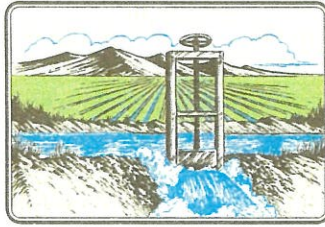


Reclamation District No. 1004



**RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 1004
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
March 20, 2024
Regular Board Meeting
10:00 a.m.**

Board of Trustees (BOT) present: Chairman Hulbert, Vice-Chairman Borrelli, Trustee Herkert, Trustee Mord and Trustee Bailey. RD1004 staff present: District Manager Terry Bressler and Secretary to the Board of Trustees Barbie Buchanan. RD1004 Legal Counsel: Dustin Minasian. Public attendees present: Hayden Harter.

1. Call the Meeting to Order

Meeting called to order at 12:57 p.m.

Closed session called at 12:58 for USBR Reinitiation of Consultation, biological opinion legal discussion with District's legal counsel.

Open session called at 1:45.

Report out from closed session; direction to District staff and counsel.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda: Vice-Chairman Borrelli

Second: Trustee Bailey

Vote: Unanimous

3. Approval of Minutes

A. February 14, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from February 14, 2024, Regular Board Meeting with suggested edits on page 4 spelling correction and corrected comment from Vice-Chairman Borrelli on page 6: Trustee Bailey

Second: Trustee Mord

Vote: Unanimous

4. Public to address the Board

District Manager Terry Bressler shared an email from Tom Orgain with RSCT Duck Club sent to the District email on February 14, 2024, regarding the condition of the gravel road at Putnam Road. Mr. Orgain feels

that the surface of the road negatively impacts all users of the road. The letter will also be shared with Mike Azevedo with Colusa County Public Works Department. No other public comments.

5. Financial Reports - Discussion and Possible Action

A. Cash Report/Account Balances

Office Manager Barbie Buchanan reported that the District has \$1.4M to reinvest, and is looking at CDs at 5.15% and US Treasuries at 5%. In addition, the District was awarded \$10,000.00 for a JPIA Risk Assessment Grant which offset partial cost of the well fencing. The District has received approximately \$160k in standby payments and water deposits for the 2024 water season.

B. Interim Disbursements

Motion to approve Interim Disbursements as presented: Trustee Herkert
Second: Trustee Mord
Vote: Unanimous

C. Accounts Payable

Motion to approve Accounts Payable as presented: Vice-Chairman Borrelli
Second: Trustee Bailey
Vote: Unanimous

Trustee Bailey would like District Manager Terry Bressler to obtain further details from JPIA for safety trainings for District staff.

D. Accounts Receivable

Discussion regarding the District land lease that will be going out to bid the latter half of 2024. The BOT asked how many, and what size duck blinds, are on the District property. District Manager Terry Bressler reported that he believes there are eleven duck blinds and the sizes range between two-man and four-man blinds. The BOT would like to review the lease prior to it being placed out for bid. Discussion only, no action taken.

E. Profit/Loss Statement

Discussion only, no action taken.

Trustee Bailey expressed that he disagrees with the monthly White Mallard Operating Agreement and would like the topic added to the April 2024 agenda to discuss further. District Manager Terry Bressler stated that operations are going well with the White Mallard Dam.

F. Approval of Transfers

Office Manager Barbie Buchanan requested the following transfers:

- \$2,500.00 water rights fund from the general fund to County Fund 2 (499)
- \$10,000.00 Princeton Pumping Plant from the general fund to County Fund 3 (500)

Motion to approve the two transfers as requested: Vice-Chairman Borrelli
Second: Trustee Herkert

Vote: Unanimous

6. New Business:

A. Discussion and Possible Action regarding District Capital Asset Policy

Office Manager Barbie Buchanan presented the updated draft District Capital Asset Policy. The only change in the policy is changing the current policy amount of \$5,000.00 to the suggested amount \$25,000.00 based on the recommendation of the District's auditor. No other changes in the policy.

Motion to approve the Capital Asset Policy as presented: Trustee Mord

Second: Trustee Bailey

Vote: Unanimous

B. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Invoicing Policy for Butte Creek Farms and Rancho Caleta

Discussion only, no action taken. Topic tabled until after meeting with MBK Engineers.

C. Discussion and Possible Action regarding 2024 Unit Duty

Discussion only, no action taken. The 2024-unit duty will stay at 5 a/f for rice, and 3 a/f for all other crops and habitat.

D. Discussion and Possible Action to approve SRSC MOU with USBR (10-year Voluntary Agreement for BIN3 Drought Year)

Chairman Hulbert shared that the time is nearing to make a decision on the MOU between SRSC and USBR. He would like a consensus from the BOT to give the authority to vote on behalf of RD1004 when the time comes. Vice-Chairman Borrelli would like to know how the USBR funding would be distributed before he votes. Chairman Hulbert explained that the funding distribution is an internal discussion and separate from the SRSC vote he is discussing. Vice-Chairman Borrelli is opposed to voting for the USBR voluntary agreement if Rancho Caleta does not see any direct benefit from the funding, and does not support the funding going to equipment, canal cleaning, etc. Vice-Chairman Borrelli would like more information from the District's legal counsel to understand what, if any, strings are attached to the USBR MOU. Trustee Herkert stated that he is willing to vote on the MOU before finalizing RD1004's internal allocation process, however, he would not be ready to vote on it prior to another closed session meeting with Thad Bettner from SRSC, and Dustin Cooper from Minasian Law. District staff will ask Thad Bettner Dustin Cooper to attend a board meeting when the MOU is closer to being approved.

7. Chairman's Report

A. Update on Sacramento River Settlement Contractors

All updates provided at Annual Landowner meeting earlier today, no additional discussion.

8. Manager's Report

District Manager Terry Bressler reported that he will be working with Colusa County to apply for additional Carl Moyer funding to replace the final old pump within the District. He presented information regarding a canal liner.

In addition, District Manager Terry Bressler reported that the job posting for the District Operations Specialist is about to close, and the District has not had any additional applicants. The BOT gave direction for District staff to repost the job opening. Trustee Bailey asked if the District will need another person for the spray program, however, District Manager Terry Bressler stated that the one new employee should be sufficient.

District Manager Terry Bressler reported on new updates including: the hydro project that should be starting next week, and North State Electric will be completing all of the electrical work for the project. There will be tomatoes planted within the District this year. Butte Basin GSA was approved and there is an agreement to share the annual cost equally.

Trustee Bailey asked a few questions regarding the Brooks Walker project, and asked for District Manager Terry Bressler to provide a cost breakdown for the Brooks Walker and Avis projects moving forward.

District Manager Terry Bressler discussed automation at the White Mallard Dam. Automation would allow for District staff to know what the water level is at all times. Trustee Bailey does not feel automation would provide a large gain for the District based on the ongoing maintenance costs.

9. Old Business:

A. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Butte Creek

Vice-Chairman Borrelli feels that once Butte Creek reaches a certain level, District staff should prioritize using other sources of water rather than Butte Creek water so that the people who take Butte Creek water below, are still able to do so. In addition, if Butte Creek water users draw water and that use causes Butte Creek to dry up below the dam, there would not be enough water for any fish coming up the Creek to make it, which could cause an issue with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Trustee Herkert shared a concern that was voiced by Jack Baber regarding salty well water being discharged into Butte Creek, especially when Butte Creek is low, which may have caused fish kills in the past. Mr. Baber was surprised that USFWS has not been out to Butte Creek to check discharges. Trustee Herkert feels that the level of water in Butte Creek, as well as if the District is discharging into Butte Creek should be looked at.

Chairman Hulbert explained that if the District would have been awarded the USBR water wheeling agreement to deliver 30,000 a/f of water to the Sutter Refuge, it would have increased the flow in Butte Creek and would have been better water quality.

B. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Solar Program and Proposal

Discussion only, no action taken.

C. Discussion and Possible Action regarding White Mallard Dam Automated Dam Level Cost, Feasibility and Operations

Discussion only, no action taken.

D. Discussion and Possible Action of Construction Contract for Brooks Walker and Avis Pumps

Discussion only, no action taken.

E. Discussion and Possible Action regarding District Reserves

Chairman Hulbert shared that the District's true reserve amount is approximately \$3M, not including the \$1.2M of drought funding, \$946k in the Princeton Pumping Plant, and the \$272,500.00 Water Right Fund. Trustee Bailey feels that the District is pretty close to the reserve target. Chairman Hulbert feels that the target reserve amount should be \$5M. Vice-Chairman Borrelli feels that once the District reaches the reserve target of \$5M, any excess funding should be used to subsidize fees.

10. CLOSED SESSION AND TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:

A. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Sacramento River Water Rights/Bureau of Reclamation & California Department of Water Resources

No closed session called.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Submitted by Barbie Buchanan.



Ed Hulbert
Chairman of the Board



Barbie Buchanan
Secretary to the Board of Trustees