

North Delta Water Agency Board of Directors Meeting

14120 Grand Ave, Walnut Grove, CA 95690
Wednesday, June 6, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.

Minutes

Call to Order

Chair Henry Kuechler called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. on Wednesday, June 6, 2012. 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
Topper van Loben Sels, Division 2

Others

Mike Hardesty, RD 2068
Bob Webber, RD 999
Meda Benefield, MPWD
Michael Neuharth, Steamboat Acres
Osha Meserve, LAND
Tim Neuharth, Steamboat Acres
Dr. Robert Pyke

Staff

Sara Harper, MBK Engineers
Angela Bezzone, MBK engineers
Kevin O'Brien, Downey Brand
Margaret Sorensen
Melinda Terry

Approval of Minutes

Motion and second to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2012 meeting. Motion unanimously approved.

Delta Water Conveyance Presentation

Dr. Robert Pyke reviewed the handout regarding an alternate proposal to the BDCP water conveyance. His proposed plan would include extracting more water during high flows and storing it for future use on Sherman Island. Additional storage could be obtained in Clifton Court and also in replacing overdrafted water in the Tulare Lake Basin. Some benefits to this proposal include pumping would be self-regulated because pumping too much water would decrease the water quality to unacceptable levels; and not using South Delta pumps would negate the current biological opinions (less habitat restoration would be needed).

Financial Reports, Budget and Assessment Rate

The board reviewed the financial statements and proposed budget.

Motion and second to approve the FY 2012-13 budget as proposed, including a 3% salary increase for staff. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion and second to apply an inflationary increase of 3% to the maximum assessment rate as allowed by Resolution 2011-01. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion and second to approve Resolution 2012-03 setting the 2012-13 assessment base rate at \$2.41. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion and second to approve Resolution 2012-04 requesting Yolo County to place NDWA assessment on its roll. Motion unanimously approved.

Manager's Report

The Agency has received a letter from CalTrans stating assessment charges do not apply to the state agency. Staff has replied outlining the reasons the assessment charge does apply to CalTrans and the Agency is waiting for a response.

Melinda Terry, Gary Kienlen and Kevin O'Brien met with Jerry Meral and DWR Director Mark Cowin to discuss the BDCP. NDWA staff provided them with specific issues that need addressing and a path forward to the questions the NDWA has regarding BDCP impacts to the 1981 Contract. Recently, Kern County Water Agency threatened to pull out of the BDCP process because no project has been identified. Jerry Meral and staff worked diligently to revise the project to address significant "Red Flag" issues identified by the state and federal fish and wildlife agencies. The result is a compromise of only 3 intakes, pumping of 9,000 cfs of water and a range of pumping operations yet to be determined rather than a guaranteed amount. The Governor and Interior Undersecretary are expected to make the formal announcement sometime at end of July. There is still not enough of a project plan for NDWA staff to review for impacts to the NDWA contract.

Engineer's Report

Sara Harper distributed water quality charts and reported that water quality is currently within the contract's criteria. She also reminded the Board that additional monitoring stations need to be identified. The Board will discuss and decide the locations at the next meeting.

Legal Report

Kevin O'Brien had a brief discussion with DWR's lawyer regarding updating our MOU on water quality and will set up a meeting to work out the details.

Report on Delta Activities

The last staff draft of the DSC's Delta Plan was released in May. Melinda commented that Joe Grindstaff's letter to DWR with preliminary comments was excellent. Topper reported the Delta Protection Commission is working on a bike trail project. No new imminent domain parcels were brought up at the last CA Water Commission meeting.

Jonas Minton organized a meeting of broad Delta stakeholders to discuss and consider supporting near term action projects in the Delta that could improve species, water quality, water supply reliability, economics for the region, recreational, or educational. Projects for consideration are presented by proponents to the whole group so that questions regarding the project can be asked. The intent of the group is to end up with a list of viable projects that have broad stakeholder support for moving forward in their planning, funding, or construction. The group has no funding or official capacity to approve projects, but would simply represent a broad endorsement by diverse set of stakeholders.

Legislation

There was no new update on HR 1837.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m. on Wednesday, June 6, 2012.

Respectfully Submitted,
Margaret Sorensen, Administrative Assistant