

TEHAMA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2008

Present: Directors': Williams; Willard; Warner; Russell; and Avilla. Also present: Gary Antone, Director of Public Works; Rick Gurrola, Ag Commissioner; Dan McMannus, DWR; Bill Paris, Attorney for Laughlin & Paris; Jim Shuler, Wildlife Services.

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Williams at 8:30 a.m.

Director Avilla entered.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Director Avilla and second by Director Warner to approve the Minutes of April 22, 2008 as presented. Carried 5-0 with 0 absent.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.
4. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Motion by Director Willard and second by Director Warner to approve the claims in the amount of \$55,860.73. Carried 5-0 with 0 absent.
5. SALT CREEK CONSERVATION CAMP REIMBURSEMENT: Gary Antone informed the Directors that the bill submitted today is for multiple months (from April 07 to March 08).

Director Russell added the County is fortunate to have this work completed by the Camp and motioned to approve the claim in the amount of \$7,400. Motion second by Director Willard and carried 5-0 with 0 absent.

6. AB303 GRANT APPLICATION RESULTS: Gary Antone announced the \$229,761 grant has been awarded to TCFC. Of the 122 statewide applications, the District's application ranked 12th. The grant documentation will be coming back to the Board for signature at a future meeting.
7. COST SHARE FOR FEDERAL WILDLIFE SERVICES SPECIALIST (F.W.S.S.) WITH GLENN COUNTY: Gary Antone introduced Jim Shuler, of the Wildlife Services, Supervisor, USDA. Rick Gurrola, Ag Commissioner, has proposed a partnership between Tehama County and Glenn County to bring in a specialist who can trap harmful wildlife throughout the two counties.

Rick Gurrola said we have the opportunity to share a Federal trapper with Glenn County. The person would be available six months of the year and various hours per week depending on the problems in each county. The Ag Department is exploring additional funding sources to assist in the areas of levee systems bothered by beaver, muskrat and ground squirrel problems, which this trapper could alleviate.

Jim Shuler, Supervisor of the northern region, added that Tehama and DelNort County are the only counties not in the program. DelNort is currently trying to get a program together. They assist cooperators and resource owners with wildlife problems and work with Fish & Game. Some of the problems, such as lions, or beavers, the resource owner would obtain a permit before removing any animal (with Fish & Game). They work on a request basis where there is a problem.

Director Warner questioned if there was a trapper in this area.

Jim Shuler answered that Glenn County has a person working for them 6 months out of the year, but lives in Tehama County and another working in Anderson for Shasta County.

Director Avilla questioned if information was provided to property owners on what they can do to fix a problem.

Jim Shuler answered that information and contacts are provided and in some cases, location of the food source can solve some problems.

Director Russell questioned what possible funding sources were available.

Rick Gurrola answered, they are hoping to possibly receive some funding from the Flood Control District. Discussion have also taken place with the Farm Bureau and Cattleman. Butte and Glenn County Ag commissioner's office have a fee schedule in place. The Cattleman Association and Farm Bureau are still undecided. If a home owner/rancher need the service of the specialist, it would be on a user fee basis. The remaining portion is picked up by the Ag Commissioners unclaimed gas tax that agricultural departments receive from the state. This program meets the financial requirements.

Director Russell questioned if the \$5,000 was approved, and no other funding sources were found, the money would not be spent. Mr. Gurrola answered that this was correct.

Director Willard commented that due to hard times it was not a good time to begin.

Motion by Director Russell and second by Director Avilla to approve the \$5,000 partial cost share to fund the Federal Wildlife Services Specialist for the Tehama/ Glenn County Program in the 08/09 District Budget. Director Willard voted against. Motion carried 4-1 with 0 absent.

8. DEER CREEK FLOW ENHANCEMENT PROJECT: Dan McManus reviewed the project. There is a long history of wild run fisheries in Deer Creek. One of the limiting

factors is transportation flows to get upstream. Both Deer Creek Irrigation District and Stanford Vina Irrigation District can divert the entire flow at key times. So one of the things we have looked at is to install production wells in Deer Creek ID and Stanford Vina, and at key times, operate the wells to supplement the Ag supply and allow them to bypass Deer Creek water. As we moved forward over the past years, Stanford Vina was not interested. We focused on Deer Creek and in 2002 a pilot well was installed at Deer Creek to test the aquifer zone in the Lower Tuscan.

The 4-Pumps Partnership, the Delta 4-Pumps agreement, puts money aside for fisheries mitigation and they fund programs that assist in fishery restoration in California. Discussions with these entities (Deer Creek) came up with this project to implement water use efficiency improvements at Deer Creek and installing or improving 2 more wells to get 10cfs from production for the wells. The program today will allow 15cfs of instantaneous exchange of water but also have the pulse flow opportunity. Coleen Harvey is here with Fish & Game, partnering with the project, examining monitoring and the affects of the bypass on the fisheries, as to whether they can move up and down. The question is how much flow is needed to pass the fish. There are many unknowns.

Bill Paris, of Laughlin & Paris Law Firm, represented Deer Creek Irrigation District. DWR did sign an agreement with Deer Creek so we are moving forward. Funding is in place, and they are conducting CEQA scoping meetings. One meeting will be in Red Bluff on the 1st of July and in Vina, possibly July 7th. We are trying to get as much exposure and comments as we can.

Director Willard questioned how many more wells will be drilled and if they will pump from the Lower Tuscan.

Dan McMannus answered that two more will be drilled. The total project would be 10cfs of groundwater. The current well pumps about 3cfs currently. We need 2 more wells. As you get further to the east, production is lower. By moving the location, we think we can get the 1300 cfs of water to produce the 10cfs. There are 2 existing wells that produce about that quantity. We may refurbish them, but they are completed over multiple portions of the aquifer and we are trying to reduce the impact as much as possible.

The production, Dan continued, comes from the lower portion of the aquifer. There is not a lot of drawdown during the summer months. When water falls below 50cfs at the Stanford Vina Dam, that is the point where we think the fish need more than that flow to get up further. The wells would make up the flow to that point. On an average year, we are only looking at about 795 af would be pumped and 300 of that would be in October after ag demand is over. We have about 60 af in April, about 6 days in May where the flow may need it, and June is one of the key months where temperatures

may be high enough where it wouldn't be used. About 16 days per month may be needed in June.

Director Warner asked if mixing this water from the Lower Tuscan, is that affecting the Salmon coming up?

Colene Harvey answered that it was her understanding that when flows are bypassed for fisheries needs, Deer Ck water will remain in Deer Ck. In exchange for that groundwater, pumped water will be put into irrigation ditches. So no groundwater will be put back into Deer Creek..

Director Williams asked Dan McMannus of his hope for 15cfs, but Deer Creek's contract allows for 35cfs. What is the peak demand on that district?

Dan McMannus answered maybe about 5-7 from water use efficiency improvements and 10 from groundwater. Peak demand, in the summer months, middle of June thru July when they are running their full capacity which is about 35cfs.

Director Williams continued,: I have been told Stanford Vina can divert whatever Deer Ck doesn't use, they take. Who trumps who, fish or farms?

Dan McManus replied that Deer Creek dries up frequently now, but in those situations where they all need water, typically, the water temperatures are to the point you may not want attractive flows for the fish. The priority is to run the program with no substantial impact on ag, but there is a commitment to supply at least a 10cfs.

Bill Paris answered, in this case, farms will trump. And that would be farms in Stanford Vina simply because we are relying on their good will. As Dan mentioned, an initial effort was to involve both districts, they were not interested and withdrew. If Deer Creek makes the water available pursuant to the request of Fish and Game under this program, the conditions will be such that Stanford Vina will let the water go by. We cannot control what Stanford Vina does. As for Deer Creek, the program will not affect them at all. The idea is there is a one to one instantaneous exchange. From the Deer Creek's prospective, this is not something that will have a detrimental impact, just a substitute supply of 10cfs.

Mr. Paris continued, Dan McManus mentioned a one to two day pulse flow. Where they may take the full amount of water. In that event, DCID does not get to pump 30 cfs to make up for it. What happens is we get a year to make that water up, if we need to. There is no requirement, but if we need that water, it does not need to be done instantaneously.

Director Russell questioned how long this had been going on and when would all be functioning?

Dan McMannus answered that if the wells are completed and program begins, Phase I could be next spring. The contract is a commitment for 10 years.

Mr. Paris added they are currently going thru the CEQA process. The six sites are potential sites for two wells. No discussions have taken place with landowners, no agreements. It is our expectation that the environmental review combined with property issues may cause some delays. When we finish July 7th with the 3rd and final scoping meeting, an initial study draft will be completed. Then DCID will need to consider, further public process, before adopting. We do not know if an EIR or negative declaration will result. We want to emphasize we are not exporting water. All the groundwater pumped will be put into the DCID facilities for use by DCID. The interest for the 4-Pumps group is not the water, but the fish. This is a mitigation effort.

Director Willard questioned who will pay for the pumping and Dan McManus and Mr. Paris answered that under the agreement as we go forward, the Delta 4-pumps, which includes power, maintenance, and installation of the well.

9. APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 1 WITH BROWN & CALDWELL: Gary Antone said this does not change any cost, only extends contract to complete the work. Progress has been good and interaction with the TAC.

Director Williams asked why the project has taken so long and Gary Antone answered that he would rather have them take the time, especially on this critical issue with regard to setting awareness and trigger levels, and knowing where the important stages are. The areas are all different with regard to water tables.

Motion by Director Warner, second by Director Willard to approve Amendment No. 1 with Brown & Caldwell. Carried 5-0.

10. With no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.