

# RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 108

## Minutes of the Regular Meeting

### Of the Board of Trustees

December 18, 2014

President Durst called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 18, 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

<b>Others Present:</b>	Lewis Bair, General Manager	Blair Voelz, Landowner
	Bryan Busch, Assistant Manager	Tom Ellis, Landowner
	Chad Navarrot, Operations Manager	Byron Clark, David's Engineering
	Cathy Busch, Executive Secretary	Grant David's, David's Engineering
	Beverly Walls, Bookkeeper	by telephone
	Kevin O'Brien, Legal Counsel	Eileen Diepenbrock, Attorney
		by telephone

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

### OPEN FORUM

There was no discussion at this time.

### ADMINISTRATION

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

**Consent Agenda** – After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Leonard and unanimously approved as presented.

### Accounts Payable

After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Doherty, seconded by Trustee Cornwell and unanimously approved to approve the December Accounts Payable: Maintenance Fund in the amount of \$2,796,459 including payments to Water Transfer participants, payment issued in

November to be ratified totaled \$1,770 and on-line payments to be ratified in the amount of \$29,811; and Irrigation Fund in the amount of \$70,569 and online payments totaling \$4,841.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

**1. Adopt the 2015 Preliminary Financial Budget** – Manager Bair reviewed the Preliminary 2015 Financial Budget for Maintenance and Irrigation funds. He said that there are two proposed changes to the Maintenance Budget. Pumping Plant Maintenance, Account No. 560, was increased \$26,000 for a service contract with Richall Electric for annual maintenance and preventive electrical work on the District's pumping plants and the Knights Landing Outfall Gate Project was increased \$100,000 for 2015. The Board also reviewed the draft Five Year Budgets and Investment Report for both Irrigation and Maintenance Funds. After further discussion, it was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Doherty and unanimously approved to adopt the 2015 Preliminary Budgets for both Maintenance and Irrigation Funds as submitted including the two changes.

**2. Operations Report** – Operations Manager Navarrot reported that staff was currently working on cleaning canals, clearing drains and performing levee patrol due to the high water in the River and 2047 Canal. Operations Manager Navarrot reported that Davis Machine completed adjustment of two of the three gate operators and would like to have the final retention released. Staff was directed to draft a letter agreement with Davis Machine warranting the valves for one year after final actuator was adjusted properly.

President Durst stated that the District needs to monitor water levels on the Back Levee due to the increased vegetation along the Drain. Manager Bair reported that there is no annual reporting of the condition of the designated floodways or bypasses like are done with levees. He said that he attended a Central Valley Flood Control Assoc. meeting where this was discussed and possible legislation to add this reporting was considered as an Association priority. Staff was directed to investigate a strategy to monitor the impacts of the vegetation on the Back Levee.

**3. Knights Landing Outfall Gates Project (KLOG)** – Manager Bair reported on the KLOG project. He said ICF will lead on the permitting and at this point only has a range of estimated costs. CBEC will be documenting hydraulic issues and it is hoped that they will only have to complete a short memo as minimal impacts are anticipated. The Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) will meet on January 23, where the District will request that they draft a letter to the Corps of Engineers requesting that the NEPA/408 Permit process be initiated.

**4. Closed Session** – At 9:30 a.m. the Board went into Closed Session to conference with legal counsel regarding anticipated possible litigation pursuant to subdivision (b) of section 54956, (Settlement Contractors). The Board came back into Open Session at 9:45 a.m. and President Durst announced that no action was taken.

**5. NCWA Report** – Trustee Cornwell reported that the NCWA annual meeting will be held in mid-March. President Durst reported that the NCWA Drought Task Force has been meeting to discuss 2015 Sacramento Valley River Operations. They are working with MBK Engineers on modeling the Sac Valley River Systems under different hydrology.

**7. Sites Report** – President Durst reported that URS has completed a report showing alternatives for Sites Reservoir that will include a benefits analysis, cost estimate and cost allocation. This report will help the JPA take the project to potential investors. The JPA is still working to hire a manager to step up the activity level and take some of the project burden off Board members and District Managers.

**8. Assistant Manager's Report** – Assistant Manager Busch reported on the possibility of a 2015 Water Transfer. The District is included in the USBR Environmental Documents for both groundwater and surface water made available by crop idling. Colusa County Water District and Dunnigan Water District are currently working on environmental documents for a five-year Project Water transfer agreement that would start in 2015. It was the consensus of the Board that the District stay engaged in 2015 Water Transfer discussions.

Assistant Manager Busch reviewed the groundwater pumped in 2014. He said that the reports show that the groundwater levels have nearly recovered from all pumping. Groundwater bases for future water transfers will be based on 2014 groundwater usage. Manager Bair stated that he will contact DWR regarding the Baseline Program.

Assistant Manager Busch reported on the Shore Bird Program sponsored by The Nature Conservancy. The fall program used groundwater to flood the participating fields with TNC paying for the costs. TNC is looking to see if the District is interested in participating in a 2015 Spring program using surface water. It was the consensus of the Board to participate in a Spring Shore Bird Program.

**9. Manager's Report** – Manager Bair gave a report on the Special Landowner meeting held to discuss the SBX-7 Water Measurement Program and the rate structure. This will be just the first of several meetings in 2015 regarding this issue.

There is a trip to Washington DC planned for the week of March 9, 2015. The Northern California group will be addressing Settlement Contract issues, .

**6. Closed Session** – At 10:30 a.m. the Board went into Closed Session to conference with legal counsel regarding anticipated possible litigation pursuant to subdivision (b) of section 54956, (Settlement Contractors). The Board came back into Open Session at 10:55 a.m. and President Durst announced that he and Manager Bair were directed to meet with representatives from River Garden Farms.

**10. Closed Session** – At 11:00 a.m. the Board went into Closed Session to conference with legal counsel regarding one personnel issue. The Board came back into Open Session at 11:25 a.m. and President Durst announced that the annual review of Manager Bair was conducted and that he was given an eleven percent increase in salary with a merit bonus.

**11. Groundwater Investigation** – Mr. Byron Clark, David's Engineering gave a presentation on groundwater investigation involving the District, Colusa County Water District and Dunnigan Water District. The objective of the investigation is to evaluate groundwater benefits of a draft Five-Year Project Water Transfer Agreement. The proposed terms would be 10,000 acre-feet annually between the two districts, first right of refusal in critical years with water costs based on TCC supplies. Mr. Grant Davids was contacted on the telephone and the meeting was opened for questions.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no comments from the public and no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lewis Bair  
Secretary/Manager