

RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 1601

**306 Second Street
Isleton, CA 95641**

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

May 20, 2025

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

President Sgarrella called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees (Board) to order on May 20, 2025, at 9:02 a.m. ROLL CALL: In attendance: President Barry Sgarrella 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 Ms. Ceci Giacomia, Mr. David Julian, Mr. Salvador Ramos, and Mr. Richard Silva.

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

Absent: Trustee Dave Huston

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.

Nothing to report.

3. MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING.

President Sgarrella entertained a motion to approve the April 15, 2025, regular meeting minutes as presented, motion was seconded by Trustee Gill, VOTE: AYES: President Sgarrella and Trustee Gill NOES: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: Trustee Huston, 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 Gill, VOTE: AYES: President Sgarrella and Trustee Gill NOES: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: Trustee Huston, motion carried.

5. BOARD TO AND POSSIBLY APPROVE RESOLUTION, AND ORDER LEVYING ASSESSMENT CALL NO. 34 BASED UPON OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE VALUATION ASSESSMENT ROLL DATED JULY 21, 1992.

Mr. Chris Neudeck went over with the Board the District's 2025-2026 Draft Assessment summaries calculated for 100%, 90% and 80% of the \$700,000 approved assessment. At today's meeting, the Board is collecting information at the June District meeting, the Board will discuss and possibly approve Assessment Call 34 (2025-2026). After some discussion, the consensus is the Board is leaning towards the 100%. No action taken today.

6. BOARD TO DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY APPROVE THE DISTRICT'S BUDGET FOR 2025-2026.

The budget is based on the amount of the assessment funds. Once the assessment amount is determined then Mrs. Perla Tzintzun-Garibay will be able to present a proposed budget to the Board. This matter was tabled and no action was taken today.

7. BOARD TO CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE EMPLOYEE'S REQUEST TO ADD DENTAL INSURANCE TO EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS PACKAGE.

Mrs. Perla Tzintzun-Garibay told the Board that she had received a request for Dental Insurance for the District's employees. She contacted PERS, and they told her that the District employees do not qualify since they are not state employees. After discussion the Board directed Mrs. Tzintzun-Garibay to contact Delta Dental Insurance to see if they have a policy to cover the District's employees.

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

At last month's meeting 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 had 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 was taken at that time. This matter was to be addressed again at today's meeting. After the Board discussed agenda item number 7, it was decided to wait to see if the Board will approve adding dental insurance to the employment benefits package. The Board had a few other changes they wanted to change. Mr. Barton told the Board to let him know if they had any other changes before next month's meeting. The matter will be discussed and possibly approved at next month's meeting.

9. BOARD TO CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-04, CATEGORICAL EXEMPTIONS UNDER CEQA FOR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE FOR RECLAMATION DISTRICT 1601, 2025-2026.

Mr. Jesse Barton explained to the Board that each year the Board is asked to review and adopt a notice of Categorical Exemption under CEQA for routine maintenance. After the Board approves and adopts the resolution, KSN then prepares and files with the County Clerk of Sacramento County for posting a "Notice of Exemption". After some

discussion, President Sgarrella entertained a motion to approve and adopt Resolution 2025-04 To Claim a Categorical Exemption Under CEQA For Routine Maintenance for 2025-2026, motion was seconded by Trustee Gill VOTE: AYES: President Sgarrella and Trustee Gill NOES: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: Trustee Huston, motion carried.

10. BOARD TO CONSIDER AND POSSIBLY APPROVE THE 2025 RD 1601 NPDES AQUATIC WEED PERMIT AND BLANKINSHIP PROPOSAL.

Mr. Jesse Barton handed out a copy of Blankinship's proposal. The proposal covers all water spraying such as the District's canals and toe ditches. After some discussion, President Sgarrella entertained a motion to approve the 2025 RD 1601 NPDES Aquatic Weed Permit and Blankinship proposal, motion was seconded by Trustee Gill VOTE: AYES: President Sgarrella and Trustee Gill NOES: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: Trustee Huston, motion carried.

11. ENCROACHMENT PERMIT-THE BOARD MAY APPROVE AN ENCROACHMENT PERMIT FOR THE STATE LANDS COMMISSION TO PLACE A TRAILER ON THE ISLAND TO MANAGE THE REMOVAL OF A CRANE FROM THE WATER.

Mr. Jesse Barton told the Board that the State Lands Commission (SLC) had contacted him about placing a trailer on island during the removal of a crane from the water. SLC wanted the placement of the trailer to take place before the District's June meeting. Mr. Barton spoke with President Sgarrella about the request from SLC before today's meeting.

After some discussion, President Sgarrella entertained a motion to approve an Encroachment Permit For the State Lands Commission to Place a Trailer on the Island after the Commission pays the \$500.00, permit fee, motion was seconded by Trustee Gill VOTE: AYES: President Sgarrella and Trustee Gill NOES: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: Trustee Huston, motion carried. Mr. Ricky Carter told the Board they had put the trailer on island then moved the trailer over to Brannan Island.

12. 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 went over with the Board what had taken place at last month's meeting on this matter. Mr. Cole Bakke has not paid \$1.06 for the levee lease for this year currently. President Sgarrella will contact Mr. Bakke to see if he wants to continue his lease on the District levees and the lease at the south end of Chevron Point. Mr. Richard Silva mentioned he would be interested in taking over the leases.

13. 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 PG&E had requested a single line drawing. Mr. Neudeck handed out a copy of the drawing of the single line. The drawing

has been submitted to PG&E now waiting for the process to be evaluated by PG&E's engineering department and planning department. The following is scheduled: installation of pile caps, galvanize piles and caps. PV Modules-Delayed, racking installation re-scheduled to early June. Modify pump house to mount switchgear inside structure. RFP in development to review with electrical engineer. Forecasted schedule; Carport racking installation-June. Switchgear installation June/July.

President Sgarrella stated the pump house door needs some modifications so the switchgear can be put inside the pump house. The door needs to be moved to the east. The solar panels will be installed in June and by July/ August we should have power. Currently the District has authorization from PG&E to connect the system to the grid with the existing 300-kVA transformer. PG&E will have to upgrade the transformer so the solar array will be producing more power than the existing transformer capable of excepting.

President Sgarrella informed the Board the PG&E invoice for May is an estimated invoice for \$12,920.98, and included \$2,400.00, in demand charges. President Sgarrella said he is going to check with PG&E to see if he can get them to correct this invoice. No action taken, just an update.

14. 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 KSN is processing permits and working on the design. Mr. Richard Silva asked if the District had heard back from the Sacramento County Road Department about the heavy traffic and not coming out to trim the tree branches back that are growing into Twitchell Island Road. It's hard to see and in some areas are now one lane do to the trees. Mr. Ricky Carter told the Board he contacted the County yesterday but just got a voice mail. Mr. Carter left a message about the heavy trucks, trees and putting a patch on one repair site the District had.

15. 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 after having ASTA Construction out to clean C1 and C2 canals the bank is currently holding up.

16. 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. (TWERP) (EXPIRES 12/31/2027). THE BOARD WILL RECEIVE A STATUS UPDATE AND DISCUSS. THE BOARD WILL DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVING A BID FOR THIS PROJECT.

Mr. Chris Neudeck told the Board that on May 14, 2025 the five bids received were opened. Mr. Neudeck went over with the Board the bid summary for the Twitchell Island Wetland Enhancement and Restoration Project. The lowest responsive, responsible bid was from ASTA Construction for \$ 1,094,913.00. KSN requested a

letter from Department of Water Resources (DWR) asking them for their recommendation since this is the DWR project. KSN received a letter from Ms. Angela Calderaro, DWR manager dated May 16, 2025. The letter states that DWR finds the bid from ASTA Construction acceptable to award the bid to ASTA Construction. Ms. Otome Lindsey told the Board that there are no issues, everything has been approved at DWR's end. Once the Board approves the bid contract then it's a go-to-start. After some discussion President Sgarrella entertained a motion to approve the bid for the Twitchell Island Wetland Enhancement and Restoration Project to be awarded to ASTA Construction, motion seconded by President Sgarrella, VOTE: AYES: President Sgarrella, and Trustee Gill NOES: None ABSTAIN: None ABSENT: Huston, motion carried.

17. PROJECT FUNDING AGREEMENT TW-24-1.0-SP-PHASE 2 OF THE MULTI-BENEFIT PROJECT (EXPIRATION 12/31/2028). BOARD WILL RECEIVE A STATUS UPDATE AND DISCUSS.

Mr. Chris Neudeck reported to the Board that there was nothing new to report.

18. 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 MAY APPROVE A CONTRACT WITH ECOSYSTEM CONCEPTS TO GRAZE PORTION OF THE PROJECT.

Mr. Jesse Barton told the Board that he had added to this agenda item -The Board may approve a contract with ECOSYSTEM CONCEPTS to graze portion of the project.

Mr. David Julian had approached Mr. Barton prior to today's meeting and asked for this matter to be tabled. Mr. Julian can come back and ask for the item to be placed on the agenda when and if he is prepared to do so. No action taken.

Mr. Julian told the Board that the area will need to be cleaned up before any planting can be done. Rice may be planted this coming September.

19. ENGINEERING REPORT: MR. Chris NEUDECK.

- I. Project Funding Agreement TW-21-1.2 TIMES /TWERP Project.
 - A. Look under item number 16.
- II. 2025-202 Assessment by Landowner Summaries
 - A. Look under item number 5.
- III. District Pump Station Solar Array.
 - A. Look under item number 13.

20. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: MR. RICKY CARTER JR.

- Routine levee patrols are made daily.
- Routine pump maintenance made daily.
- Rodent control Mr. Carter is still working on getting a depredation permit for beavers. Still don't have enough evidence to get a depredation permit.

- Mowing levees after getting the biological surveys done. They will tell the District if there are any snakes or birds nesting and that it's ok to move.
- Renewed the District's spray permit.
- Sprayed some of the waterside and landslide slope from Levee Station 510+00 to 390+00 until the winds came up.
- Removed some large snags (logs) off the waterside slope and put them into the burn pile.
- Reviewed and interviewed candidates for SMFA position.
- Hanford ARC to mow SMFA wetlands.
- Had a waterside boat inspection. Found a spot that needed some rock on the waterside slope at Levee Station 475+00. Asta Construction delivered some 36 inch minus rock and placed it.

**21. CLOSED SESSION: PUBLIC EMPLOYEE INTERVIEW/APPOINTMENT.
TITLE: LABOR FOR DWR SPECIAL PROJECTS ON TWITCHELL ISLAND
AND SHERMAN ISLAND.**

TITLE: LABOR:

Closed Session: at 10:45 am.

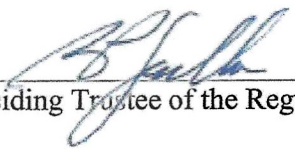
Open Closed Session at 11:13 am.

On a 2-0-1 vote, the Board voted to offer Mr. Hunter Wood employment for DWR special projects on Twitchell Island and Sherman Island, pending satisfaction of pre-employment qualifications. The Board offered \$25.00 an hour wages, start date will be June 2, 2025. Mr. Jesse Barton and Mrs. Perla Tzintzun-Garibay will work on the necessary pre-employment paperwork for Mr. Wood.


22. ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be called to order.

June 17, 2025, at 9:00 am, the regular meeting was adjourned at 11:13 am.



Presiding Trustee of the Regular Meeting May 20, 2025, certifies the above minutes.



Secretary