

North Delta Water Agency
Board of Directors Meeting
14120 Grand Ave, Walnut Grove, CA 95690
Wednesday, February 2, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.

Minutes

Call to Order

Vice Chair Neil Hamilton called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 9:49 a.m. on Wednesday, February 2, 2011. There was no quorum at that time. Director Henry Kuechler had called and was running a few minutes late, so the group heard an update regarding BDCP while they waited for him to arrive.

BDCP

San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority had recently withdrawn from the Steering Committee, but requested to delay their withdrawal until March 4th so it can evaluate the effects analysis modeling before making a final decision on whether to withdraw. Meetings for the Steering Committee have not resumed since its last meeting on November 18, 2010. Melinda Terry shared an editorial article from the San Jose Mercury News regarding the high cost of building the canal. The article urged repairs and maintenance of the existing levees rather than undertaking a huge expense of building a new conveyance.

Henry Kuechler arrived at 9:51 a.m. A quorum was present. Those present:

Directors

Neil Hamilton, Division 5
Henry Kuechler, Division 3
Steve Mello, Division 1

Others

Meda Benefield, Maine Prairie WD
Kim Floyd, Kim Floyd Communications
Mike Hardesty, RD 2068
Osha Meserve
Erik Ringleburg
Mark Wilson, RD 999

Staff

Gary Kienlen, MBK Engineers
Sara Harper, MBK Engineers
Kevin O'Brien, Downey Brand
Margaret Sorensen
Melinda Terry

Absent

Ken Ruzich, Division 4
Carel van Loben Sels, Division 2

Approval of Minutes

Motion and second to approve the minutes of the January 12 meeting. Motion unanimously approved.

Financial Reports

The Board reviewed the financial reports for the Agency. The Board requested a financial report on the expenses to date for the Prop. 218 process.

Motion and second to accept the financial reports. Motion unanimously approved.

Report on Delta Activities

The Agency submitted comments to the Delta Stewardship Council regarding The Delta Plan. The comments were distributed to the Board. Melinda noted that additional comments would need to be sent in for the EIR.

The Delta Conservancy released a first DRAFT of its Strategic Plan.

The DPC has asked Melinda Terry to be a representative on its Delta Protection Advisory Committee. The Board discussed participating on the committee and directed Melinda to be the representative.

The Lower Yolo Bypass Planning Forum will meet to review its purpose and decide whether it needs to continue meeting.

North Delta CARES did not have any meetings scheduled before our public meetings, so staff was not able to attend to explain the Prop 218 election.

Legal Report

Kevin O'Brien updated the Board on the Delta Watermaster Reasonable Use Report. He noted that the report is more opinion than fact based and is concerned that other programs and entities will use the report as a basis for determining how to address issues within the Delta.

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.

Prop 218

Staff have met several times to work on the PowerPoint presentation for the public meetings in February. The rates were finalized and distributed to the Board. Kim Floyd discussed the plans and agenda for the public meetings. There will be a fifth public meeting scheduled in March to address any questions that landowners may have after they receive their ballots. Staff will try to schedule this meeting in Courtland on March 15. Staff will also schedule a meeting in April to formally accept ballots and close the ballot process. The target date for that meeting is April 20th at Courtland. The Board reviewed the dates for each of the four public meetings.

Public Comment

Osha Meserve and Eric Ringelberg shared that Reclamation District 999 is applying for a grant for flood and habitat projects on Elks Slough. They requested a letter of support from the Agency. The Board requested that they write up the project and the Board will discuss sending in a letter of support.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. on Wednesday, February 2, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,
Margaret Sorensen, Administrative Assistant