

# **Sacramento River West Side Levee District**

## **Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

### **Of the Board of Commissioners**

October 23, 2013

President Ellis called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 23, 2013 at Reclamation District No. 108 headquarters, Wilkins Slough, Colusa County, California.

**Commissioners Present:** Tom Ellis, Roger Cornwell, Fritz Durst, Dan Tibbitts and Paul Sankey

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Lewis Bair, General Manager  
Bryan Busch, Assistant Manager  
Chad Navarrot, Superintendent  
Cathy Busch, Executive Secretary  
Beverly Walls, Bookkeeper

**Agenda** – On motion by Commissioner Tibbitts, seconded by Commissioner Sankey and unanimously approved, the Agenda was approved as submitted.

**Public Participation:** There was no Public comment at this time.

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

**Minutes, Financial Report and Accounts Payable** – After discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Tibbitts, seconded by Commissioner Sankey and unanimously approved to approve the minutes as presented, the September/October Financial Reports and the October Accounts Payables in the amount of \$24,577 and payments to be ratified in the amount of \$3,250.

#### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

**1. Operations Report** – Operations Manager Navarrot reported that the District currently has goats grazing on the levee. They are grazing a 20 foot width from El Dorado Pumping Plant to Knights Landing. This will give the District a clear view of the levee during levee patrols.

Operations Manager Navarrot reported that he has several concerns regarding landowner maintenance and encroachments adjacent to the levee and would like to send a letter to the landowners regarding his concerns. After further discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Durst, seconded by Commissioner Cornwell and unanimously approved to send out a letter to landowners regarding operation and maintenance issues on the levee and the adjacent right-of-way held by the District, to be signed by each of the Commissioners. President Ellis commented on the condition of the levees and said they have never been in such good condition.

## **2. Regional Planning Updates -** Manager reported on the following issues

**Mid-Upper Sacramento River Regional Flood Control** – Manager Bair reported that DWR is working on the Basin-Wide Feasibility Study and has created discussion papers to discuss with the regional efforts. These papers are written in a generic tone, listing problems by regions. In the Sacramento River Basin they have listed the lack of habitat. Looking at the areas along the Sacramento River we have amazing habitat. The Mid-Upper Sac Region needs to quantify habitat and include in the Flood Plan. The Paper shows that the Region needs to reach out to DWR staff and invite them on tours of our flood control system. Also both the District and consultant will send in comments on the paper, and Manager Bair encouraged Board members to read the paper and send him their comments.

**Draft Feather River Plan** – Manager Bair recommended that the District submit a comment letter on the Draft Feather River Plan. He is concerned that their draft plan does not mention the Sutter Bypass flow model or the inability to meet design capacity with the design free board.

**FRESSRO Conservation Strategy** – FRESSRO is an environmental group working on flood planning. They are applying compliance to the ESA for maintenance along the Sacramento River. They sent out a letter stating that there was no longer a work window for grouting levees, therefore you can no longer grout levees to fill in any voids. Another example is that they are requiring mitigation for geotext fabric being laid on the levee since it would prevent rodents from boring into the levee. Manager Bair expressed his concern on how this environmental compliance could start impacting maintenance work on the levees.

**Emergency Response Award** – The District received a letter from DWR awarding \$1.2 million for the Flood Emergency Response Project. Two thirds of that funding will develop flood maps.

## **3. Discussion & Review of the 2014 Budget** – Manager Bair reviewed the draft 2014 Financial Budget with the Board. He said that the biggest change was in Assessment Income due to the rate increase. After further discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Durst,

seconded by Commissioner Cornwell and unanimously approved to adopt the 2014 Preliminary Financial Budget.

## **INFORMATION REPORTS**

### **Manager's Report**

Manager Bair reported that the letter of intent submitted to the CCVFPB was returned for further information. It will be resubmitted as soon as the additional information has been added. Manager Bair reported that he will be setting up a meeting with DWR in respect to the Flood System Program to look for cost share on gravel for the levee road as needed.

Manager Bair reported that the December Board meeting falls after the District has closed for the holiday. He suggested that the meeting be moved to December 19 after RD108, with the Board being invited to lunch. The Board concurred.

The Board discussed holding the Annual Landowners meeting in Colusa and discussed dates. The meeting was set for January 28 at 6:30 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 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Lewis Bair  
Secretary/Manager