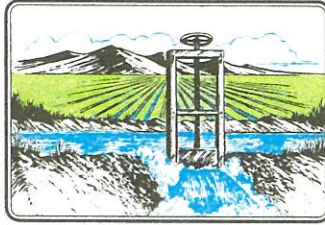


Reclamation District No. 1004



ANNUAL LANDOWNERS MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023

Annual Landowners Meeting

10:00 a.m.

Board of Trustees present Chairman Hulbert, Trustee Borrelli, Trustee Bailey, Trustee Herkert, Trustee Mord. RD 1004 staff present District Manager Terry Bressler, Assistant Manager Vince Laufer, and Secretary to the Board of Trustees Barbie Buchanan. Public attendees present Ken Moonie, Tariq Khan, Dan Emery, Richard Poletti, Bill and Mary Stone, Joe Barale, Clark Becker, Hayden Harter, Walt Sikes, Deryl and Suzanne Phy.

1. Call the Meeting to Order

Called to order at 10:08 a.m.

2. Welcome Landowners and Guests

3. Introduction of the Board

4. Election 2023

Announcement regarding Trustee Herkert and Trustee Mord are up for reelection in November.

5. Introduction of New Employees

Announced that employees Barbara Sachs retired in March 2023, and Lynda Reishce moved in February. New hires Vince Laufer, Assistant Manager, started in February 2023 and Barbie Buchanan, Office Manager and Secretary to the Board of Trustees, started in April 2023.

6. Public Comment

None

7. 2022 Review

A. 2022 Water 18% Allocation from the Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)

Reviewed 2022 actions and projects for attendees. The last critical year was at 75% allocation. Because of the lack of physical water in Shasta, SRSC negotiated 18% allocation for the 2022 crop. This was a historic cut for the SRSC and RD 1004.

Water sales helped our budget in 2022.

1. **USBR for Refuge-3,600 Ac/Ft-Sold to USBR for the Refuge**
2. **Orland Artois Water District Bought -300 Ac/Ft**
3. **Extra Water sold within the district – to internal growers**

Discussion around items 7. A. 1 through 3, all positive events to get RD 1004 through the budget year after a few critical years in a row.

4. **Bureau of Reclamation payment for water in 2022, we only had to pay the Bureau for any water that we sold.**

Buyers paid for fees. RD 1004 has credit with USBR because paid on front end.

B. 2022 Audit

The 2022 audit was completed by Robert Johnson and a copy of the audit is available. It was a clean audit, and auditor only made a few small recommendations for the Board of Trustees (Trustees). Biggest recommendation was to get the \$400,000.00 credit back from the USBR. Budget started at a \$994,213.00 loss, and ended with a positive budget of \$355,860.00.

8. Budget 2023

A. Water Allocation-Full Water-Bureau Non-Critical Year

Discussion only, no actions taken. \$189,000.00 loss budgeted; 100% allocations discussed.

B. Water toll-\$26.00 per Acre Foot

Discussion with landowners with some asking why not lower toll with reserves up. Chairman Hulbert explained need for capital work in District.

C. Standby Fee-\$22.50 per Acre

Discussion only, no action taken. Trustees decided that this year’s standby fee would be \$22.50 per acre foot, the same amount as 2022.

D. Water Deposit 2023

Discussion only, no action taken. Forecasting \$355,000.00 profit which will be used for upcoming capital projects.

		<u>Unit Duty</u>
1.	Rice	5 Ac/Ft @ \$26.00 per Ac/Ft
2.	Non-Rice	3 Ac/Ft @ \$26.00 per Ac/Ft

* **Same as last year only one Season, water is good from May to last Friday before the end of duck season**

* **Any unused deposits for rice or habitat/duck will be refunded**

Public comments:

- Regarding amount being spent on SRSC; Chairman Hulbert stated normal budget is approximately \$14,377.00 annually.

- Regarding RD 1004 in reserves; Chairman Hulbert explained that he has a target of approximately \$5 million to be held in reserves. Chairman Hulbert informed RD 1004 has approximately \$4M in upcoming projects.
 - Asked for list of projects and a time frame. Chairman Hulbert stated once the list and time frames are narrowed down, will post on website. RD 1004 has small window for projects between farming and duck seasons.
- Regarding RD 1004's money being safe with current banking issues. Chairman Hulbert explained that all money is in CDs and Treasury.

9. Water Rights-Meeting with Bureau and Fish Agencies

* RD1004 Mission Statement, PROTECT OUR WATER RIGHTS

Chairman Hulbert shared Mission Statement and explained it was updated to protect water rights. 2023 is the 100th anniversary for RD 1004.

Discussion only regarding current meetings with CDFW, USFW, NMFS as they are trying to increase the water for winter salmon to 25%. Chairman Hulbert and Trustee Herkert are attending meetings.

Discussion regarding three new assembly bills that are currently being heard that would give the State Water Board more authority, AB 460, AB 1337, AB 389. SRSC contributed funds to fight those ABs through Northern California Water Association (NCWA).

Public comment:

- Regarding amount RD 1004 pays to NCWA. Chairman Hulbert stated approximately \$13,000.00 so far, however, typically RD 1004 pays dues once per year.

10. V.A. Voluntary Agreements

Discussion only, no action taken.

11. District Operation

A. Current Projects, Engineering and Construction started on Brooks Walker & Avis

Per District Manager, Terry Bressler, the current projects listed are past due for rebuilding. Will have the design plan by the end of April then it will go to engineering. Work will start after rice has been flooded.

B. Gates and Pipes

RD 1004 staff is currently working on gates and pipes and will use portable pumps for ducks.

C. SGMA-Ground Water

Butte County is taking the lead and things are going well.

D. Butte Subbasin-Status

Plan has been adopted and is moving forward.

12. Office update

A. RRA forms

B. Water Application

Discussion only, no action taken. RRA forms and water applications are due now and public reminded that RRA forms are audited by the Bureau of Reclamation for accuracy.

13. Litigation-White Mallard Lawsuit-Settled

Discussion only, no action taken. 2022 litigation settled.

14. Chairman Remarks

Extend I.O.P. through 12/31/2023-Judge Ruling

2022 Historic cuts to our water supply at 18%. A lot of working with SRSC to make sure not setting precedent to cut our contracts.

2023 meeting with Bureau and CDFW, USFW, NMFS to carve out more water in drought years. So far, no discussion of payment for this water. These discussions will be critical in the next two to three years.

2023 operations focus is customer service. Two new District employees are:

Vince Laufer – Assistant District Manager

Barbie Buchanan – Office Manager

Cost savings – solar.

15. Drought Relief Funding-USBR

\$1.9 million through SRSC was part of the \$60 million Bureau fund. SRSC retained \$3 million for salmon fish studies for the next two years.

Public Comment:

- Todd Southam comments regarding temperature control being a theory and not all proven. Trustees explained that is why the studies are currently happening.

16. Question and Answers

No public questions.

17. Closing

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Submitted by Barbie Buchanan.



Ed Hulbert
Chairman of the Board



Barbie Buchanan
Secretary to the Board of Trustees