

North Delta Water Agency Board of Directors Meeting

14120 Grand Ave, Walnut Grove, CA 95690
Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.

Minutes

Call to Order

Vice Chair Neil Hamilton called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. on Wednesday, May 4, 2011. A quorum was determined at that time. Those present:

Directors

Neil Hamilton, Division 5

Steve Mello, Division 1

Carel van Loben Sels, Division 2

Absent

Henry Kuechler, Division 3

Ken Ruzich, Division 4

Others

Bob Webber, RD 999

Mark Wilson, RD 999

Mike Hardesty, RD 2068

Staff

Gary Kienlen, MBK Engineers

Sara Harper, MBK Engineers

Kevin O'Brien, Downey Brand

Margaret Sorensen

Melinda Terry

Approval of Minutes

Motion and second to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2011 meeting. Motion unanimously approved.

Prop 218

The official results of the election, as well as the press release of those results, were included in the packet. Melinda reviewed the statistics of the votes and thanked the Board members for their efforts to educate landowners within their districts. She also expressed disappointment that the Department of Fish & Game voted no. The Resources Agency's goal for water supply reliability for the State seems to be contradicted by Fish and Game's lack of support for water supply reliability for North Delta. The Board requested that Melinda obtain all vote results from Capitol PFG for future reference.

Motion and second to approve Resolution 2011-01 approving the commissioners'/engineer's report and ordering levy of adjusted assessments. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion and second to approve resolution 2011-02 authorizing legal counsel to file a validation action and obtain a judgment of validation. Motion unanimously approved.

Included in the packet was a memo regarding parcel reclassification requests received from landowners. Gary Kienlen reviewed the memo and actions taken regarding those requests. Neil Hamilton did not participate in the discussion due to a conflict of interest.

Melinda reminded the Board members that the agency's 2011-12 budget would need to be approved at the June Board meeting. Also, after the budget is approved, the assessment rate for 2011-12 would also need to be set.

Report on Delta Activities

Melinda Terry attended a BDCP public forum meeting that raised more questions than it answered. Secretary John Laird spoke about improving the process with more open communication and transparent dealings, but staff failed to answer specific questions from the audience. Melinda sent a letter to Mr. Laird sharing concern about the lack of communication and inclusion of North Delta Water Agency. She subsequently learned that an Executive Committee was formed and would be dealing with the conveyance system planning and design and also policy and key issues. The Board agreed that a second letter to Secretary Laird was needed.

The Delta Stewardship Council has released the 3rd Draft of its Delta Plan. The plan has taken a direction of issuing regulations rather than coordinating efforts and many organizations oppose it. A letter has been sent with over 60 signatures outlining the opposition to the plan. A second letter is being drafted and Mike Hardesty asked the Board if it would like to sign on. The second letter emphasizes there's no plan in the draft, just regulations; the agency should coordinate, not regulate; the plan lacks good science as its basis.

Motion and second to authorize Melinda Terry to sign the final version of the letter, if she determines that it represents NDWA concerns. Motion unanimously approved.

The Delta Protection Commission recently held a workshop about emergency preparedness. Melinda shared a concern that none of the RD engineers were invited to participate. Melinda also shared a concern over the consideration of eco/ag tourism for the Delta. In her experience, those programs do not deliver on the promises that are made.

Legislation

Melinda briefly reviewed the bills that were included in the packet and indicated the agency would watch them.

Legal Report

Kevin reported that he is working on the BDCP Cooperating Agency Request.

Engineer's Report

Gary Kienlen distributed water quality charts and reported that water quality is currently within the contract's criteria. Sara Harper explained that information is not being transmitted properly from the Emmaton station due to interference from San Francisco. MBK Engineers will contact DWR to get the problem resolved.

Public Comment

None

Closes Session

There was no reportable action in the closed session.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,
Margaret Sorensen, Administrative Assistant