

RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 108

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Of the Board of Trustees

January 16, 2014

President Durst called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 8:33 a.m. on Thursday, January 16, 2014 at Reclamation District No. 108 headquarters, Wilkins Slough, Colusa County, California.

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

Trustees Absent: Mike Miller

Others Present: Lewis Bair, General Manager
Bryan Busch, Asst. Manager
Chad Navarrot, Operations Manager
Cathy Busch, Executive Secretary

29 Landowners/Water Users
(see attached sign-in sheet)

Agenda – On motion by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Doherty the Agenda was approved as presented.

OPEN FORUM

President Durst welcomed Landowners and Water Users to the Open Forum. .There was extensive discussion of the critically dry year and projected water supplies.

President thanked the Landowners and Water Users for attending the Forum and invited them back next month

ADMINISTRATION

Public Participation: There was no further public participation.

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

Accounts Payable

After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Doherty, seconded by Trustee Cornwell and unanimously approved to approve the January Accounts Payable: Maintenance Fund in the

amount of \$193,706 and on-line payments to be ratified in the amount of \$43,539; and Irrigation Fund in the amount of \$34,479 and checks to be ratified in the amount of \$1,238.75.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Operations Report – Operations Manager Navarrot gave a status report on the El Dorado Pumping Plant Maintenance Project. The propellers, Pump No. 4 bearings and the gates should all be completed by the end of February. The River side portion of the maintenance project has been completed except for a few punch items. The pumping plant should be completed and ready for operation by March. Operations Manager Navarrot gave a status of the SBX-7 Measurement Program showing a map of areas completed.

Operation Manager Navarrot reported that the Excavator cab and arm came apart from the base of the machine while the equipment operator was moving it. The machine has no value and will need to be replaced at an estimated cost of \$298,000. After further discussion, it was moved by Trustee Cornwell and was tabled until after the budget discussion.

2. Review of 2014 Drought Planning

- **Current Water Conditions** – There was discussion regarding water supplies and the different scenarios based on allocations. If it stays dry there will be considerable shortages and the District should be prepared for the worst. It was noted that in our water contract it states that if we are cut more than 75 percent, the government does not have to cover losses to the District and/or Landowners. It is hoped that the Governor will declare a drought to reduce some of the environmental regulations if we do not receive additional rains.

- **February/March Operations** – After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Leonard and unanimously approved that the District will not divert any water prior to February 1 for appropriated lands and that the rate of divers will not exceed 10 percent of the total of the River flows at the Wilkins Slough River gauge plus diversions at the Wilkins Slough Pumping Plant with an established priority system for delivery: first to existing growing crops; second to seeded crops; and third to preirrigations. Manager Bair said that riparian landowners are being encouraged to irrigate their riparian lands in January in order to complete all requested irrigations. It was also suggested that a letter be sent to all water users regarding the existing policy and to reinforce the need to conserve all water and include excerpts from the District's Rules and Regulation regarding excess runoff.

- **Contract Period Operations** – There was discussion regarding how the District would allocate water if water supplies were cut more than 25 percent and how to measure the water applied. One method of allocating water would be to take the District's total supply and allocate it on a pro ratio basis to the number of irrigated acres in the District. The water user would pre pay the full water allocation and inform the District how they intend to farm to stay

within their allocation. It was the consensus of the Board to hold a Special Board meeting to further discuss the water supplies and drought plan.

- **Water Transfer** – Assistant Manager reported that negotiations are ongoing for water transfers south of the Delta. The current price is \$250 per acre-foot plus an additional \$50 per acre-foot if there is a 25 percent cut in allocations. There are still legal issues, including indemnification, associated with these water transfers. It was the consensus of the Board that any water transfer south of the Delta must have indemnification included in the agreement. Assistant Manager Bair reported that the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority (TCC A) is also seeking additional water and is willing to match the south of the Delta terms.

- **Groundwater Well No. 4** – Assistant Manager Busch reported that he received a cost estimate of \$27,000 to purchase and install the pump and motor for Well No. 4. He said that any cost over \$25,000 is required to go out to bid. After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Doherty, seconded by Trustee Cornwell and unanimously approved to authorize staff to negotiate with Commercial Pump & Mechanical, Inc. (CPM) to purchase and install the pump and District's motor for Well No. 4 at a cost under \$25,000.

- **Colusa Counter Water District and Dunnigan Water District Water Transfer** - Manager Bair reported that the proposed water transfer with Colusa County Water District (CCWD) and Dunnigan Water District (DWD) has been shortened to a one year transfer due to the environmental documentation required. After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Doherty and unanimously approved, Attorney O'Brien was directed to complete a Notice of Exception for a one year water transfer with CCWD and DWD. In response to a question regarding if a landowner would be entitled to transfer their District allocation to another water district to use on other land that they farm, Manager Bair reported that it may be possible but that the Board has not made any decisions on that at this point.

3. Joint Groundwater Investigation and Potential Water Banking Program – Assistant Manager Busch reported that he recently talked to Mr. Larry Rodriguez regarding the Water Smart Grant and recommended that the District not apply for it since there was limited funds and high competition. Assistant Manager Busch said that Mr. Grant Davids suggested that the District prepare a short white paper on a potential Water Banking Program as a first step at a cost much less than the initial project would have cost. Assistant Manager Busch was directed to obtain a Scope of Work and cost estimate from David's Engineering to do a White Paper on a potential Water Banking Program.

4. Flood System Repair Program Resolution No. 14-01 – After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Leonard and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution No. 14-02 in the matter of Participating in the Flood System Repair Project to Receive State Cost-Share Funds Under the Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006 (Prop 1E) and The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Prop 84).

5. Adopt 2014 Budgets – Manager Bair presented the Preliminary Budgets for Maintenance and Irrigation Funds for adoption. After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Doherty and unanimously approved to adopt the 2014 Maintenance Fund and Irrigation Fund Budgets with an additional \$325,000 to Capital Outlay for the purchase of a long-reach excavator and Groundwater Well No. 4 completion costs.

6. Election of Officers and Review Standing Committees – President Durst opened the meeting for nominations of Board Officers. It was moved by Trustee Doherty, seconded by Trustee Cornwell and unanimously approved to retain the current slate of officers; President-Fritz Durst; Vice President-Mike Miller; Secretary-Lewis Bair.

President Durst asked the Board to take time to review the Standing Committees and let him know prior to the February Board meeting which Committees they would be interested in serving on.

7. PWRPA Renewable Power Purchase Participation – Assistant Manager Busch reported that as a member of PWRPA the District has a renewable energy requirement that is set in three phases. PWRPA has found a solar project that each member can purchase a share in. The terms of the solar project is \$64 per mega-watt fixed for 20 years. If the PWRPA members do not have the required renewable energy requirements, PWRPA will purchase the renewable certificates for them at market price. After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Doherty and unanimously approved to direct staff to enter into an agreement with PWRPA to purchase a share in a solar project of one percent up to what is required to satisfy the 2017 renewable energy requirement and do all things necessary to complete this purchase.

INFORMATION REPORTS

NCWA Report – Trustee Cornwell reported that there was discussions regarding the current drought situation and possible water transfer. He said that the State Water Resources Control Board was currently working on a curtailment paper for junior water rights.

Sites JPA – Manager Bair reported that Mr. Mark Cowan, DWR Director, gave the Sites Project over to the Joint Power Authority (JPA). Now the JPA can now start to look for funding sources and move the Project forward. He said that a meeting has been setup for January 22 in Glenn County and should give a good Project update.

Attorneys Report – Attorney O'Brien said that nothing has been heard from the 9th Circuit Court.

Assistant Manager's Report - Assistant Manager Busch said he had nothing further to report.

Manager's Report - Manager Bair reported that the Annual Landowner/Water User meeting is scheduled for March 5 at 10:00 a.m.

RECESS

At 12:35 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 1:10 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 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lewis Bair".

Lewis Bair
Secretary/Manager