

RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 108

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Of the Board of Trustees

June 16, 2014

President Durst called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, June 16, 2014 at Reclamation District No. 108 headquarters, Wilkins Slough, Colusa County, California.

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

Trustees Absent: None

Others Present: Lewis Bair, General Manager 14 Members of he Public
Chad Navarrot, Operations Manager (see attached sign-in sheet)
Cathy Busch, Executive Secretary
Beverly Wall, Bookkeeper

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

OPEN FORUM

President Durst opened the Public Forum. Manager Bair was asked about curtailment letters that were issued by the State Water Resource Control Board and what impact these letters would have on the District. Manager Bair reported that the curtailment letters stopped diversions for post 1914 appropriative water rights, which would include the District's winter water license. The District is diverting water under the Settlement Contract; therefore, the District is not impacted by the curtailment letters for water diverted during May through October. The District holds a winter water license for water from November 1 until April 1 of 2015 which will fall under the curtailment letter and the District will not be able to divert on or after November 1. Currently NCWA is closely monitoring any emergency regulations that the State may try to impose that could have future impacts on the District supplies. There was discussion regarding riparian water rights and President Durst stressed the importance of making sure that riparian water rights stays with the land should you buy or sell lands with riparian rights.

The Public Forum was opened for questions.

ADMINISTRATION

Public Participation: There was no further public participation at this time.

Consent Agenda – After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Doherty 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 June Accounts Payable: Maintenance Fund in the amount of \$358,287, payment issued in June to be ratified totaled \$60,000 and on-line payments to be ratified in the amount of \$35,910; and Irrigation Fund in the amount of \$128,719 and online payments totaling \$18,374.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. State and County Groundwater Activities – President Durst introduced Mr. Tim O'Halloran, Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation. Mr. O'Halloran gave a presentation on groundwater, covering the substantial groundswell of support for more aggressive groundwater legislation. He noted that Yolo County is stepping its efforts up to intensify the groundwater discussion in light of the recent drought conditions.

2. Colusa County Groundwater – President Durst introduced Ms. Mary Fahey, Colusa County Resource Conservation District acting part time as a lead County groundwater staffer. Ms. Fahey reported that Colusa County is working on a Groundwater Management Plan and distributed a preliminary Implementation Schedule and Status of Activities. Part of this process is asking water districts, public utilities and cities to work together regarding coordination, collaboration and communication of groundwater resource management. After further discussion, it was moved by Trustee Doherty, seconded by Trustee Cornwell and unanimously approved to authorize President Durst to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Colusa County, water districts, groundwater users, public utility districts and cities regarding the coordination, collaboration and communication of groundwater resource management.

Manager Bair reported that Colusa County is looking for a groundwater user representative from the District in a technical capacity. After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Miller and unanimously approved to appoint Assistant Manager Busch as RD108's representative to the Colusa County Groundwater User Group.

3. District Related Potential Groundwater Activities

(a) Potential Wheeling Agreement – Manager Bair reported that landowners who own groundwater wells in the District have asked about moving groundwater to other locations within the District to lands they own. He said that Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) has a draft wheeling agreement for private well water supply and asked the Board if this District should make any effort to draft an agreement whereby landowners could move groundwater within the district to other fields they own. Manager Bair was directed to work with Attorney O'Brien on language for an agreement that would not burden non-participating landowners.

(b) Potential Shared Well Agreement – Manager Bair asked if the Board wanted to consider a capital partnership for a groundwater wells with landowners. President Durst suggested drafting a list of concerns and benefits to a capital partnership before moving forward.

4. Amend the 2014 Financial Budget for a 75 Percent Water Allocation and Water Transfers

– Manager Bair presented a revised 2014 Financial Budget for a 75 percent water allocation and water transfer. After review, it was moved by Trustee Doherty, seconded by Trustee Leonard and unanimously approved to accept the amended Maintenance, Project and Irrigation Budgets as recommended by Manager Bair with the exception of Tract 6 income that should not be changed. The revised budgets are attached hereto and made a part hereof.

5. The Nature Conservancy Waterfowl/Shorebird Program

– Manager Bair reported that The Nature Conservancy is offering a Waterfowl/Shorebird program for August/September of this year. He introduced Mr. Paul Spraycar, The Nature Conservancy, who gave a report on the outcome of the program with the District completed in March of this year. It was their conclusion that the program had significantly benefited the shorebirds. After further discussion, the Board directed Manager Bair to work with The Nature Conservancy to pursue the Water Fowl/Shorebird program and to contact landowners and water users to see if there is interest in the District for this program.

INFORMATION REPORTS

1. NCWA Report - Trustee Cornwell gave a report of the NCWA Manager's meeting that he attended. He said that groundwater seems to be an issue that is moving very fast and David Guy has been setting up numerous meetings. It is important that local government keeps control of groundwater and not let the State take control through legislation. Also, NCWA is closely watching the water rights emergency regulations process that the State Water Resource Control Board is considering. There is a lot of concern that the State will take away the right of due process through regulations under the guise of emergency actions.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board went into Closed Session at 3:55 p.m. to discuss ongoing litigation pursuant to subdivision (b) of section 54956.9. The Board came out of Closed Session at 4:05 p.m. and President Durst announced that no action was taken.

3. **Sites Report** – President Durst reported on the Sites JPA meeting with the NGO community today that hosted Congressman Garamendi and LaMalfa. This was considered the start of the conversation.
4. **Manager's Report** – Manager Bair gave a status of the San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority water transfer reviewing the USBR letter and list of participating fields.

Manager Bair reported on a cooperative effort by the American Rivers, NCWA and the Nature Conservancy to introduce to the State Water Resources Control Board as an alternative to their standard process for amending the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan. The proposed approach proposes specific measures with accountability for performance and monitoring to promote the sustainability of the Sacramento River basin for farms, fish and wildlife, cities and rural communities and other beneficial uses.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no comments from the public and no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lewis Bair
Secretary/Manager