

**TEHAMA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL  
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF MAY 22, 2007**

Present: Directors': Gregg Avilla; Bob Williams; George Russell; Ron Warner; Charles Willard. Also present: Ernie Ohlin, Water Resources Manager; Bill Ehorn, Dept. Water Resources (DWR); Williams Goodwin, Tehama County Administrator; Martin Nicholes, City of Red Bluff.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gregg Avilla at 8:30 a.m.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Director Russell and second by Director Williams to approve the April 24, 2007 minutes as presented. Carried 5-0 with absent.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
4. **CLAIMS:** Motion by Director Williams and second by Director Willard to approve the May Claims in the amount of \$7,609.18. Carried 5-0 with 0 absent.
4. **RED BLUFF DIVERSION DAM UPDATE:** Ernie Ohlin and Williams (Bill) Goodwin reiterated the information from the April 2007 meeting regarding correspondence responding to the Bureau of Reclamations re-circulated draft EIS/EIR on the Red Bluff Diversion Dam project.

After direction from the Board, Staff contacted Congressman Wally Herger's office to arrange a workshop. The Congressman has a genuine interest in bringing multi-agencies together to discuss the EIR and where this project is headed. The tentative dates are July 9<sup>th</sup> thru 20<sup>th</sup> and arrangements can be made to meet at the Red Bluff Community Center.

Directors' discussed recommendations from staff with regard to appointing two members of the Board to attend the workshop. This item will be held over until the June meeting.

Director Russell noted that since staff has arranged this workshop, perhaps they should have the opportunity to structure the agenda as well.

Staff will meet with Congressman Herger's Representative and assist in arranging the program. If possible, the draft agenda will be distributed via email to the Board.

Director Williams commented that a clear understanding from the major players is necessary. With the Congressman involved, he will bring together the agencies that are involved.

Director Warner added that it should be questioned as to what is the project today.

Martin Nichols, Red Bluff City Manager, addressed the Board with regard to this planned meeting. Mr. Nichols asked "What is Tehama County's objective in this meeting?"

Director Russell informed Mr. Nichols of the correspondence presented at the April meeting by Administrator Goodwin. Also, Mr. Russell continued, there is a concern related to the economic impact. Unless something is done, the agencies involved will do what they choose to do. This is an effort to clarify issues and make parties aware of the Board's concerns. The more we understand, and the more the people involved understand, the better decision will be made.

Director Williams added that the ultimate goal is to come up with a permanent solution to this issue.

Chairman Avilla questioned Mr. Nichols if he felt "his position will not be fairly represented at this meeting"?

Mr. Nichols answered that the City of Red Bluff has a reasonably precise position on this meeting that could be represented. "My concern is that the broader Tehama County doesn't really have a consensus as to what we want to achieve out of this".

Ernie Ohlin commented that there are issues of what we would like to achieve, but also part of the meeting should discuss process associated with the National Marine Fishery Service. This agency has ultimate control on outcome, but past that, the courts can really have control of the outcome if lawsuits are filed. This happened in the Delta. It is well understood that there are issues with the Lake, economy, concerns of citizens and irrigators, but we need to understand who will force the issue on a permanent solution.

Williams Goodwin agreed with Staff and added his need to know the resolve of NMFS and others groups. If there is another alternative that they would be willing to examine, it should be discussed with them.

To the direction of Mr. Nichols, Mr. Goodwin continued, we can say what the outcomes are that we are looking for, but is there an alternative that we are not seeing that would be acceptable to these agencies, such as a different by-pass. As Director Russell said, status quo is not acceptable. A meeting to discuss what the bottom line is and how to get there, and getting what we all need. With everyone in different directions, it would be good to know, at a high level, if the dam will stay.

Per staff's request, a motion was made by Director Russell and seconded by Director Williams to authorize Gary Antone, Director of Water Resources, to draft, sign and submit, a letter to Congressman Wally Herger, requesting a multi-agency meeting to review the Red Bluff Diversion Dam re-operation issues. Motion carried 5-0 with 0 absent.

6. **APPROVAL OF MULTI-PARTY WATER RESOURCES MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING:** Ernie Ohlin reviewed the 4-County MOU approved by the TCFC&WCD Board members, to work collectively with other counties on water resource issues. From this came the Multi-Party MOU for not only counties, but water districts, to coordinate, cooperate, and collaborate issues, mainly to start with, as associated with the Tehama and Tuscan aquifer formations.

Director Williams reminded the Board that this MOU is not a binding agreement, but a document to be

used for sharing and discussions.

Motion by Director Williams and second by Director Russell to approve the Multi-Party Water Resources Memorandum of Understanding and authorize the Chairperson to sign upon County Counsel review. Carried 5-0 with 0 absent.

7. **GROUNDWATER MONITORING WELLS UPDATE AND PRESENTATION OF BUTTE COUNTY BASIN MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE INFORMATION CENTER (BMOIC):** Ernie Ohlin reviewed the construction installation of the Capay and Evergreen Road wells, which are now complete. Staff thanked Bill Ehorn of DWR for his hard work performed on the two sites. Presently, Ernie continued, there is money left over from this AB303 grant. Discussions with DWR revealed the money could be used to expand the Butte County BMOIC to include Tehama County. Ultimately, Glenn, and Colusa County will also be added to help protect historic users of groundwater and provide guidance to new users of groundwater within each sub-area. The BMOIC is a web-based data center to house groundwater level and water quality information and provides an excellent reporting capability.

Ernie Ohlin introduced Kristen Hard, Butte County Water and Resource Conservation Manager of Program Development. Ms. Hard provided a presentation on the BMOIC.

Per Staff recommendation, a motion was given by Director Russell and second by Director Warner to 1). Authorize the Water Resources Manager to submit a request to DWR that \$10,000 from AB303 Grant No. 4600004099 be used to include Tehama County's well, water and land information in the Butte County Basin Management Objective Information Center. and 2). Authorize the Director of Water Resources to execute a Purchase Order, not to exceed \$10,000, to reimburse Butte County to expand the BMOIC to include Tehama County. Motion carried 5-0 with 0 absent.

8. **RESPONSE TO THE RECLAMATION BOARD - DEER CREEK AND ELDER CREEK LEVEE CHANNEL MAINTENANCE:** Ernie Ohlin reviewed the response made to the Reclamation Board regarding channel maintenance. Included was a list of those agencies who are responsible for areas of maintenance. Ernie thanked DWR for their response to these problems. Once DWR has completed the necessary channel maintenance associated with the Deer and Elder Creek Levees, they will be modeling areas of the channels to insure they have the capacity they were designed for. Once the Reclamation Board has reviewed the information, they will send it onto the Corps of Engineers for a final approval as a plan for the District.

Chairman Avilla requested Public Comment be re-opened at 9:23 a.m.

Director Avilla directed Staff to contact Jim Edwards concerns regarding property owners with streams on their property. His concerns were the length of time for permits with U.S. Fish and Game.

Staff will review and contact Mr. Edwards. and possibly return to the Board with information.

Ernie Ohlin informed the Board of his contact with County Counsel and Ordinance 608. This document

was written before agencies such as Environmental were formed. Staff will keep the Board informed of any changes.

9. **ADJOURN:** With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.