

# **TEHAMA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES OF OCTOBER 26, 2004**

Present: Directors': Ross Turner; George Russell; Barbara McIver; Charles Willard; Bill Borrer. Also present: Ernie Ohlin, Water Resources Manager; Bill Goodwin, Director of Public Works; Burt Bundy, Mill Creek Conservancy President; Delwit Zeleke, Project Director for The Nature Conservancy.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ross Turner at 8:30 a.m.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Director Willard and Second by Director McIver to approve the September 28, 2004 Minutes. Motion carried 5-0 with 0 absent.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Director Bill Borrer discussed a new environmental organization, Sacramento Environmental Water Caucus. A press release by the group was sent regarding a meeting challenging the extension of Sacramento River water contracts.
4. **CLAIMS:** Motion by Director McIver to approve the claims in the amount of \$2,159.88. Second to the motion by Director Russell and carried 5-0 with 0 absent.
5. **MILL CREEK CONSERVANCY - PROJECT UPDATE:** President of the Mill Creek Conservancy, Burt Bundy, discussed the grant submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation for funds from CVPIA for work on Mill Creek. For quite some time, it was felt a more permanent type management plan was needed for Mill Creek. Several agreements exist dealing with the "Four Pumps Agreement", and has a large well on Dye Creek Ranch which provides water for fishery flows during needed times. Also there is a need to identify the flows in Mill Creek required for fish transport. The present agreements provide approximately 25 csf of flow during fish transport periods. Fish & Game has tried to determine exactly what and when flows are needed. Presently, the flows go to about the 15<sup>th</sup> of June and resume again October 15<sup>th</sup>. The time period between is used for irrigation and does not seem to interfere with Spring or Fall run and Steelhead. Holding back water in the fall is due to warm water flows and the survival of fish in these temperatures. Until water temperatures drop, Fish & Game will have the Mutual release water to the creek causing the fall run to move up the creek. The bigger concern is the Spring run in which these fish go to the upper tributaries of the creek, hiding in large cold holes and holding through the summer. They will spawn at the same time as will the fall run.

The first part of the study would provide fish monitoring, timing and amount of flows needed for passage. A portion of this would be done in conjunction with Fish & Game. The second part of the study would be to analyze the delivery system for water use efficiency for Los Molinos Mutual. Flow meters may be necessary for management of the old system. The third component would be for conjunctive use studies. Impact to groundwater has not been analyzed in the conservancy areas and coordination with DWR will assist with this issue. Lastly, the management component and consolidation of all the current agreements in place.

Burt Bundy described the hydro-acoustical counting of fish. Mill Creek has glacial till from Lassen, causing cloudy water containing a high mineral content. Mixing of water is done and no water from the well goes into the creek. This hydro-acoustical system, developed in Alaska, uses sonar equipment which records a shape easily identifying the type of fish passing through. Location of the equipment

needs a still water installation location for effective monitoring.

A Fish & Game ariel-recon trip was attended by Burt Bundy and discussed. This was a "Red" fish counting on Mill and Deer Creek. "Red's" are spawning areas where fish have worked and cleaned the area to spawn. 60 Red's were counted on Mill Creek and on Dye Creek only two in the lower watershed. Other creeks are down on their Red counts for the year. The entire Mill Creek Watershed is substantially up, and there were over 1,000 Reds on Mill Creek counted this year for the spring run.

The grant, for approximately \$250,000, includes in-kind service from other agencies including The Nature Conservancy, DWR, and Fish & Game.

Ernie Ohlin added that these projects are carried out by the Conservancy and they have good working relationships with all agencies with the understanding that locals are in the lead.

6. SUN CITY TEHAMA - GROUNDWATER INVESTIGATION UPDATE: Ernie Ohlin discussed the Groundwater pilot hole drilling in the proposed development site. Due to the organization and core sampling, this has been a slow process. Core samples are being taken and the current level of 1,000 ft. is entering black sand. Kleinfelder, Inc., the Consultant, believes that once entering the lower Tuscan strata, a reliable water source may be reached. Determination of continued development will hinge on this information.

Director McIver questioned how significant the Tuscan B strata information will be regarding this project.

Ernie Ohlin answered that information gained by drilling in the Tuscan B is important due to very limited previous drilling in this County at that level has ever been done. Agricultural producers and domestic wells generally do not go below 1,000 ft. level. The Consultant has allowed DWR to gather their own sam of drill cuttings.

Bill Goodwin, Director of Public Works, is attending meetings with the developer and future information will be provided to this Board.

7. SHASTA-TEHAMA WATER EDUCATION COALITION UPDATE: Director Bill Borrer discussed a meeting of the Coalition which decided to send invoices to the 1,500 irrigators who have signed up in Shasta and Tehama County. No word has been received from the Regional Board as to their acceptance of the monitoring plan submitted in April. \$50,000 is needed for monitoring to continue. With regard to the two sites the Coalition determined would be monitored, Cow Creek in Shasta County and Birch Creek in Tehama County, word was received that the Regional Board announced that Cow Creek would not qualify.

Director McIver questioned if one site is unsuitable, is another found to replace it.

Director Borrer replied at this point, it is unknown.

8. THE NATURE CONSERVANCY - PROJECT UPDATE: Dawit Zeleke, Director of The Nature

Conservancy for the Northern Central Valley, discussed his history with Staff and The Nature Conservancy's continued partnership on many issues.

Staff thanked participation of the Conservancy on projects in the County and looked forward to future project information.

Director McIver added that the Board is interested in preserving a healthy base of resources in the County.

The Chairman reopened public comment at 9:23 a.m.

Burt Bundy attended a meeting of the Sacramento River Conservation Forum/Calfed Agricultural staff committee. Draft recommendations were done with regard to taxes and assessments previously discussed by the Dawit Zeleke.

The Chairman closed Public Comment at 9:24 a.m.

9. CDF SALT CREEK CAMP - REIMBURSEMENT: Motion by Director Borrer and Second by Director Russell to approve the \$160 reimbursement to Salt Creek Camp for work completed on the elder creek levee. Carried 5-0 with 0 absent.
10. NCWA MONTH IN REVIEW: Director Borrer discussed fee issues with the Bay/Delta Authority. \$35 million annually is needed to fund reconstruction activities by a broad based user fee. The issue is how a water user is a user to the ecosystem and how they can apply the user fee to an ecosystem project.
11. ADJOURN: With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:26 a.m.