

RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 108

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Of the Board of Trustees

September 19, 2013

President Durst called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, September 19, 2013 at Reclamation District No. 108 headquarters, Wilkins Slough, Colusa County, California.

Trustees Present: Fritz Durst President, Roger Cornwell and Mike Miller

Trustees Absent: Sean Doherty

Others Present:

Lewis Bair, General Manager	Ken Keller, Landowner
Bryan Busch, Asst. Manager	Candy Keller, Landowner
Chad Navarrot, Operations Manager	Blair Voelz, Water User
Cathy Busch, Executive Secretary	
Beverly Walls, Bookkeeper	

Due to lack of quorum, the Board began with non-action items.

- 1. Operations Report** – Superintendent Navarrot gave a status on the water measurement project reviewing the meter installation. Superintendent Navarrot reported on the El Dorado Pumping Plant Maintenance Project. It has been recommended that the District move to hydraulic actuators at an estimated cost of up to \$40,000.
- 2. Water Transfers** – NCWA has begun conversations regarding 2014 water transfers, based on the dry conditions of 2013. Manager Bair reviewed the different water transfer programs: 1) In District groundwater use making surface water available for transfers; 2) In Basin transfers that would transfer Project Water; and 3) reduction in crop water use by shifting to lower water using crops or idling land as has been done in the past. The District is also looking for a possible short-term Project Water transfer with adjacent District's similar to 2) above. The agreement would not guarantee water transfers if the District did not receive 100 percent supply. The idea would be to improve groundwater conditions in preparation for drought conditions.

Trustee Miller entered the meeting at approximately 10:42 a.m.

ADMINISTRATION

Agenda – The Agenda was approved as submitted.

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

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

Accounts Payable

After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Miller and unanimously approved to approve the September Accounts Payable: Maintenance Fund in the amount of \$634,827 on-line payments to be ratified in the amount of \$46,692; payments to be ratified in the amount of \$1,000 and Irrigation Fund in the amount of \$641,063.

BUSINESS ITEMS

2. El Dorado Pumping Plant – After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Miller and unanimously approved to authorize up to \$40,000 cost increase for hydraulic actuators after first investigating other hydraulic actuator options.

Both Trustee Cornwell and Attorney O'Brien departed the meeting before discussions started on the River Garden Farms costs share for the El Dorado maintenance project. President Durst reported that he met with the owners of River Garden Farms to discuss this issue. He presented the District argument that the cost share should cover the proportional full cost for all of the work associated with the two pumps, associated plumbing, related through levee piping and trash rack and not just be associated with the pumps.

4. Fall River Smoothing Program – Manager Bair reported that the Winter Run Salmon spawned late this year and NMFS will not be allowing flow reductions until late October, therefore it is unlikely the River Smoothing Program will work for 2013. Should the River Smoothing Program not start this year the District would not have coverage should Term 91 be called. The District needs to have a final decision within the next two weeks, and should be ready to send out notice to Landowners and Water Users as soon as it is known.

5. Board Term Determinations – President Durst said that three Trustees submitted completed nomination forms for the three open Board seats and therefore no election will be held. Since two four-year terms and one two-year term are open, the Board chose to draw lots. The results of the draw were that President Durst would hold the two year term and Trustees Miller and Leonard would hold four year terms.

8. Board Workshop - There was discussion regarding the Board Workshop held on September 4, 2013. Consultant Mandelberg facilitated the meeting prioritizing current and long term issues. The next Workshop is scheduled for either October 29 or 30 to discuss implementation of goals.

9. ACWA Committee Nominations – After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Cornwell, seconded by Trustee Miller and unanimously approved to make the following nominations for ACWA committees: Lewis Bair, Water Management Committee; Kevin O'Brien, State Legislative Committee; Bryan Busch, Energy and Groundwater Committees; and David Aladjem Groundwater Committee.

INFORMATION REPORTS

NCWA Report – Trustee Cornwell reported that Palo Verde Irrigation District gave a presentation on their water transfer program with Metropolitan Water District. It is likely that it will take some time to define how the decision translates to action. March 14, 2014 is NCWA Annual Meeting. Additionally, Grant Davis presented the initial results of a study on surface water usage in the Sacramento Valley since 1985.

Sites JPA – During the trip to Washington DC there was a lot discussions regarding Sites. The JPA is continues to advance the available project information so that enough information would be available for locals, investors and State decision makers.

Attorney's Report – Attorney O'Brien reported that the districts received a favorable opinion regarding the water fees charged by the State Water Resources Control Board. The Judge ruled that it was a tax, therefore unconstitutional. The process for remedy will now start.

Manager's Report - Manager Bair reported on the following issues:

Washington DC Trip – Manager Bair said that this trip was focused on California Water issues rather than the BDCP. He felt that they had some success getting Northerner California's story told. There were also discussions regarding Sites Reservoir and Flood Control issues.

Westervelt – It appears that Westervelt will be able to directly apply for State funding. They have asked if the District was interested in the spoil material. Also Yolo County is requesting an 85-acre Ag Preservation Easement. Staff was directed to share potential easement language with the Board when available.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board went into Closed Session at 11:40 a.m. to conference with legal counsel regarding one potential litigation pursuant to subdivision (b) of section 54956.9 and one existing litigation NRDC vs Salazar. The Board reconvened open session at 12:03 p.m. and reported that no action was taken.

RECESS

At 12:04 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 1:00 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 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lewis Bair

Secretary/Manager