

RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 108

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Of the Board of Trustees

May 15, 2014

Vice-President Miller called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 15, 2014 at Reclamation District No. 108 headquarters, Wilkins Slough, Colusa County, California.

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

Trustees Absent: Fritz Durst

Others Present: Lewis Bair, General Manager
Bryan Busch, Asst. Manager
Chad Navarrot, Operations Manager
Cathy Busch, Executive Secretary
Beverly Wall, Bookkeeper

11 Landowners/Water Users
(see attached sign-in sheet)

Agenda – The Agenda was approved as presented

OPEN FORUM

Manager Bair opened the Public Forum. Assistant Manager Busch reviewed the startup of rice flooding. It is estimated that all District rice fields should have water started by May 25. By Saturday, May 17 the District should be diverting up to 800 cfs for rice plus a small additional amount for general crops. Manager Bair reviewed how the Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) is operating the Sacramento River for 2014. The Settlement Contractors met with USBR when we received 75 percent water supply and agreed to a slow start-up of rice flooding. USBR is currently running the River at less than the required Navigation Elevation and storing the saved water to maintain cold water for Salmon in the late summer/fall months. As the current River elevations, the District is close to losing the capability to divert water at El Dorado Bend Pumping Plant. Should this happen, water will have to be brought down from the north end of the District to use to flood the fields serviced by El Dorado Pumping Plant. Operations Manager Navarrot commented that the pump that is currently being used at El Dorado Pumping Plant is running at more than the theoretical maximum lift capability of the pump.

Assistant Manager Busch reviewed the 2014 Water Transfer Program. The District has approximately 47,500 irrigable acres. In 2014 there is 6,405 acres being idled for the water transfer to San Luis & Delta Mendota Water District (SLDMWD), which is about 13 percent of the District's irrigable lands and 19 percent of 2013's rice cropping. He reviewed the District's water supply and is regularly comparing projection estimates to actual diversions to manage the system.

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 May Accounts Payable: Maintenance Fund in the amount of \$403,562, payment issued in April to be ratified totaled \$66,643 and on-line payments to be ratified in the amount of \$29,986; and Irrigation Fund in the amount of \$37,373 and online payments totaling \$2,960.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **Operations Report** – Operations Manager Navarrot reported that a large number of staff is currently working on the levees clearing and preparing for burning in June. Currently staff is doing general maintenance and delivering water. In response to a question in how the water measurement program was doing, Operations Manager Navarrot reported that the system seems to be working fine, but taking more of the Watermen's time.

Manager Bair reported that at the end of 2013 the District lost several staff members and that because of the 40 percent water supply budget were not replaced. He said that one important position that he felt needed to be replaced was Bill Miller, who completed routine electrical maintenance at the pumping plants. At this time Operations Manager Navarrot is trying to do his work plus the work that has been done in the past by Mr. Miller. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to start the process of hiring a replacement for Mr. Miller. Once this position has been filled, management will come back to the Board to amend the budget for the additional payroll cost.

2. **Water Operations** – Manager Bair stated that he had nothing in addition to what was discussed in the open forum.

3. **Water Transfers** – Assistant Manager Busch reported that the Forbearance Agreement has been signed by the USBR and SLDMWD, and Landowner Agreements are currently being executed. The agreements with both Dunnigan Water District and the Colusa County Water District have been signed and approved by USBR. Currently both Dunnigan and Colusa County Water Districts are taking 5,800 acre-feet of the 7,500 acre-feet of Project water made available for transfer.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no comments from the public and no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lewis Bair".

Lewis Bair
Secretary/Manager