

**TEHAMA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL  
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
AB3030 GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF OCTOBER 28, 2002**

Present: Serge Birk; Jim Lowden, Steve Kimbrough, Gary Antone, Bill Richardson (2:13), Tom Heffernan (2:30), Robert Steinacher, Bob Vince, Ernie Ohlin and Dan McManus  
Absent: Kevin Borrer and Roger Sherrill.

1. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairman Serge Birk.
2. Approval of August 19, 2002 Meeting Minutes: Steve Kimbrough moved, Robert Vince seconded.  
Motion carried 7-0. 2 absent.
3. Introductions: Visitors/Speakers attending Dan McManus of Department of Water Resources (DWR).
4. Public Comment:
  - Dan McManus announced that DWR will be presenting a Well Seals Show Video Conference in Red Bluff. Date and time to be announced.
  - Dan McManus gave an update on the Deer Creek Water Exchange. The Nature Conservancy has an existing conservation easement on Pete Wells property, but it has to be reworded prior to installation of the new well. They hope to start drilling the first pilot hole on Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup> and will be applying for permits to operate it. He will give a full report at the next meeting.
  - Bill Richardson passed out a flyer on the Northern Sacramento Valley Groundwater Short Course scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, 2002 in Orland, CA.
5. Update on Countywide Inventory & Analysis Grant: Bob Vince discussed the Public Works' work shop and presented an overview of the Countywide Water Inventory. He distributed copies of the (draft) Technical Memorandum #1, the Municipal Water Supplier Stakeholder Interview Form, and Contact List of Tehama County Rural Organizations.

Tom Heffernan and Bill Richardson joined the meeting.

Bob Vince continued his discussion.

Dan McManus discussed and distributed the Task List which is a time line of the groundwater inventory and a copy of the well log data base. Upon questioning, Mr. McManus explained that well charts have been prepared for each region from 1980 to current. Each sub-inventory area is a different graph and includes totals, summaries, and dry versus normal years. The data base is broken down by sections but are not refined by boundaries at this point. A summer person will be

hired to perform some special studies and correct mis-located wells. Spring contours, volume calculations, and grey areas were discussed in length. In order to generate contour maps for each year, they will go back to 1997 and make comparisons. The maximum and usable amount of water in groundwater storage was discussed and Ernie Ohlin asked Mr. McManus to bring a couple of current hydrographs to next months' meeting. Ernie Ohlin asked if there was less water now and Mr. McManus reported there is 10% less water now than two months ago.

Ernie Ohlin reported on the new AB303 grant application for installing dedicated multi-completion monitoring wells and groundwater monitoring systems and provided copies to those in attendance. The work will be coordinated with the State Division of Drinking Water and Tehama County Environmental Health. The work will comply with CEQA.

6. Update on Orange Cove Irrigation District (OCID) Water Forbearance to USBR : Ernie Ohlin distributed copies of the Mill Creek Anadromous Fish Adaptive Management Enhancement Plan's "Briefing and Status Report" from the last Board of Director's meeting.

Jim Lowden gave a summary of the Deer Creek Water Transfer Program. Bill Richardson advised that (OCID) has purchased a percentage of water rights and is proposing to lease them to the Bureau of Reclamation. The water rights will be held in trust by Los Molinos Mutual Water Co (LMMW).

Serge Burke discussed the Bureau's choices on the best way to spend their restoration dollars. It matters more to him that the project be feasible than whether it is on Deer Creek, Clear Creek or southern California. Jim Lowden noted that the Bureau does not object to the program. Ernie Ohlin noted the Flood Control Board's interests aren't so much in whether OCID gets restoration credit, but are more concerned with policy and precedent issues. He advised that Randy Bentine of Fish and Game stated that his office has not been involved in the new project to date. The Forbearance has not been funded yet, but funds have been set aside.

LMMW prefers to continue to work with the Department of Fish & Game because they already have a successful program in place with a long term history of proven procedures.

Ernie Ohlin stated that the Forbearance Agreement does not provide funds for monitoring, but instead provides money to OCID. Jim Lowden advised that LMMW and the OCID intend to go forward with this project.

Dan McManus reported DWR's well (for the exchange) was put on line Wednesday night so that pump is pumping about 3600 gpm. There is increased water in Mill Creek because of the exchange. Ernie Ohlin reminded the committee that Mike Heaton was clear that he represents the Bureau and their water acquisition. Serge Birk recommended the committee invite Mr. Heaton to the next meeting to address this issue again. After discussion, it was decided to wait for a few months and then invite Mr. Heaton, if necessary. Ernie Ohlin advised that Congressman Ose has directed the Bureau to visit all the counties and agencies that they are affecting by the water acquisitions. Proposition 50 will be voted on next week to determine if there will be any continued funding for Cal Fed projects, but restoration funds already exist.

7. Staff Report: Ernie Ohlin reported that he has applied for \$187,580 in grant funding to conduct a countywide Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping of small water systems in Tehama County.

He has not personally received any calls about wells going dry, but has heard reports of it occurring. Jim Lowden reported a well driller is getting calls daily about dry wells. Ernie Ohlin may direct staff to survey local well drillers to see if there is a widespread problem.

8. Meeting Schedule: The next meeting will be Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> in the City of Corning meeting room.

Serge Birk would like to discuss next years' recruitment. Committee appointments are for three years and it should be determined whose terms expire. Committee representatives from the Cities of Red Bluff and Corning are appointed by their respective Boards. The Flood Control Board requires other available positions, including re-appointments, be advertised in local newspapers so anyone has the opportunity to serve on the committee. The committee then interviews the applicants and the Board makes the selection. If new appointments are made in March, then outgoing members who were present during the past year will be involved with the preparation of the Annual Report. Ernie Ohlin will direct staff to prepare a summary of each committee member's term appointment and expiration date.

Serge Birk asked for input for the draft Annual Report.

The committee asked Jim Lowden to schedule a presentation on the Stoney Creek Project (groundwater recharge).

9. Adjourn: With no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:03 pm.