proposed rate for flood, and flood and maintenance water.

**6. Groundwater Management Plan Update** – After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Doherty and unanimously approved to adopt the update to the Water Management Plan.

**7. Water Measurement Program SBX7** – Manager Bair reviewed the landowner billing with the Board. It is planned that the invoices will go out September 1 and due on December 1. A letter will be sent with the invoices stating firmly that the District is required to measure all water deliveries at the turn-out and will not be able to deliver water unless the water measurement facility is fully installed and paid for.

Manager Bair reported that there were several situations in the District that is more power and water efficient to measure at the lift pump. After further discussion, it was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Miller and unanimously approved to measure at the lift pump with a meter where it is power and water efficient to do so.

**8. Tract 6 Emission Reduction Credits** – Manager Bair said that he was approached regarding a proposed sale of District emission reduction credits. It was the consensus of the Board that the District will not offer any credits for sale at this time.

**9. Nomination for District-wide CBDD Director** – It was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Miller and unanimously approved to nominate George Tibbitts to the District-wide Director seat on the Colusa Basin Drainage District.

## **INFORMATION REPORTS**

**NCWA Report** – Trustee Cornwell reported that he and Present Durst visited Metropolitan Water District and toured their facilities. He reported that they are not in favor of Sites Reservoir since they cannot be assured of moving the water south past the Delta. Trustee Cornwell said that he felt that a future deal might be made with the north regarding a non-vote on the water tunnels to move water south. The State Board has let it be known that if the north and south cannot come to an agreement regarding water supplies that they would take action., and that could be bad for northern California water agencies.

**Attorney's Report** – Manager Bair reported that the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court hearing has been set for September 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Manager's Report** - Manager Bair reported on the following issues:

**Washington DC Trip** – A trip to Washington DC has been setup for September 9. There could be one additional trip in November or December.

**PWRPA** – Assistant Manager Chandler and Mr. Bryan Busch attended the PWRPA meeting. The power rate of \$0.105 could go up to \$0.155 next year. The increase is \$.01 for debt service; \$0.005 renewable resources; and \$0.03 for PG&E. Because of the rate increase, the Board might reconsider connecting Riggs Ranch to PWRPA at this time.

**Strain/West Drainage Issue** – Manager Bair reported that he received a letter from Attorney Dave Nelson, representing landowner Strain regarding summer irrigation drainage from his lands within and out of the District. The proposed agreement between Strain and West allows a slight improvement over current drainage but was not enough for Landowner Strain. This is a landowner dispute and remains unresolved.

**Stregic Planning for BDCP** – Attorney O'Brien is the lead attorney for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). It is possible that t he BDCP will be contested, if so NCWA could be the lead with many districts involved.

**Board Workshop** – September 5 at 1:00 p.m. was set for the Board workshop, with September 4 in the morning as an alternate date if needed.

### **RECESS**

At 12:15 a.m. the meeting recessed for lunch. Those present at the meeting were invited to join the Board for lunch. The meeting reconvened at approximately 1:00 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 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Lewis Bair

Secretary/Manager