Reclamation District No. 1004



BOARD OF TRUSTEES BOARD MEETING July 14th, 2021 1:30 p. m. MINUTES

Board of Trustees present Ed Hulbert, Leanne Mord, Larry Borrelli and Travis Laviolette. Others present: District Manager Terry Bressler, Secretary to the Board of Trustees Barbara Sachs, Vanessa Padilla, Deryl Phy.

Not in Attendance but on the phone: Hans Herkert

Meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Chairman Hulbert.

Agenda:

M/S/C (Laviolette, Mord) approve July 14th agenda.

Vote: Unanimous

Minutes:

M/S/C (Mord, Laviolette) approve June 16th Regular Board meeting minutes.

Vote: Unanimous

M/S/C (Laviolette, Borrelli) approve June 16th Landowners meeting minutes.

Vote: Unanimous

Public Comment:

None

Financials:

Treasurer's Report:

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

Vote: Unanimous

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

M/S/C (Borrelli, Laviolette) approve cash report and designation of financial accounts as submitted.

Vote: Unanimous

Interim transactions:

M/S/C (Borrelli, Laviolette) approve interim transaction in the amount of \$5,222.86

Vote: Unanimous

Accounts Payable:

Barbara presented the accounts payable in the amount of \$270,614.64

M/S/C (Laviolette, Borrelli) approve accounts payable in the amount of \$270,614.64. Barbara was instructed to hold the check to the Bureau of Reclamation until Terry Bressler approved the amount due the Bureau of Reclamation.

Vote: Unanimous

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

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

Vote: Unanimous

Barbara presented the accounts receivable.

Barbara presented the cash report and designation of financial accounts.

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

(Laviolette/Mord) approve transfer from Fund One to Fund Three in the amount of \$10,000.

Barbara reported receiving SLDMWA 1st transfer check on July 8th and checks were mailed on July 9th. She said she received the South Cypress reimbursement check from RD108 in the amount of \$5,753.63. She also received a check for \$853.25 for the 2020 water sale from SLDMWA for final expenses.

Barbara said there's a safety audit on the shop available if any Trustee would like to review it.

Employee Sick and Vacation Leave:

No Comment

New Business:

a. Three (3) year audit by Robert Johnson Accountancy Corporation:

Chairman Hulbert said he'd looked into accountant fees for pre-audits and audits. He said the fee presented by Robert Johnson Accountancy was in line with others.

M/S/C (Borrelli, Laviolette) approve the accountants fees as presented (Copy of fees attached)

Vote: Unanimous

b. Revising water statement:

Trustee Herkert and Mord asked if there was a way to revise the current water statement to show acre-feet still available for the water users use at the time the meters were read. Barbara Sachs said in the current access program, no and she explained why. She said she would continually put the water statement for those who ask into excel and compute the acre-feet balance as of the statement date.

c. Drill a new well:

Terry Bressler said the permit was approved by Colusa County for a well in the shop area as that's where solar may be available. He said a test hole will be drilled in September. Trustee Herkert asked if it could be drilled into the Tuscan. Terry said he didn't know at this time. Chairman Hulbert said after the test hole is dug, the Board can make a decision on how deep to drill. Chairman Hulbert said after test hole is dug the Board can make a decision on how deep to drill the hole. Ed also discussed this project with Jack Baber and Jack expressed his concern over this location, the District acreage in relationship to the Posz Ranch.

M/S/C (Borrelli, Laviolette) approved drilling a test well on the District owned property with Eaton Drilling Company.

Vote: Unanimous

Terry said the new well being drilled in Glenn County will be test pumped next week. He said it was drilled at 800 feet.

d. Board member pictures:

Barbara said her and Vanessa were working on pictures and information on the Board members bio. She said they obtained Mark Pines pictures but not Frank Rogers.

e. Soluri Firm Public Records request:

Barbara said all the records requested by Dustin Cooper had been sent. She contacted Dustin and asked if there was anything further she needed to do and he said no they had everything they need.

Chairman Hulbert said a few issues had come up and needed to be addressed.

He said \$500 in cash was paid to Gene Beauchamp for whishing the well. He said we don't do it very often but it was ok. He understood Barbara's concern as we are a public agency and should have an invoice so it can be paid by a check.

He said he understood that an email address for hay_bres@icloud.com with Mackenzie Bressler name had been sent to the Bureau of Reclamation requesting information. He said Mackenzie was not an employee of the District therefore information should not be released and the email shouldn't have been set up. Terry Bressler said the email was set up for him to use when his yahoo address was not working. The Board decided to set up an email address for each employee under RD1004

and asked Barbara to look into getting this accomplished. Chairman Hulbert directed Barbara to send an email to Jake Berens of the Bureau of Reclamation advising him the email should go directly to Terry Bressler. Trustee Herkert asked if we had an email for Terry that was Terry @RD1004. Barbara said no. Terry said he uses his yahoo address. Trustee Herkert said every employee should have their own address at RD1004.

Barbara requested Vanessa Padilla be put in charge of RD1004 website. Currently the website is behind in posting agendas and minutes. The Board agreed Vanessa will now be in charge of the website and directed Barbara to work with a web designer to get the website brought up to date and get email addresses set up for each District employee.

Chairman Hulbert said the District received a letter from David Guy regarding the NCWA and the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition for the salinity management plan. Barbara was directed to add this item to the August agenda. He recommended supporting this.

M/S/C (Laviolette, Borrelli) approved letter to NCWA and the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition regarding salinity management plan.

Vote: Unanimous

Deryl Phy said our employee Daniel Cunha was working extremely hard and asked the Board to consider doing something in regards to Daniels hourly pay. The Board said the employee committee will take it under advisement.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Hulbert said David Barale was having a ditch issue with the Mallard Ranch. He said David paid for water and he instructed Terry to deliver water to him. The bigger issue is the ditches between David Barale and the Mallard Ranch. He advised David to come to the Board if there's future issues.

He said all litigations are moving slow right now.

The State Water Board sent a letter for public comment on a workshop for the Boards racial equality resolution. If this happens and we have senior water rights where will this go. We will continue to watch what happens.

Manager's Report:

Terry said we're renting a Cat Motor to run wells. New cost is \$130,000 and if we buy it as is the cost will be \$64,500. He said the warranty would cost \$13,000 extra and there's 1400 hours on it. Terry recommends to keep renting it for a few more months at a cost of \$5,000 per month and give it back.

Terry suggested raising the fine from \$100.00 an acre-foot of water to \$125.00 per acre-foot of water if the water user overdrafts their allotment. This failed for a lack of motion.

He said he's delivered 22,345 acre feet of water with 19,335 acre feet to go and those figures don't include the transfer water.

Old Business:

a. 2021 Water sale proceeds:

Chairman Hulbert said Barbara will email her report on the 2021 water sale proceeds for the Board to review.

b. Groundwater sustainability agreement (Butte Sub-basin)

Terry said the State agreed to have all our fields in the District Boundary. No official word has been received to date.

c. Butte Creek:

Trustee Borrelli said he can't take any water off Butte Creek. He said he wants to implement that if Butte Creeks water level is at 39 feet at the outfall gate, the District will use the Sacramento River as their primary source of water.

Terry said he received a call from Wild Goose Duck Club fieldman and he said they'll get call water from Western Canal.

d. Toll rate:

Chairman Hulbert said if we reduced the toll back to \$19.50 that's approximately a \$443,000 loss and it would be smart to leave as is. He said with the water situation our Standby fee may be through the roof because that's the only way we'll be able to pay the Districts overhead. He said

we should also wait until we're paid in full for the water transfer. He said he recommends keeping the fee as is for now.

e. Merging land into the District (Harris Landowning and GVC Corporation):

Terry said MBK Engineers looked into this request. According to Gary Kienlan, the Districts contract with the Bureau of Reclamation is for 21,000 acres. For land to be merged into the District, another piece of land with the same acreage would have to be withdrawn from the District. Terry will have Gary Kienlan email him this information for future reference.

f. Water infrastructure (Hans Herkert):

Hans said he would add the Sutter Refuge to the letter to Environmental Groups regarding Federal and/or State funding for infrastructure. He will run the letter by NCWA and would like to get the letter approved today along with the addition of the Sutter Refuge and adding the Rice Commission as a recipient.

M/S/C (Herkert/Borrelli) approved letter to Environmental Groups for Federal and/or State funding for water infrastructure from the Board of Trustees with the letter to be signed by the Chairman of the Board.

Vote: Unanimous

g. Underestimated operating fees by the Bureau of Reclamation:

Chairman Hulbert said these underestimated fees would have to be paid out of the proceeds from the 2021 water sale 25% retention by the District.

Went into closed session 3:10 p.m.

Returned to open session 3:40 p.m.

M/S/C (Laviolette, Mord) RD1004 will file our answer and file a cross complaint based on advice from legal counsel.

Vote: Unanimous

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p. m.

Ed Hulbert

Chairman of the Board

Barbara J. Sachs

Secretary to the Board of Trustees