Reclamation District No. 1004



BOARD OF TRUSTEES BOARD MEETING October 13th, 2021 1:30 p. m. MINUTES

Board of Trustees present Ed Hulbert, Larry Borrelli, Leanne Mord, Hans Herkert and Travis Laviolette via telephone conference. Others present: District Manager Terry Bressler, Secretary to the Board of Trustees Barbara Sachs, Deryl Phy and David Barale via telephone conference.

1:35 p.m. Chairman Hulbert opened the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting.

Agenda:

M/S/C (Borrelli, Herkert) approve October 13th agenda.

Vote: Unanimous

Chairman Hulbert announced in future meetings, the Board would have to approve a resolution allowing Trustees to attend monthly Board meetings via conference calls/zoom at the beginning of each Board meeting in order to vote after the October 13th meeting.

M/S/C (Mord, Herkert) pass resolution 2021-3 to hold a conference call for November 10th, 2021 Board Meeting.

Vote: Unanimous

Minutes:

M/S/C (Borrelli, Herkert) approve September 8th Regular Board meeting.

Vote: Unanimous

Public Comment:

David Barale asked if it rains and more water is allocated and term 91 is lifted, is the District going to deliver more water or are they shut off as of October 31st. Terry said if water is available the

Board could consider it.

Financials:

Treasurer's Report:

M/S/C (Herkert, Laviolette) approve Treasurer's report as presented.

Vote: Unanimous

Barbara requested to transfer \$1,000,000.00 from Wells Fargo Bank checking to LAIF.

M/S/C (Borrelli, Herkert) approve \$1,000,000.00 transfer from Wells Fargo Bank checking to LAIF.

Vote: Unanimous

Barbara Sachs presented the Cash report and designation of financial accounts.

M/S/C (Borrelli, Herkert) approve cash report as submitted

Vote: Unanimous

Interim transactions:

M/S/C (Borrelli, Laviolette) approve interim transaction in the amount of \$13,178.88

Vote: Unanimous

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Barbara requested a transfer from LAIF to Umpqua Bank in the amount of \$150,000

M/S/C (Mord, Borrelli) approve \$150,000 from LAIF to Umpqua Bank in the amount of \$150,000

Vote: Unanimous

Barbara requested a transfer from Fund One to Fund Three in the amount of \$10,000

M/S/C (Herkert, Mord) approve transfer from Fund One to Fund Three in the amount of \$10,000

Vote: Unanimous

Accounts Payable:

Barbara presented the accounts payable in the amount of \$92,808.22

M/S/C (Borelli, Herkert) approve accounts payable as presented

Vote: Unanimous

Barbara presented the balance sheet, profit and loss and profit and loss to budget.

M/S/C (Borrelli, Herkert) approve balance sheet, profit and loss and profit and loss to budget

Vote: Unanimous

Barbara presented the accounts receivable.

Employee Sick and Vacation Leave:

No Comment

Other Office business:

Barbara reported the website is up and running and Terry and I have new email addresses.

Regarding the upcoming 2021 Board of Trustee election, the Colusa County Board of Supervisors appointed Mary Stone, Audra Baber and Shelley Cadek to the election board. The polls open at 8 a.m. and will close at 4:00 p.m. Ballots have been received, a letter with the number of votes each landowner is allotted was mailed including a letter of instruction from Minasian Law Group. Chairman Hulbert said a copy of the voter roll was given to each candidate and Jack Baber upon his request as its public information.

Barbara said Steve Crawshaw on November 14th will have worked for the District 25 years. She asked if the Board wanted to make plans to recognize his years of service. The Board agreed to hold a luncheon for Steve before the November Board meeting.

Chairman Hulbert said the auditors are requesting a written policy on how the Board wants to handle capital expenditures. At what cost does the Board want to capitalize the project versus expense it out. He said everything else is in good shape.

New Business:

a. Delivering water to water users after October 31st

Terry said there's issues with delivering water after October 31st. The system isn't charged. There'll be a bigger ditch loss and if you have water users taking more water than they were allocated it won't be the responsibility of the District. Terry said the Avis canal project won't be completed either.

M/S/C (Borrelli, Herkert) approve internal District well water transfer from landowner to landowner this year only. They also have to use their water allocation first and this will begin November 1st.

Vote: Unanimous

b. Sell water to Bureau of Reclamation

Trustee Herkert said he'd received phone calls from landowners/water users in the District wanting to know why they hadn't been contacted and offered to be a part of the water sale to the Bureau of Reclamation. He said other Districts were offering it and felt we needed to look into this. Terry said the Districts EIR only allows the District to sell 4,300 acre feet of water which the District can meet from the wells we're already pumping. If the District can't, then we could go out to landowners as the District may not get the full 4,300 acre-feet of water to sell. This program started at the

beginning of summer. Chairman Hulbert said whatever the Board decides will benefit the District/landowners. Terry said we'd receive the money in November. Terry said the program started August 8th and ends October 31st. The Bureau purchase price is \$90.00 per acre-foot of water. David Barale said he agreed they should be able to participate. Terry said we'd use the money to lower our PG&E costs. Trustee Borrelli said he didn't feel it was the best plan for the landowners. Trustee Herkert said we should ask the landowners what water they have available that can be verified and then allocate who can sell how much water. The Board requested Terry to talk to the landowners to see who can participate and for how much. Chairman Borrelli said he'd like to see ½ of the allocation be offered to the landowners/tenant and ½ of the allocation to RD1004.

M/S/C (Herkert, Laviolette) approve opportunity for the landowner/tenants with ground water pumping capability to participate in the contract between the United States Bureau of Reclamation and Reclamation District 1004. Landowner/tenant to be reimbursed \$90.00 per acre foot of water less \$15.00 per acre foot administration fee up to approved and verified 150 acre feet per landowner/tenant.

Vote: Unanimous

c. Hiring new office employee

Barbara said ads will run next week advertising the Assistant Office Manager position.

d. 2022 Budget

The Board agreed to postpone the budget process until we're further along in the year.

Chairman's report:

Chairman Hulbert said he talked to Jeff Phelan of The White Mallard. He told Jeff if there's a problem to come and talk with the Board but he isn't present today.

Chairman Hulbert said Paul Minasian said there's nothing new to report on the White Mallard.

Chairman Hulbert moved to new business #a. He said this is not an ordinary year and we should do everything we can to move water from point A to point B.

M/S/C (Borrelli, Hulbert) approve for this year only, move internal district well water from seller to buyer. They'll have to use their allocation first and it'll begin November 1st. They'll be required to pay the \$12.50 transfer fee per acre foot of water.

Vote: Unanimous

Chairman Hulbert said he wanted to have a discussion regarding the 2021 water toll of \$28.00 per acre-foot of water. Trustee Borrelli said the Board has discussed on several occasions to lower the water cost if the District participated in the full water sale with San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority. During the budget process, the \$28.00 water fee was set to cover the 25% reduction from the Bureau of Reclamation before we completed the water sale.

M/S/C (Borrelli, Herkert) lower the water toll from \$28.00 per acre foot to \$19.50 per acre foot.

Vote: Unanimous

Barbara was directed to process the refunds and pay the refunds out of Wells Fargo Bank Checking.

Chairman Hulbert left the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Vice Chairman Borrelli took over the meeting at this time.

Vice Chairman Borrelli asked Leanne to explain the spoilage on the road. Leanne said she sent a text video out to all Board members and asked if it's the policy of the Board to put spoilage on the District road when the road is being mowed and kept up all year opposed to putting it on the other side of the ditch where there's weeds growing. She said Terry said there was no outlet for the excavator to put it on the other side. Terry said the excavator was only working at half speed and it took longer to do the project. Terry said the ditch needs to be dried out and the weeds sprayed. He said at the time the water was coming down the ditch and they had to get the ditch open.

Manager's report:

Terry said he's delivered 39,047 acre-feet of water with 3,200 acre-feet to go.

Terry said a district in Utah has had the Hydropower for 2 years but due to the drought they can't prove any numbers and the reason they installed it was for the Water Smart program.

Terry said during the 2021 budget process, capital improvements were taken out. For 2022 projects if we want to order meters for capital improvements it has to be done now. He said the Drumheller canal at the top and top of McVey where the water runs south will cost \$160,000 for the walls, structure and meters.

Terry said the new ditch on field 25 will cost approximately \$45,000. Trustee Laviolette said Jeff Caswell told him the Hawkins Trust didn't want the new ditch at field 25 as they're going to move their road and Trustee Laviolette said he didn't want it either. Therefore, the field 25 ditch project failed for a lack of approval.

Terry said the Game Warden came by and wanted to get keys to the Morgan Levee, the California gates and the Princeton Pumping Facility. The Board agreed to give him keys.

Terry said the Bureau of Reclamation will be coming in November to tour the District for possibly wheeling water for them to the Sutter Refuge.

Old Business:

- a. Water infrastructure to be added to the November agenda to include Hydro, meters, a new well, crossing on the Gridley/Colusa Highway.
- b. Trustee Herkert said Barbara had the letter for mailing asking for support of the Federal and/or State funding for water infrastructure. He said we needed to have an infrastructure list ready so when people call asking questions in order for them to give us their support, we could answer any questions they may have.

Trustee Herkert asked if the Board had made the decision to stop delivering water October 31st and Chairman Hulbert had told him no. Trustee Herkert said we needed to look at who has water after October 31st and if we haven't been curtailed and still have riparian right's he would like to see the water delivered.

Closed Session 3:50 p.m:

Open Session 4:10 p.m.:

Terry will talk with landowners/tenants in the District to see who will qualify to participate in the Bureau water transfer and report back to the Board.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:27 p. m.

Ed Hulbert

Chairman of the Board

Barbara J. Sachs

Secretary to the Board of Trustees