

TEHAMA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 28, 2003

Present: Directors': Bill Borrer; Charles Willard; Barbara McIver; George Russell; and Ross Turner. Also present: Ernie Ohlin, Water Resources Manager; Brandon Konicke, Engineer Aide; Dan McManus of Department of Water Resources (DWR); Allan Fulton of US Davis Extension Service.

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Bill Borrer.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Director Turner and Second by Director Russell to approve the September 23, 2003 Minutes. Carried 5-0 with 0 absent.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT: None
4. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Motion by Director McIver and Second by Director Russell to approve the claims submitted in October in the amount of \$16,438.55. Motion carried 5-0 with 0 absent.
5. AG WAIVER, COUNTYWIDE COORDINATION - UPDATE: Ernie Ohlin discussed a well attended meeting in Los Molinos regarding outreach for the Ag Waiver.

Allan Fulton reviewed the outreach efforts at meetings held October 7th and 8th. 1,300 mailers countywide were sent to irrigated landowners. The Ag Waiver interest was heightened through these meetings. A hearing was held by the State Water Resource Control Board in Sacramento to consider a stay requested on landowner identification brought forth by the Ag Coalition. The hearing officer was Art Baggot, Chairman of the State Water Resource Control Board. Only a limited number of people were allowed to testify, which included the Ag Coalition's, Water Exchange Contractors, ACWA, and the Coalition of Urban Water Agencies. The environmental interests opposed the stay as did the Region 5 Board Staff. The hearing officer will issue a ruling by noon October 29th.

Reviewing the testimony of the hearing, Allan Fulton remarked that, to the surprise of many, Bill Croyal, representing the Region 5 Board, had previously attended as many as 30 outreach meetings with Coalition members and others. But when questioned, stated that he did not think a "good faith effort" regarding outreach had been conducted by Ag groups and coalitions.

Also discussed by Mr. Fulton was SB1049 Water Rights Fees. The State Water Resources Control Board, through fees assessed to water rights, is proposing a raise of \$4.4 million by January 1, 2004, to cover their staff salary's for next year.

Allan Fulton continues to outreach through mailings and advertising by media. Staff requested the Board approve funds for outreach assistance for Tehama County in the amount of \$1,000.

Motion by Director Turner to approve authorizing expenditures of up to \$1,000 from the District Reserve Funds to be used for correspondence and outreach efforts associated with the Ag Waiver issue.

Director Willard expressed frustration on the results of the Regional Board testimony and requested

communication documentation.

Allan Fulton added that all correspondence and meeting announcements were entered into evidence. Mr. Croyal acknowledged he participated in 25 to 30 meetings, but thought the “message is all wrong”. Mr. Croyal did not approve of the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition’s approach of the “opt-out” idea. The testimony said that the reason they requested lists of landowners was to know who is represented by the Coalition and identify those that are not.

Another meeting attended by Mr. Fulton was the Coalition’s Watershed Work Group meeting to begin work on the April 1st deadline of the Watershed Evaluations. This would involve going throughout the valley identifying watershed landuse patterns, what streams were affected, where there might be a discharge or concern and establish where the water quality monitoring points would be for submission to the Board by April 1st.

Director Borrer acknowledged the budget crises in our County and felt this proposal to assist in mailings was needed. Second by Director Willard and carried 5-0.

6. DEER CREEK WATER EXCHANGE - UPDATE: Dan McManus of DWR, reviewed the September 30th meeting with the Water Advisory Committee for the pilot program. Funding was the main issue, for infrastructure improvements. A public meeting is scheduled for November 4th for outreach. The pilot well presently is not active, but may be next year, if another permit is issued by the Board of Supervisors. This will be brought before the Board again for updates.
7. TEHAMA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT: Ernie Ohlin, Water Resources Manager, introduced Brandon Konicke, Engineer Aide and student at Shasta College, presently working to develop the TCFC&WCD website. Through Public Works, security and other issues are being developed. A brief overview of the website and request for comments was presented to the Board. Staff added that the purpose of the site is to be user friendly to citizens and disseminate information relevant to Flood Control and water resource issues.
8. WOODSON BRIDGE/KOPTA SLOUGH - UPDATE: Ernie Ohlin reviewed the site and past history. This long-standing project is moving forward. The Corps of Engineers has provided funding for design, environmental and construction. Past Congressman Ose was adamant the project stays together as one project, with construction protecting the West Bank from upstream to the bridge down to the Corning sewer outfall, combined with the Ecosystem Restoration Project. Staff reiterated the District would be responsible for maintenance.
9. NCWA MONTH IN REVIEW: As presented with no questions.
10. ADJOURN: With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.