

North Delta Water Agency
Board of Directors Meeting
14120 Grand Ave, Walnut Grove, CA 95690
Wednesday, June 9, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

Minutes

Call to Order

Vice Chair Neil Hamilton called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. on Wednesday, June 6, 2010. A quorum was determined at that time. Those present:

Directors

Neil Hamilton, Division 5
Henry Kuechler, Division 3
Steve Mello, Division 1
Ken Ruzich, Division 4
Carel van Loben Sels, Division 2

Others

Meda Bennefield, Maine Prairie WD
Mike Hardesty, RD 2068
Steve Barsoom, RD 999

Bob Webber, RD 999
John Lewallen

Staff

Gary Kienlen, MBK Engineers
Sara Harper, MBK Engineers
Joe Schofield, Downey Brand
Margaret Sorensen
Melinda Terry

Approval of the Minutes

Motion and second to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2010 Board of Directors meeting. Motion unanimously approved.

Prop 218 Process

Gary Kienlen reported that the commissioners met yesterday, reviewed the engineer's report, but still have a few issues to work out. He expects one more meeting with the commissioners to finish the report. His staff is still working with Yolo County on parcel and water rights information for some landowners within the agency.

The Board discussed the proposed budget to adopt for the Prop 218 vote - \$1 million, \$1.25 million, and \$1.5 million were the ranges discussed.

Motion and second to approve a preliminary budget of \$1.25 million with the ability to amend it once the engineer's report is received. Motion unanimously approved.

Joe Schofield shared that the courts recently upheld that mail-in ballots could be signed by the voter.

BDCP

Melinda distributed copies of a joint letter that NDWA signed which lists major issues and challenges of finishing a draft plan by November. Cost was one of the significant issues addressed in the letter.

Steve Mello asked if the agency had received any BDCP modeling information that has been requested. Melinda stated that the modeling information is still classified as preliminary and has not been released to the public or Steering Committee members yet. This was one of the issues also addressed in the joint letter.

Legislation

A list of bills and their status was included in the manager's report. Melinda wanted to add the following updates:

AB 1676 (Fuentes) was amended and the agency removed its opposition.

SB 808 (Wolk) was signed by the Governor.

AB 2092 (Huffman) has passed the Assembly and is in the Senate for approval.

Motion and second to oppose AB 2092. Motion unanimously approved.

Report on Delta Activities

Gilbert Cosio, MBK Engineers, attended the recent Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) meeting and participated on a panel. The meeting can be viewed by accessing the webcast archive on the DSC website.

The first meeting of the Delta Conservancy was held this morning.

The Delta Water Master position is still vacant. Melinda shared that Anthony Van Ruiten has met with Melinda and asked for the Board support for this position. Alf Brandt is another candidate for the position. No action was taken by the Board.

Topper van Loben Sels reported that the Delta Protection Commission had not filled the executive director position yet. He noted three tasks of the commission: provide a recommendation on whether to change the existing primary zone by July 1; designate a national heritage area by April 2011; and draft an economic sustainability program by July 1, 2011.

Comments on the Delta Wetlands project are due June 28. The Board discussed areas of concern such as erosion and seepage. The Agency will send in comments.

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

The agency sent out informational notices regarding the SWRCB's new requirement for water diverters to report annual diversions. Melinda informed the Directors that many landowners were confused by the mailing and thought the Agency was requesting this reporting information. Others shared how the notices helped diverters become aware of and understand the new requirement.

Engineer's Report

Gary Kienlen distributed water quality charts and reported that water quality is currently within the contract's criteria.

Manager's Report

The manager's report was included in the packet.

Other Items

Steve Mello shared a copy of the letter that Central Delta Water Agency sent to its landowners. He also gave Melinda a letter sent to his reclamation district in 1980 from Brud Darsie explaining the contract negotiations and why North Delta landowners did not have to curtail diversions.

Public Comment

Steve Barsoom asked whether MBK Engineers was part of a discussion with the SWRCB to adjust the water diversion reporting forms so that the information gathered accurately reflects the information that is sought by the SWRCB. Gary indicated that MBK Engineers will consider participating on behalf of all of their firm's clients.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 9, 2010.

Respectfully Submitted,
Margaret Sorensen, Administrative Assistant