

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Reclamation District No. 341
Sherman Island

9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, August 25, 2023

306 Second Street
Isleton, California

The Board proceedings are also available via tele-conference, and you may participate in Public Comment in this manner. If you wish to comment, please speak and your comments will be considered. Members of the public are encouraged to observe and participate in the teleconference. District directors and members of the public may participate in the meeting using the telephone conference line listed below. Conference Line Number: 1-877-336-1829 Access Code: 3653607

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Trustee Rob Black called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Jesse Barton conducted the meeting. In an effort to control the discussion, the Board will speak, followed by District staff and employees, and the public will have the final opportunity. He called roll call. Present: Trustees: Rob Black, Jas Gill, and Mark Icanberry; District Attorney: Jesse Barton; Accountant: Perla Tzintzun-Garibay; Engineer: Neil Favor and Martin Berber; District Superintendent: Joel McElroy; Landowner(s): Jamie Renwick and Ceci Giacoma; District Secretary: Cindy Hill

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ceci Giacoma asked about the District roles and regulations. Jesse said that the District does not have roles and regulations, however we did previously adopt District job descriptions/duties – he will send to Ceci for her records.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

Morgan Johnson is on vacation, nothing to report.

ISLAND SECURITY

Neil reported all 11 Reolink cameras are installed and active with Reolink Cloud Storage and T-Mobile. The District is waiting for confirmation from AT&T on the cancelation of all data lines linked to the Arlo GO data lines. Arlo Technologies cloud storage will be canceled at the end of the current billing cycle. All District staff have downloaded the Reolink App and are set up to view all cameras on their phones. The monthly cost for the Reolink cloud storage is now \$15.99/mo. and the monthly cost for the T-Mobile Plan for the 11 cameras is \$185/mo. Previously the cost to manage and operate the Arlo GO Cameras was approximately \$350/mo., the monthly cost of managing and operating the Reolink cameras is approximately \$200/mo.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed minutes of the regular meeting of July 11, 2023 and Special Meeting August 3, 2023. It was MSP (Jas Gil/Mark Icanberry) to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 11, 2023 with correction of the spelling of attendee Carl DeSprester's name and approve the special meeting of August 3, 2023 as written. This passed 3-0.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND RECEIVABLE

Perla Tzintzun-Garibay reported the accounts payable for August 25, 2023. The transfer of \$185,000 from the general fund is required to cover current month cash disbursements pending approval of \$146,446.48. Financial statements reflect an ending balance of \$55,901.12 after the before mentioned transactions are approved.

Notes:

- 7/28 Deposit \$1,440.73 - Assessment Call payments
- 7/28 Deposit \$1,209.91 - RD 1601 Shared Habitat expense payment
- 8/02 Deposit \$2,315.19 - Assessment Call payments
- 8/10 Deposit \$10,589.70 - Assessment Call payments & RD 536 July rent payment
- 7/14 ACH payment to AT&T Mobility \$698.79
- 8/07 ACH payment to Kludt Oil \$876.83
- 8/08 EFT to PERS for \$3,953.95
- 8/18 ACH payment to Kludt Oil \$3,968.91
- 8/25 Payroll E-check to Mark Icanberry: Gross \$350, Net \$320.08

Balance in general fund account \$378,722.21.

Perla reported the Campos Levee Access Ramp deposit was \$2,500, but the expenses to date are \$3,384.75 currently owing \$884.25. Perla said last month it was reported that he owed \$472.25, and he sent those funds to the District. Perla said she has not deposited the check as she wanted to ask the Board if they wanted to wait until the final overage was calculated. Neil said the EP is done and closed out. Perla said she will contact Mr. Campos and advise him that the total due is \$884.25 and ask him how he wants her to proceed – if he wants her to deposit this check and submit the additional funds or send in a new check with the correct amount. Perla sent the financials to the Board prior to the meeting for their review. It was MSP (Jas Gill/Rob Black) to approve the August 25, 2023 accounts payable, transfers, and submitted invoices to DWR. This passed 3-0.

WHALES BELLY REASSESSMENT

Jesse Barton reported he had a conversation with David Julian regarding the reassessment of Whale's Belly. David spoke to Bryan Brock. Bryan unsure as to where the funding will come from. David Julian was unable to attend today's meeting. This item will be discussed at the September meeting.

ASSESSMENT CALL NO 27

Perla reported ongoing collection. She said that Noack son is out of the country, and he is trying to pay the assessment. Ceci inquired as to why we cannot accept credit card payments. Perla explained the District does not have a merchant account and there are fees associated with using credit card payment as a method of payments that will cost the District.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR ACCESS TO DISTRICT FACILITIES

Jesse Barton provided a draft copy of the amended rules and regulations. Jesse said that last month there was a question regarding the distance between the District facilities and the ditches. He said that Neil added the drainage canals and irrigation canals to the District's reclamation works. The drainage canal definition reflects a minimum of 30 feet on both sides while the irrigation canal does not have a setback requirement. Jesse asked if we want a broader definition like a ditch or a setback. Jesse said that Morgan has not reviewed the rules and regulations and he thinks that Morgan should review and weigh in with comments. Rob asked why we need the 30 ft on both sides for the drainage canal. Martin said it is for the disc for the spoils. Joel said we need that space due to the equipment and the need to flatten the material. Rob said that 30' on each side plus the ditch is a very large easement. Joel said that we need entrance and exit at each side, he said this will take several passings to spread the material out. Neil said the fencing areas are primarily in areas where we have cattle ranching, and we will not be fencing the whole area. Neil said the cattle tend to break down the integrity of the canal bank with their weight which creates more maintenance for the District staff. Joel provided a history: he said when we started installing new discharge pipes out of the central canal. All those pipes were 40' long. The pipes lead into the tenants property – the canals helped. Unfortunately, some of the pipe parts were stolen and this created issues. Joel said he thinks 30' will work for the distance on both sides. Jas asked if this will increase the cost for maintenance for the RD. Martin said that it should decrease the cost as it will be easier to maintain. Jas asked if it would be cheaper to rent a long-reach. Joel asked who will be responsible for the other side and the berry vines on the side of the ditch. Joel said a fence should have been installed to the edge of the berm in the past; it would have been easier to manage the growth. Joel said it is difficult to use a long reach when you can't see the other side of the massive overgrowth of bushes. Rob asked if this land is mainly leased land. Jas said if this decreases the acreage for the tenants, they will have to adjust their lease. Neil said the overall benefit to the District is access. Jas stated he understands this will be more efficient. Joel said the cattle cause a lot of damage and maintenance cost to the District. Neil said we are adding acreage for the District to maintain, however the ability to access and maintain for longevity as well as locating issues during winter months and heavy rain seasons are a benefit. The added acreage maintenance is offset by efficiency. Jas asked what is the difference between ditches and drainage canals in time for maintenance. Neil said the ditches come off the levee and feed into the canal which conveys a larger volume of water. The irrigation canal is a fresh water supply from the interior of the island. He said they all have different uses. The RD cleans the ditches and irrigation canals. Jesse requested everyone to review the rules and regulations and discuss at the September meeting. Perla asked if the fee schedule should be attached. Jesse said he will add that the schedule.

BOARD TO HEAR A STATUS UPDATE AND SEEK APPROVAL TO ENGAGE IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH A NEW INSURANCE CARRIER

Jesse Barton stated that the District received the quote. It came in lower than the current policy as expected. Martin asked if this company will be dissecting the levee reports. Jesse said that the levees are not covered, so no. He explained in the past, they were covered, but the prior carrier recently advised the District they would no longer be covered plus they were increasing the prices. The current policy expires September 1. Jesse said he did a comparison, and it appears that they are comparable, and this will be saving the District \$15,000. It was MSP (Jas Gill/Mark Icanberry) to approve the new insurance carrier. This passed 3-0.

BOARD TO DISCUSS APPROVING STORING BOXES FOR ANOTHER DISTRICT

Jesse Barton inquired if the District would be willing to store boxes for District 2110. Cindy Hill brought up that RD 341 has retention boxes in a van at the shop. She also brought up that RD 341 has not saved our records in digital format. Jesse said he would contact the lessor to see if we could get some shelves placed in the back room. Perla said RD 2110 has about 10 boxes, and she will eventually scan some of those and reduce the number of boxes. The Board agreed to allow this as there is adequate space.

BOARD TO DISCUSS RAISES FOR EMPLOYEES AND BOARD SECRETARY

Jesse Barton reported the District has not given a raise to District staff since July 2021 (approved in May). The Board discussed this and said the staff should be reviewed annually and wages assessed on an annual basis. Martin said it would be good if the increase could occur at the fiscal year due to subventions – it would be simpler to have the same rate during the fiscal year. Jesse said that if the Board wants to set a private session to discuss performance issues they can, however anytime money is up for discussion this needs to be done in a public session. The Board agreed they should annually review staff performance and discuss wage increases annually. Perla said the reviews should be done in May with any possible increase in July. Perla agrees but said that the Board needs to consider that the assessments stay the same each year while District costs rise. It was MSP (Jas Gill/Mark Icanberry) a 10% wage increase for District Staff and Secretary and establish an employee review and salary assessment annually. This passed 3-0.

SUBVENTIONS AGREEMENT FOR FY 2023-2024

Jesse Barton presented the subventions agreement for FY 2023-2024. He said that he reviewed the agreement. He recommends approval. It was MSP (Rob Black/Jas Gill) to approve the Subventions Agreement for FY 2023-2024.

PERMIT NO. 2022-4 (PG&E GAS TRANSMISSION DIG)

Neil Favor reported construction was estimated to begin on August 7, due to delays in PG&E receiving their permit from DWR, construction start date has been moved to September 11. He said they will have an inspector on site during all excavation and compaction activities. Neil said they have a contact with PG&E and a land rep will be on site when there is cleaning around the gas line.

HIGHWAY 160 TURNOUT BARRIERS

Martin Berber reported at the direction of the Board he gathered additional quotes. The additional quotes are for the purchasing and installation of 340 LF of K-rail barriers from Station 925+00 to 928+00. Quotes are as follows:

- First Vanguard – 17 used 20’ Concrete K- Rails- Estimated Quote: \$17,779.50
- Traffic Management Inc. – 60 new 6’ Plastic Water Filled K- Rails - Estimated Quote: \$31,986.18
- ASTA Const. - 17 used 20’ Concrete K-Rails - Estimated Quote: \$32,113.00

Martin said the K-Rails are approved under subventions at 75% - the cost will be approximately \$4,500 with installation. He said that we need Upham’s permission as this is private property. Jesse said he will have to prepare a Release of Responsibility for Upham, and the District will have to take responsibility and indemnify Mr. Upham. The Board gave approval for Jesse to draft the release for Upham.

SHERMAN LAKE ROCK SLOPE PROTECTION

Martin reported due to the large fetch of Sherman Lake, the levee section from Station 606+50 to 650+00 lacks riprap large enough to prevent wave wash. The current riprap only has a median weight of approximately 50 lb. Based on our calculations which incorporate fetch length and 100-year wind velocities, 400 lb. RSP is required to protect this levee section. Armoring the entire section with 17,000 tons of 400 lb. RSP is estimated at \$1.4 million. Our Routine Maintenance Agreement with CDFW allows us to place RSP in 100-foot sections. 1 barge of RSP (2,000 tons) will address 500 LF, approximately 9 barge loads will be needed to address the entire levee section. Martin said he is seeking authorization from the Board to solicit bids for 1 or 2 barges of 400 lb. RSP; the work is estimated to cost approximately \$200,000 for 1 barge. Jamie Renwick asked if this will affect the siphon pipe. Martin said we will work around the siphons. He said their plan is to work on the critical areas prior to winter. This will be reimbursed at 75% as this will go under subventions under a routine work agreement. Martin said this is a pretty simple process. Mark asked Perla if we have funds. She said we will need to look at the budget. Perla said that we should receive subventions next year. Martin said the subventions will probably be lower this year – he estimated approximately \$200,000 but we will also get funds for other projects. Martin said he would like to at least do one barge this year. Rob asked if there is a cost saving if we do 2 barges. Jas said we should move forward with 2 barges. Rob and Mark agree. It was MSP (Jas Gill/Rob Black) to solicit bids for 2 barges with 400 lbs. of riprap on Sherman Lake Levee. This passed 3-0.

PUMP NO. 1 PIPE REPLACEMENT

Martin reported they prepared a minor alteration request to the Central Valley Flood Protection Board for the replacement of the pipe. They have prepared the necessary requests for Rob to sign. The request will be submitted after the Board meeting.

PUMP NO 3 – REHABILITATION

Neil reported they have prepared a preliminary cost estimate for a new pump station and trash rack at the request of the Board. This will replace the existing pump station and trash rack; the cost is estimated at \$1.15 million. This would be a general fund expense. Neil said when they initially discussed this work it was to replace the trash rack only. Joel said the pump platform is structurally fine. Pump 3B needs to be pulled as there is a hole in the pumping column. The trash platform has been bad for several years. Jesse said the District is not making enough funds to manage these projects if DWR is not willing to increase the assessment on Whales Belly they will have to go to a prop 218 election. Rob asked how much would the repair of the pump be – Joel estimated about \$30,000. This is an info only and the estimate is a conservative number. Neil said this repair should last 50 + years. Ceci said the pump is important to the wetlands area and wondered why DWR is not paying for this. Jesse said this is unlikely; however, if DWR has a project we need to make sure the costs of the District are covered. Rob said there will be a point when we have to do this and when that happens it will be more expensive.

PROJECT FUNDING AGREEMENT SH 10-2.12 – (HWY 160 CONSTRUCTION) AGREEMENT TO ADD A DRAINAGE SYSTEM TO THE PORTION OF THE LEVEE EXPERIENCING SEEPAGE PROBLEMS ALONG THE SACRAMENTO RIVER AT STATIONS 870+00 THROUGH 940+00

Martin Berber reported Caltrans has approved the legal description for the Joint Use Agreement with PG&E as prepared by the District. Final Completion Report was submitted August 11, 2023 and approved August 24, 2023. Next month the final invoice to DWR and request for release of retention for approximately \$370,000 will be submitted. DWR Division of Flood Management is currently conducting a seepage Evaluation for non-urban project levees. Martin reported they met representatives from AECOM in the field and all the critical areas they wanted to inspect were addressed by the District's project.

DWR “SUBSIDENCE MITIGATION FUNDING AGREEMENT” – AGREEMENT TO BUILD SEVERAL HUNDRED ACRES OF WETLAND IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PORTION OF THE ISLAND IN AN EFFORT TO REVERSE SUSIDENCE, SEQUESTER CARBON, AND REDUCE GREENHOUSE GASES.

- a. **Repair of perimeter berm leakage at Whale's Mouth through the construction of a bentonite cutoff wall.** Neil reported they have developed plans for the construction of a bentonite wall to prevent leakage into the perimeter ditch (Pump 3 canal). They are coordinating with Gornto Ditching to have the work done under the Whale's Mouth Maintenance Agreement. Jas asked how many leaks have there been at Whale's mouth. Neil said there have been dozens. Joel said they have not completed the cleaning of the ditch yet.
- b. **Summary of a meeting with Duck's Unlimited regarding wetland operations and Whale's Spout design criteria.** Martin reported on July 17, 2023, W&B met

with DU and David Julian to go over issues with Whale's Mouth and Whale's Belly that should be considered in the next project:

- District Engineer will review all Plans and Specifications.
- District Canals shall not be relocated as part of the project.
- All perimeter berms will be designed to incorporate a bentonite cutoff wall, if needed.
- DU will include a water surface elevation monitoring gauge at each water control structure.
- DU will complete weekly site inspections during construction to ensure project is complying with plans and specifications.
- DU will complete as-built drawings upon completion of construction.

c. **Moving a drainage ditch adjacent to the Sherman Island Cross Road, the repair or replacement of several risers within Whale's Belly, the repair of several siphons, and the need for a topographic survey of the Whale's Mouth and Whale's Belly projects.** Status of the maintenance contract. Martin reported they received direction from David Julian to convert all 23 full poly risers into standard risers. They will be able to complete the plans and specifications, but do not think they will be able to get all the required construction work done this year.

d. **A salinity plan that will coordinate wetland operations with District operations.** Jesse Barton has nothing to report at this time.

PROJECT FUNDING AGREEMENT SH 17-1.1 SP - PHASE 1 OF SAN JOAQUIN SETBACK LEVEE/HABITAT BENCH MULTI-BENEFIT PROJECT (STATIONS 175-199)

Neil Favor reported on August 7, the District executed a contract with PG&E for \$450,721.16 for the power pole relocation. He said they met PG&E surveyors on site to stake out the proposed power line location on August 9. A contract with NorthStar Engineering to survey the power pole locations and prepare the legal descriptions for the PG&E easements was executed on August 21. NorthStar surveyed the power pole locations on August 22. Once the legal descriptions are finished, they will work with PG&E to finalize the design and begin to acquire the appropriate easements and permits for the work.

ENGINEERS REPORT

Neil Favor reported they are inspecting the trees along the Sacramento River from Station 990+00 to 1025+00 with CDFW; CDFW identified 5 trees that could be removed without incurring mitigation. Neil said they are looking to replace riprap at the levee toe and plan to remove the trees at the same time with a bidding contractor. This will come as a separate agenda item in September.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Joel McElroy reported they are cleaning the canals. Cameras are up and running and are more easily accessible. They did some repairs on the canal bank. Tim is off due to medical. He is scheduled to return on September 2. This is a holiday weekend, so he will probably return the following Tuesday. Ongoing mowing.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the public meeting was adjourned at 11:15 A.M.

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The presiding Trustee of the August 25, 2023, meeting hereby certifies that the above minutes were approved as read.