

# **RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 1601**

**306 Second Street  
Isleton, CA 95641**

## **Minutes of the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting**

**April 15, 2025**

### **1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER.**

President Sgarrella called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees (Board) to order on April 15, 2025, at 9:01 a.m. ROLL CALL: In attendance: President Barry Sgarrella, Trustee Dave Huston and Trustee Jasbir Gill. District's superintendent Mr. Ricky Carter Jr., District's engineer with KSN Mr. Chris Neudeck, District's attorney Mr. Jesse Barton and District's accountant/treasurer Mrs. Perla Tzintzun-Garibay with Butterfield and Company.

Also attending, Mr. Ricky Carter Sr., Mrs. Brooke Carter, Ms. Ceci Giacomia, Mr. David Julian, Mr. Salvador Ramos, Mr. Cole Bakke (IOU Sheep), Mr. Rawl Bendezhu and Mr. Richard Silva.

Attending by conference call, District's secretary Mrs. Linda Carter and Ms. Otome Lindsey.

### **2. PUBLIC COMMENT: ANY PERSON MAY SPEAK ON ANY TOPIC INCLUDING ANY AGENDA ITEM LISTED BELOW, PROVIDED IT IS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF RD 1601.**

Mr. Richard Silva wanted to clarify if at today's meeting the Board will be addressing grazing on the District's levees. Mr. Jesse Barton said yes grazing will be addressed under agenda item number 10.

### **3. MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING.**

Trustee Gill entertained a motion to approve the March 18, 2025, regular meeting minutes as presented, motion was seconded by Trustee Huston, VOTE: AYES: President Sgarrella, Trustee Huston, and Trustee Gill NOES: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None, motion carried.

### **4. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE.**

Mrs. Perla Tzintzun-Garibay went over the accounts payable, accounting notes and financial statements with the Board. President Sgarrella reviewed the accounts payable before today's meeting. See attached financial reports for details. After some discussion President Sgarrella entertained a motion to approve accounts payable, transfers, DWR invoices and issuance of warrants, motion seconded by Trustee Huston, VOTE: AYES: President Sgarrella, Trustee Huston, and Trustee Gill NOES: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None, motion carried.

Mrs. Perla Tzintzun-Garibay will be taking the Board signed documents to the Bank of Stockton to open an account for the advanced payment for the Project Funding Agreement TW-24-1.0-SP-Phase 2. Mrs. Tzintzun-Gaibary told the Board that she had just received a check from IOU Sheep Company for their Chevron Point lease payment.

**5. BOARD TO REVIEW AND POSSIBLY APPROVE DRAFT AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024.**

Mrs. Perla Tzintzun-Garibay went over with the Board the draft audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2025. She told the Board the audit went well and there were no issues. Mrs. Tzintzun-Garibay recommends Board approval. After some discussion Trustee Gill entertained a motion to approve the draft audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2024, motion seconded by President Sgarrella, VOTE: AYES: President Sgarrella, Trustee Huston, and Trustee Gill NOES: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None, motion carried.

**6. SETBACK LEVEE PROJECT-SAN JOAQUIN RIVER: THE BOARD WILL RECEIVE AN UPDATE, DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY ACT ON A \$15 MILLION GRANT FROM THE DWR FISH PASSAGE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (FISH) TO CONSTRUCT AN ADDITIONAL REACH OF THE DISTRICT'S LEVEE SETBACK PROJECT ALONG THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER.**

Mr. Jesse Barton gave the Board an update on the possible contract with Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the \$15Million grant from the DWR Fish Passage Improvement Program (FISH). There were problems with the contract such as timing, mitigation and a lot of questions that Mr. Barton and Mr. Chris Neudeck could not get sufficient answers to the questions the Board had for DWR. At last month's meeting Mr. Barton was given a list of questions to ask DWR, can the funds be used for mitigation, can the district have an example of a contract? If the District starts construction in 2026, what happens to the funds if not completed by the deadline 2027. Mr. Barton sent the question to Ms. Michelle Jespersen, the contract manager, for this contract. Ms. Jespersen sent back her responses to the Districts questions and Mr. Barton sent a copy to the Board. It has been decided that the District will not participate in the DWR FISH program at this time.

**7. SOLAR POWER-THE BOARD WILL DISCUSS RISING ELECTRICITY COSTS. THE BOARD WILL RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE SOLAR ARRAY PROJECT.**

Mr. Chris Neudeck reported to the Board that the following is scheduled; pile cap fabrication and delivery has been completed. Installation is in process. Panels, inverters, and rough wiring have been installed. The racking system will be installed in May. President Sgarrella told the Board that PG&E requested from the District a single line drawing which had already been submitted to PG&E. President Sgarrella contacted a person with PG&E and the contact given the Districts paperwork with the single line drawing to the PG&E engineering department for review and approval. The engineering department transferred it over to the PG&E's services and planning department for review and approval. Waiting for PG&E's approval on the transformer. The project should be online by December.



**8. SEVENMILE SLOUGH LEVEE EROSION REPAIR PROJECT. BOARD WILL RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE SEVENMILE SLOUGH EROSION REPAIR PROJECT.**

Mr. Chris Neudeck reported to the Board that permitting and design is under way.

**9. BOARD TO DISCUSS AND RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ISSUES WITH STABILITY OF THE C-1 CANAL. THE BOARD MAY APPROVE ACTIONS TO STABILIZE THE BANK OF THE CANAL.**

Mr. Ricky Carter Jr. reported that he had ASTA Construction come out to clean C1 and C2 canals along with one bad spot.

**10. GRAZING LEASES- THE BOARD WILL DISCUSS ISSUES WITH ITS GRAZING LEASES WITH IOU SHEEP COMPANY AND RELATED THEFTS. THE BOARD MAY TERMINATE OR AMEND THE LEASES OR TAKE OTHER NECESSARY ACTION.**

Mr. Jesse Barton told the Board that this item was put on the agenda due to IOU Sheep Company being delinquent in making payment for their lease on the Chevron Point property. The other item Mr. Barton wanted to inform the Board about was the issues with large amounts of goats being stolen on Twitchell Island. Today, IOU Sheep Company brought their lease payment and gave it to Mrs. Perla Tzintzun-Garibay. Mr. Barton wanted to bring to the Board's attention the loss of the goats which are used to clear some of the vegetation on the levees. The levees need to be clean for inspections. IOU Sheep Company has two leases; one is for the District's portion on Chevron Point; the other lease is for grazing on the District levees on Twitchell Island for a dollar. Mr. Cole Bakke went over with the Board the problems he is facing; DWR lessee Mr. Jaime Rodriguez's goats keep getting out and grazing where Mr. Bakke's sheep and goats are supposed to be grazing. Also, Mr. Rodriguez puts up fencing where it should not be put up at. Mr. Bakke told the Board he had no issues with the District and he does not know what he will do next if DWR does not do something with Mr. Rodriguez's goats getting out. The Board discussed different remedies for Mr. Rodriguez's goats that keep getting out and issues with Mr. Rodriguez's dogs. Mr. Barton said he wants to be notified of any issues with animals on Twitchell Island. Mr. Barton will send Mr. Rodriguez a letter and put him on notice. Mr. Barton suggested the District put up some more cameras in the blind spots on the island, this just may help if someone tries to steal animals or equipment. Trustee Gill told the Board that Mr. Rodriguez has a lease for eighty-eight acres for pasture and four hundred acres for alfalfa hay not for pasture. Mr. Rodriguez was temporarily given permission to have animals on the four hundred acres, but DWR can easily remove permission from the lease.

Mr. Bakke does not want to graze on Twitchell Island at this time he is undecided what to do. Mr. David Julian told the Board that Mr. Richard Silva has a guy coming to the SMFA rice project to graze, maybe he will be willing to graze the levees for the District. Mr. Ricky Carter Jr. will investigate purchasing another camera to record more people coming on and off the island. Mr. Barton will obtain Mr. Joe Sutter's (Mr. Sutter may have information on how to manage trespassing livestock) contact information

from Mr. Silva and draft a letter to Mr. Rodriguez giving him warnings in writing. This matter will be discussed again at next month's meeting.

**11. EMPLOYEE MANUAL- THE BOARD WILL CONSIDER APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO ITS EMPLOYEE MANUAL.**

Mr. Jesse Barton passed out copies of the marked-up changes to the RD 1601 employee manual dated 2016. Mr. Barton told the Board that the District's employee manual has not been updated for a long time. He went over with the Board updates on some of the items and he added new language to some other items in the employee manual. No action taken at this time. This matter will be addressed at next month's meeting.

**12. PROJECT FUNDING AGREEMENT TW-21-1.2, PROJECT FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR THE PLANNING ENGINEERING, AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE TWITCHELL ISLAND WETLAND ENHANCEMENT AND RESTORATION PROJECT. (TIWERP) (EXPIRES 12/31/2027). THE BOARD WILL RECEIVE A STATUS UPDATE AND DISCUSS. THE BOARD WILL DISCUSS AND CONSIDER AUTHORIZING PUTTING TWITCHELL ISLAND WETLAND ENHANCEMENT AND RESTORATION PROJECT (TIWERP) PROJECT OUT TO BID.**

Ms. Otome Lindsey told the Board the Twitchell Island Wetland Enhancement and Restoration Project (TIWERP) is ready to go out to bid. Mr. Chris Neudeck said there are a few last-minute items that need to be completed. After some discussion Trustee Huston entertained a motion to approve putting out to bid the Twitchell Island Wetland Enhancement and Restoration Project, motion seconded by President Sgarrella, VOTE: AYES: President Sgarrella, Trustee Huston, and Trustee Gill NOES: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None, motion carried.

**13. PROJECT FUNDING AGREEMENT TW-24-1.0-SP-PHASE 2 OF THE MULTI-BENEFIT PROJECT (EXPIRATION 12/31/2028). THE BOARD WILL RECEIVE A STATUS UPDATE AND DISCUSS. THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE OPENING A NEW ACCOUNT AT THE BANK OF STOCKTON FOR THE DEPOSIT OF ADVANCED FUNDING.**

Mr. Chris Neudeck reported to the Board that KSN is in the process of finalizing the contract with the environmental consultant and KSN has completed some survey work.

**14. DWR AGREEMENT "SUBSIDENCE MITIGATION FUNDING AGREEMENT" (SMFA) (WETLAND DEVELOPMENT/SUBSIDENCE REVERSAL AND CARBON SEQUESTRATION PROJECT) (EAST END AND RICE PROJECT) (SMFA EXPIRES 12/31/2030). THE BOARD WILL RECEIVE A STATUS UPDATE AND AN UPDATE ON THE NEED FOR THE PROJECT EQUIPMENT. THE BOARD WILL DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY APPROVE AN AMENDMENT ADDING FUNDS TO THIS AGREEMENT.**

Mr. Jesse Barton told the Board that after the last meeting Mr. David Julian had asked him to add to the April agenda asking the Board to possibly approve an amendment adding funds to the Subsidence Mitigation Funding Agreement (SMFA) in the total amount of \$6 million. After some discussion Trustee Gill entertained a motion to



approve Amendment #3 to the Subsidence Mitigation Funding Agreement (SMFA) adding funds to the agreement in the amount of \$6 million and Resolution 2025-03, motion seconded by President Sgarrella, VOTE: AYES: President Sgarrella, Trustee Huston and Trustee Gill NOES: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: None, motion carried.

Mr. David Julian reported to the Board he had talked to Mr. Ricky Carter Jr. about having Hanford do some mowing since they had already come out and done work on the TIWERP project. Some of the siphons have been turned on in the wetland project. Mr. Julian would like Mr. Ricky Carter Jr. to continue looking for someone to hire as a laborer for the projects.

**15. ENGINEERING REPORT: MR. Chris NEUDECK.**

- I. Project Funding Agreement TW-21-1.2 TIMES /TWERP Project.
  - A. Look under item number 12.
- II. Twitchell Island Setback Project Potential Funding from DWR Facilitating Improvement of Systemwide Habitat (FISH) Program.
  - A. Look under item number 6.
- III. District Pump Station Solar Array.
  - A. Look under item number 7.
- IV. River Delta Consulting-Gilbert Cosio Summary of Activities.
  - A. Mr. Chris Neudeck reviewed with the Board the River Delta consulting summary of meetings and activities monitored during the month of March 2025, related to Delta matters including 1) DPIIC Restoration Forum Planning Committee, 2) Delta Stewardship Council, 3) DPIIC Spring Gathering. One item in Mr. Casio's report is an update on Prop 4, a resent proposition that was past. The Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) intentions for spending Prop 4 funds; \$90 million will go to the Delta Levee Subvention Program, \$60 million for the Delta Levee Special Projects. The Wildlife Conservation Board reported that it will have \$1 billion in Prop 4 funds.

**16. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: MR. RICKY CARTER JR.**


- Made daily rounds.
- Checked oil in pumps at pump station.
- Rodent control on beavers and squirrels.
- Worked with Hanford ARC to get a quote to mow the SMFA wetlands project.
- Had ASTA Construction clean and fix C-1 and C-2 canals.
- Burned the burn pile.
- Worked on contracts.
- Worked on training and safety classes with Mr. Salvador Ramos.
- Worked with Mr. Salvador Ramos on District's equipment. And training on equipment.
- Had Mr. Salvador Ramos mow the District's middle road and shop area.
- Had Mr. Juan Carlos, the mechanic come out to check on the air conditioning in the District's Kubota tractor.

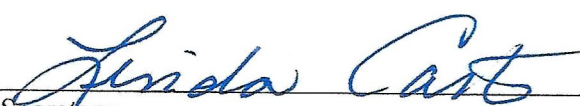
- Mowed Threemile Slough before the DWR levee inspection. Passed the inspection with flying colors.

Mr. Carter Jr. told the Board that the District has been paying for everything for the Isleton office (such as supplies), where the District shares the office with two other Districts. He believes the other Districts need to pay a portion of the expenses. It was decided that the matter needs to be brought up with Mrs. Perla Tzintzun-Garibay.

**17. ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING.**

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be called to order.  
May 20, 2025, at 9:00 am, the regular meeting was adjourned at 10:53 am.

  
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Presiding Trustee of the Regular Meeting April 15, 2025, certifies the above minutes.

  
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Secretary