

Sacramento River West Side Levee District

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners

February 26, 2014

President Ellis called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 26, 2013 at Reclamation District No. 108 headquarters, Wilkins Slough, Colusa County, California.

Commissioners Present: Tom Ellis, Dan Tibbitts and Paul Sankey

Commissioners Absent: Roger Cornwell and Fritz Durst

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 Sankey, seconded by Commissioner Tibbitts 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 Sankey, seconded by Commissioner Tibbitts and unanimously approved to approve the minutes as presented, the January/February Financial Reports and the February Accounts Payables in the amount of \$24,830 and payments to be ratified in the amount of \$276.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Operations Report – Operations Manager Navarrot reported that staff has been applying herbicide on the levee. In response to a question regarding the landowner letter regarding levee maintenance and encroachments, Mr. Navarrot said he has had no response from landowners. Manager Bair reported that if the Steinberg legislation giving the Central Valley Flood Protection Board enforcement responsibilities passes, local government may be a part of the process.

2. 2014 Budget - Manager Bair reviewed the final Budget with the Board. Commissioner Tibbitts asked if staff has reviewed the project list drafted for the assessment increase and if the District was financially set to start on that list. After discussion, staff will review the project lists and investigate repair methods and costs for priority repairs for the discussion at the April Board meeting. After discussion it was moved by Commissioner Tibbitts, seconded by Commissioner Sankey and unanimously approved to approve the 2014 Financial Budget as presented.

3. Regional Flood Planning Update – Manager Bair reported on the Regional Flood Plan. He said that he presented and submitted documents on rural local maintaining issues. Eleven issues were brought up and a paper written on each with proposed solutions. The papers were written so that each region could tailor it to fit their individual area.

Manager Bair said that he attended a meeting where they heard from the Floodsafe Environmental Stewardship and Statewide Resources Office (FESSRO) on how they would change their approach on vegetation from the 2012 Flood Plan. The State Plan included gradual removal of trees to ultimately comply with Corps standards with the exception of the waterside toe. FESSRO is proposing a different approach that would essentially keep the status quo by allowing natural replacement of the existing woody vegetation on the entire levee. It was pointed out to FESSRO that the local maintaining agencies could not afford to maintain the levees as they described and this policy needed to have “buy in” from the relevant State and federal agencies so that the local maintaining agencies are not stuck in the middle of two conflicting policies.

Manager Bair gave a status report on the Mid-Upper Sacramento Valley Regional Flood Plan. There have been several small community meetings to help assist small communities evaluate the opportunities to obtain 100-year flood protection.

4. California Water Bonds – Manager Bair reported that there were currently at least seven Water Bonds making their way through the legislation.

INFORMATION REPORTS

Manager’s Report

Manager Bair reported that a letter was sent to the Assembly Budget Subcommittee and Senate Budget Subcommittee members in support of the Williamson Act subvention payments. Manager Bair also reported on and reviewed HR-3370 delaying the implementation of certain provisions of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no comments from the public and no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lewis Bair". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lewis Bair
Secretary/Manager