

**TEHAMA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2007**

Present: Directors': Gregg Avilla; Bob Williams; George Russell; Ron Warner; Charles Willard.
Also present: Ernie Ohlin, Water Resources Manager; Dan McMannus, Dept. Water Resources (DWR); Gary Antone, Director of Public Works; Allan Fulton, AB3030 TAC Vice-Chairman.

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 Warner and second by Director Williams to approve the July 24, 2007 minutes as presented. Carried 5-0 with absent.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
Ernie Ohlin announced the Northern Sacramento Valley Water Forum meeting to be held on October 10, 2007.

Ernie Ohlin informed the Board of the planned outreach meeting scheduled for October 24th at 6 pm to be held at the Lassen View School. The agenda will review permits with regard to channel clearing.
4. **CLAIMS:** Motion by Director Williams and second by Director Willard to approve the September claims in the amount of \$9,077.94. Carried 5-0 with 0 absent.
5. **RED BLUFF DIVERSION DAM UPDATE:** Ernie Ohlin thanked Directors', Bob Williams, George Russell and Public Works Director, Gary Antone for attending the September 19th meeting and tour held at the Hamilton City GCID Pumping & Fish Screen facility. The meeting was well received by those involved with the Red Bluff Diversion Dam and helped clarify issues regarding the project. Another tour will be scheduled at a later date.

The Response to Comments on the EIR is still in draft form. Requests to review the draft prior to the final version were not provided a clear answer. The distinction between the proposed project of building a new fish screen and pumping facility at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam, is that as a separate issue from the operation of the gates and the dam, they are separate, and governed by different processes.

Director Williams added that by the end of the meeting, everyone attending had an understanding. It was questioned to the National Marine Fisheries whether or not four months gates in Lake Red Bluff was a possibility in the future. Director Williams was given the answer "No" by National Marine Fisheries, but they are flexible and will work within the Operations Criteria Plan (OCAP). The Canal Authority presented the need for water and the operation of the Dam as separate issues. The Red Bluff Chamber of Commerce and the City Counsel realize now that the Canal Authority would like to have the Lake in there as much as possible and use gravity flow rather than pump water. There was a feeling that cooperation is possible for a reasonable end to the issues.

Director Russell agreed that there was clarification and a worth while meeting.

Ernie Ohlin added that Congressman Herger's office was represented at the meeting and most of his issues were addressed.

Director Antone also agreed and added that from the discussions, fish passage was presented as the only two months affected in the river, being July and August. Also, during discussions with agricultural producers, grafts determined that we have changing crops, changing uses and changing types. What came from this was that the water use graph will change and will be a constant issue more than a fluctuating issue.

Director Willard questioned the amount of acre feet taken down the canal. Director Williams answered approximately 250, 000 to 350,000 a.f.

Director Avilla questioned the amount of acres irrigated. Director Williams answered there are 150,000 acres in the Canal Authority.

Director Williams added that as Gary Antone had stated, with the change in crop patterns, where it used to be rice and field crops needing water during the summer, now we have permanent crops which require water earlier or some later.

6. **AB3030 GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN T.A.C. REPORT:** Allan Fulton reviewed the progress of the TAC meetings.

- Tomorrow at the DWR office from 1pm to 3pm will be the Groundwater Monitoring Assessment Program (GMA). This will be a 4-year cycled program monitoring groundwater quality with the objective of developing baseline groundwater quality for the Sacramento Valley.
- Two vacancies available on the TAC Committee have been applied for by several applicants. The sub-committee will interview applicants in October.
- A presentation by the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) for a conjunctive use project by GCID and Orland Unit Water Association and Orland/Artois Water District. This project is also known as the Stoney Creek Fan Project. It described late fall or winter drilling for six exploratory bore holes to determine where they may place seven production wells, 700 to 1200 ft. deep into the Lower Tuscan and Tehama formations. (It should be noted that this project borders Thomas Creek.) Agencies involved have problems or issues with water short years and conveyance passage. Also, with different needs changing, it is viewed, from their point of view, as a testing program to examine the risk of third party impact.

In conjunction with this, Mr. Fulton continued, the Butte Environmental Counsel has filed a lawsuit in Glenn County against the project due to the exemption requested by the GCID from going through the CEQA application and requirements.

- Tehama County Trigger Level decisions, according to the AB3030 Groundwater Management Plan. With the assistance of Brown & Caldwell consulting firm, a draft

background document is being prepared, describing the project, the connection in Tehama County, and the AB3030 Plan. Also in draft, for each sub-basin, identifying key wells for monitoring groundwater levels, water quality, and potentially land subsidence.

- With regard to local outreach and the celebration of Farm City Week, sponsored by the Tehama County Farm Bureau, the Evergreen multi-completion well will be on the Farm City tour.

Director Avilla questioned where the County is now with regard to water and management.

Ernie Ohlin replied by agreeing that in the past there was little knowledge. With the adoption of the Groundwater Management Plan, there are plans implemented for everything currently being done. With the Water Inventory Analysis, supply and demand is known for the areas around the County. Developing trigger level documents, also included in the Plan, choosing five key wells, history of monitoring, setting levels so that if water does go down, you do a set of actions for each level set. The Integrated Regional Water Management Program, the Multi-Party MOU (the Four Counties MOU), is working together as a whole to manage water throughout the State.

Dan McMannus added that with the monitoring, information has been gathered through the monitoring grid, but what has not been done is to put the production wells into lower zones and monitor the aquifer. That is the benefit of the Stoney Creek Project, which will spend time and money drilling deep wells in the lower aquifer, pump and receive parameters for the aquifer and to calculate impacts if a full-blown program were to run. If necessary, a summary of the work to date can be provided and ideas of where we will need to go in the future with our aqua system.

Director Willard directed staff to provide information from the past Water Resource Manager and staff agreed.

Director Russell discussed the issue of Tehama County trigger levels and concern if an emergency arose and no other County did the same.

Staff answered that to date, the Board has not requested an Ordinance with regard to trigger levels. Tehama County is developing the trigger levels to be aware of what is going on and awareness actions. Politically we have borders, but resource wise the borders are a bit more nebulous. That is why we are working together as a region, but not to where another county can tell us what to do.

Roger Sherrill continued by saying, the GMA Program meeting to be held tomorrow at DWR, is a State Water Resources Control Board run program. The USGS works under them by doing monitoring and data reports. The extensive program examines volatile, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, herbicides, and age of the water. It will be an opportunity for the County to receive information on groundwater quality.

Staff will contact the City of Red Bluff and Tehama County Environmental Health Department regarding this meeting.

Director Willard thanked Roger Sherrill for meetings and information provided to the Flood Directors.

7. **DEER CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL FLOW ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE:** Dan McManus, DWR, provided a presentation regarding the history and current activities on this subject. Also provided: Flood Control Minutes from past meetings on this issue; the MOU between the State of California Fish & Game, Department of Water Resources, and Deer Creek Irrigation District for the Construction, Operation, Maintenance and Monitoring of a Flow Enhancement Program on Deer Creek in Tehama County; and the Deer Creek Flow Enhancement Program Proposal to the Delta Pumps Fish Protection (4-Pumps) Agreement Advisory Committee.

Director Willard questioned who decides when water is low enough to pump it back in.

Dan McMannus answered that Fish & Game makes the decision.

Director Williams questioned if the pumps actually pumped into the creek.

Dan McMannus answered that they will pump into the canal for farm use, and distribute water throughout the District. That is the reason for seeking off-parcel permitting with Tehama County.

Director Russell questioned the funding source and Dan McMannus answered that the Delta Pumps mitigation fund.

Director Avilla questioned acre feet and conversion charts.

Dan McMannus answered that 1 cfs is approximately 450 gallons per minute and 1cfs pumped all day is approximately 1.9 acre feet per day. DWR has conversion cards available.

8. **KOPTA SLOUGH-WOODSON BRIDGE PROJECT:** Ernie Ohlin reviewed the item reported to the Board at the July meeting. This project will remove riprap, provide bank stabilization and restoration. State Parks has committed \$25,000 and DWR will pay the balance. Staff considers this a highly important project that will benefit the District.

Motion by Director Willard and second by Director Warner to: Authorize \$25,000 to be transferred from 603 General Designation to Contingency and \$25,000 from Contingency to Professional/Special Services; and Authorize the Director of Water Resources to enter into an agreement with the Department of Water Resources to conduct the Kopta Slough Flood Damage Reduction and Habitat Restoration Feasibility Study. Motion Carried 5-0 with 0 absent.

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