

**TEHAMA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
&
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF APRIL 26, 2005**

Present: Directors': Charles Willard; Ross Turner; Ron Warner; Gregg Avilla; George Russell. Also present: Ernie Ohlin, Water Resources Manager; Dan McManus, and Bill Ehorn of DWR; Bill Borrer, Shasta-Tehama Water Education Coalition; Sandy Denn, Panel member of the AB303 Grant Funding Program; Mark Oliver, Project Manager for CH₂M Hill

1. **Call to Order**: The meeting was called to order by Chairman George Russell at 8:30 a.m.
2. **Approval of March 29, 2005 Minutes**: Motion by Director Turner and Second by Director Warner to approve the March 29, 2005 minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0 with 0 absent.
3. **Public Comment**: None
4. **Claims**: Motion by Director Turner, Second by Director Avilla to approve the claims for April 26, 2005 in the amount of \$3,357.56. Carried 5-0 with 0 absent.
5. **AB3030 Technical Advisory Committee Appointments**: Ernie Ohlin presented an update on the Technical Advisory Committee AB3030 appointments. At the March meeting, the Directors approved two positions, but no application was received for one position representing agricultural related water districts or agricultural pumpers. Allan Fulton, UC Davis Extension has applied and staff feels he would be a good candidate for the three year term.

Director Turner questioned if active extraction of water would be an issue. Staff felt this would not be.

Motion Director Avilla and Second by Director Warner to approve the AB3030 TAC appointment of Allan Fulton for a three year term representing (AP2) Agricultural Pumpers. Carried 5-0 with 0 absent.

6. **Introduction of New DWR Representative for Groundwater in Tehama County**: Ernie Ohlin discussed the variety of projects Dan McManus has worked on and with Tehama County. Dan will now be Chief, Geologic Investigation Section of the DWR Northern District.

Dan McManus informed the Board of his new position with DWR and continued work with Tehama County. Bill Ehorn will replace Dan McManus for the County and is familiar with all aspects of groundwater.

Director Russell thanked Dan McManus for his assistance and information with regard to groundwater and congratulated him on his new position.

Director Turner thanked Dan McManus for time spent and input for the Board.

Ernie Ohlin added the relationship with DWR has been good and their opinions are highly respected.

7. **Sun City Tehama - Groundwater Investigation:** Ernie Ohlin reviewed the current pumping tests taking place at the DelWebb/Sun City Tehama project. Static level at the 1,000 ft. deep production well is approximately 200', and when actually pumping, it is down another 200' at the well. In the observation well, about 1800' away, approximately 38' - 41' of static drawdown was recorded. Water quality was fair except with the new State levels for arsenic anticipated to be at 10ppb, test results averaged approximately 24ppb. This is lower than the current maximum of 50 ppb; however, higher than what the new State levels of 10ppb will be.

Currently, Ernie continued, dataloggers are monitoring groundwater levels in surrounding wells and a 10-day pump testing will be completed at the 500' aquifer level to investigate supply alternatives.

Staff met with the Shasta County Water Authority to discuss the Redding Basin Plan. Their project will examine management of the Redding Groundwater Basin. Most of their water is needed at the northern end of Shasta County, and the plan will assist in developing management actions. Some of the water is in the Tehama County portion. During this meeting, urban growth in the Tehama County northern area were discussed including: Sun City; Sunset Hills, Holiday Ranch and the Bowman area; and the need to incorporate Tehama County issues into their Plan. The ACID canal brings water from Lake Shasta into the Bowman area, via the A.C.I.D. Canal for irrigation. There may be proposals that would pump groundwater to makeup for the use of water. Some of the surface water being used in the northern portion of Shasta County.

Director Willard added that the A.C.I.D. canal is unlined and 7 to 11 af of water is being used per acre of irrigation. Lining portions of the canal and understanding what effects this causes is important. It is also important for the Board to recognize these issues that involve both Counties.

Director Avilla questioned what projections are for needed water for Sun City and staff answered 3 million gallons per day and two wells of 1200 gallons per minute running 24/7. Dan McManus added that not a lot of information is currently available.

Director Turner questioned the Sun City Tehama projects use of recycled water. Staff answered that they will be using recycled water on the golf course and green belt areas for the project.

8. **Integrated Regional Water Management Plan:** Ernie Ohlin introduced Mark Oliver and added that managing water throughout the State and Northern California in this plan is important not only for what Tehama, Shasta, Butte and Glenn County is doing, but the bigger picture is how Northern California and the Sacramento Valley will or will not affect others, and what we can do to provide, or not provide, water in other areas.

Mark Oliver, Project Manager of the Integrated Water Management Plan for CH₂M Hill, gave a presentation to the Board regarding the background on this plan. NCWA is currently gathering information for the regional plan, for the entire Sacramento Valley including habitat for fish species, wildlife, urban growth, and agricultural needs. The need for the region-wide action is an ability, at a regional level, to create a more powerful voice together, rather than just at a county level and still maintain autonomy.

NCWA, Mark Oliver continued, will submit two grant applications. A planning grant and an implementation grant application. The requested letter of support from TCFC&WCD is in support of

the \$500,000 planning grant. The implementation program has a \$50 million cap and the entire program will have \$148 million this first year.

Mark Oliver summarized by saying, participation in the plan gives a county or district increased clout working as one large group. The more this region can collectively act, the more powerful they will be politically and DWR wants to fund a regional effort. If they see a plan in place and a group working together, and they recognize steps are being made, that is the sort of thing they want to fund.

Ernie Ohlin added that with the Four Counties Regional Water Program discussions, this regional approach is good, not only for being represented collectively, but funding wise.

Motion by Director Turner and Second by Director Avilla to authorize the Chairman to sign a letter of support for the Northern California Water Association to acquire grant funding to develop the Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Program. Motion carried 5-0 with 0 absent.

9. **Shasta-Tehama Water Education Coalition Update:** Bill Borrer, Coalition Member, updated the Board on the last meeting. Approximately 125 were in attendance at the first annual meeting. Currently, there are 1600 paid members with \$113,000 taken into the organization. No coordinator will be hired for the Coalition at this time. Discussions continued regarding Birch Creek and the January 26th monitoring which tested toxic. A second and third sample was taken and no toxicity was found. It was reported to the Coalition that diazanon was the problem. Allan Fulton, newly appointed to a work group, will be addressing issues such as this.

Board of Directors were elected, Bill continued, and officers will be elected at the next meeting. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month at 8:00 p.m. at the Cottonwood Creek Watershed Office. Communication to those who need to be informed is difficult due to limited funds and there is no way of identifying all those subject to this waiver.

Bill Borrer stated that the Regional Board is deciding whether or not to assess fees for irrigator's to support staff that is needed to oversee their efforts. The first proposal, for those in the Coalition, was \$0.12 per acre and \$0.30 per acre for those not participating in the Coalition. The staff of the Sacramento Valley Coalition, along with the Rice Commission, has come up with their own proposal to decide how much staff the Regional Board would need to control their efforts and allocate the costs as a region. There will be a hearing on this in the near future.

Director Avilla questioned the Birch Creek testing and the 48-hour re-testing that produced no toxins. As an individual person in the coalition, what is my responsibility?

Bill Borrer answered that possibly why the 48-hour test was negative is the material is tied up in the soil. With calm water, it dissipates out of the water, but not the soil. Locating the perpetrator of the toxins is not the purpose of the Coalition.

10. **AB303 Grant Funding - Preliminary Ranking** Ernie Ohlin announced that Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District ranked in the top ten and funding would be \$203,000. This would be for two multi-completion monitoring wells located in the Bowman area and in the southern part of the County, installation of data loggers, concrete pads, and protective metal housings at eleven existing well sites throughout Tehama County. Final determination will be after the review panel decides the geographical distribution.

Sandy Denn, AB303 member of the advisory panel, felt that the TCFC&WCD grant application scored high and would be recommended award of the grant.

11. **NCWA Month in Review:** Bill Borrer commented on CVP contracts which are being challenged by environmental groups. NCWA will work with the media and legislature to inform them of how important the issue is with agriculture. Also, the State Water Quality Control Board fees assessed for water-right holders in the State, NCWA had filed suit against the fees and a judge ruled against NCWA.
12. **Adjourn:** With no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:26 a.m.