RECLAMATION DISTRICT 799

(Hotchkiss Tract)

PO Box 353/6325 Bethel Island Rd., Bethel Island, CA 94511

www.RD799.com

Regular Board Meeting

**Thursday, October 31, 2024**

**Regular Board Meeting at 6:00 PM**

Meeting Minutes

\*denotes supporting documentation available electronically and at the Reclamation District 799 office.

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm. Present for the meeting were: Trustees Price, Pierce and Lipary. Absent were President Senior and Trustee Mazotti.

Other present for the meeting included District Manager Alvarez, Levee Superintendent Gragg and Secretary Holder.,

1. **Public Comments**: None
2. **Consent Calendar**: All numbered consent calendar items listed will be acted upon under one vote unless specifically removed from the consent calendar by a member of the Board.
   1. Meeting Minutes from the Regular Meeting on September 26, 2024, 6:00pm
   2. Warrant(s)\*
   3. Financial Report(s)\*

**A motion was made by Trustee Lipary and seconded by Trustee Pierce to approve items a – c on the consent calendar. The vote showed three trustees in favor (President Senior and Trustee Mazotti were absent). Motion carried.**

1. **Discussion/Action Items:**
   1. Update/report on Summer Lake North development by District Manager/District Engineer/District Legal Counsel

**Summer Lake North (SLN)**

The work on pump station number three continues but at a much slower rate. The developer has cleaned up the sites. They are awaiting electrical components, panels, etc. They have put a stairway in and doors on the east side. PG & E is still doing work on the power poles and transformers. The propane tanks have not been installed yet. The contractors believe if the electrical components arrive, possibly by December, they could start running tests and checking on them while the other pump station is still being used.

The integrated pump station is being worked on and it has two discharge pipes into the levee. Work is being done at the discharge site; including dewatering, putting a coffer dam in, removing vegetation, and installing riprap on the levee bank.

The title transfer has not begun. DeNova is not in a hurry, nor are we, to own those levees. The process is still idle. The City of Oakley will carry out all the in-track maintenance.

* 1. Update and discussion of DWR Delta Flood Emergency Response Grant Round 3

We have been working on this grant with DWR for about 3 years. It has finally come to fruition. The grant is signed and executed. Round 2 of the grant was completed about four or five years ago. The District was able to purchase flood fighting supplies and containers, plus diesel generated mobile lights. Round 3 is the final round and the District has been awarded about $305,000 (100% reimbursed) to use to buy two trailer back-up generators, soft start switches and hire an electrical contractor to install a few transfer switches on the pump stations. In an emergency, the District will be able to run the pump stations with the back-up generators. We will also be able to use them for a module office, refrigerators, cell phones, etc. District is transferring $200,000 from our LAIF Fund to the General Fund, to fund the December purchase of the Round 3 equipment. The equipment will take about 2 months to arrive. District will submit a progress billing to DWR and DWR will reimburse funds approximately four to six weeks later.

* 1. Update and discussion of DWR Project Sites associated with the Project Funding Agreement for Phase 1 of District Multi-Benefit Project on Hotchkiss Tract (HO-24-1.0)

This Special Projects Work Agreement has a 13% District cost share. DWR will reimburse 87% of the project costs. The 13% percent doesn’t sound like a lot of money, but this grant has the potential to be about a 3-million-dollar grant. This would likely be impossible for this District to pay and there is a good chance we won’t be able to take advantage of the 3 million.

We have taken a couple of walking field trips with our engineers throughout the District. We have done walking and driving fieldtrips and used drones to identify potential levee work. The engineers have identified several hundred feet of levee that needs to be raised on Sandmound Blvd. The waterside of Sandmound Blvd is in very good shape because of all the bulkheads that were installed decades ago. Even though they are dilapidated, the slopes are still two to one. The focus of the work would be to raise the levee in height and the rest of the work would be on the landside. This would mean we would be in people’s living rooms by the time the work is done. This grant does pay for demolition, encroachments, walkways, decks, and landslide improvements. It also pays for the removal of the materials and the work would be done by licensed contractors. All those encroachments would be paid for by the grant. It all sounds great on paper; however, some of the homeowners are hesitant. The lowest point on Sandmound Blvd. is behind pump station three, through Carol’s Harbor and then through Sam’s Harbor. Most of the homeowners on that stretch seem to be in favor of the plan.

The water running along Sandmound Blvd., is a slow-going current. We have rocked everything from Bethel Island Bridge to Jersey Island Bridge. The biggest vulnerability is from the Dutch Slough thumb through the Jersey Island bridge, which hasn’t been rocked. There are no homeowners there. That property is owned by DWR, where the Burroughs Wetlands Restoration will occur. We would like to dedicate most of the work agreement funds to this project area. There would be no public pushback. This is the fiercest body of water we have in our district. DWR’s initial plans are that the wetland restoration is to breach that levee and leave the north for grazing. It is undecided at this time because they are thinking of expanding their project to include making the entire Burroughs piece wetland restoration and thus flooding the northern section that they previously thought that they would keep for grazing. If they do that, they most likely would improve the perimeter levee, that the District would also like to improve. They would improve it on a similar scale to what they did on the Emerson/Gilbert side, a super levee. They built a massive crown, and they have an eight to one slope on the land side, and it is a work of art that they have done. If they decide to do that on the Burroughs side, then the levee work we would like to do under this grant would be a moot point. There is still some time. Our engineers have reached out to DWR’s engineers, to find out what their plans are. Eventually the plan is to have the Burroughs piece be the same as Emerson/Gilbert.

In conclusion, the District needs to think about how we want to proceed and continue to do what is in the best interest of the District.

* 1. Continued discussion and possible adoption of a Board Policy Handbook

This item was tabled until the District’s next board meeting.

* 1. Authorize the transfer of $200,000 from the LAIF account to the General Fund\*

This transfer is to cover the deposit on the mobile generators that the District will be ordering in December for the Delta Flood Emergency Grant, Round 3. The District will be reimbursed 100%.

**A motion was made by Trustee Lipary and seconded by Trustee Pierce to authorize the transfer of $200,000 from the LAIF account to the General Fund. The vote showed three trustees in favor (President Senior and Trustee Mazotti were absent). Motion carried.**

* 1. Discussion and consideration of scheduling the November and December 2024, and January 2025 board meeting dates\*

**A motion was made by Trustee Lipary and seconded by Trustee Pierce to follow staff recommendations stated above for scheduling the November and December 2024 and the January 2025 board meeting dates, without changes. The vote showed three trustees in favor (President Senior and Trustee Mazotti were absent). Motion carried**.

1. **Permits** – Discuss & Possible Action on all New and Pending Permits:
   1. Report of approved permits for routine encroachments\*
   2. Update on Potential Enforcement Actions - none
2. **Engineer’s Report**\*
3. **Information Items**:

Required Board Trustee Training\*

1. **Field Reports**:
   1. District Manager Alvarez\*
   2. Levee Superintendent Gragg\*

The District is involved in a cross complaint from Summer Lake South HOA for a drainage dispute. The District received the court papers last week. Our legal counsel is reviewing the paperwork.

A lawsuit against the District Manager personally has arisen. The landowner was unaware that you cannot sue an individual that is part of a government agency. The landowner’s address has had a lot of drainage issues. The District has been working with the homeowner to rectify this issue. He said he would dismiss the lawsuit if the issue were resolved.

A property line dispute between DeNova and the homes around the new Pump Station 3 has been brewing. The District owns the property that the pump station is being built on. The homeowners are claiming that damage has been done while the new pump station is being built. Currently the dispute does not involve the District, but we need to be aware of the possibility that we could be named.

1. **Office Manager’s Report\***
2. **Board President’s Report**: None
3. **Trustee Reports**: None
4. **Adjournment**: The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Meeting minutes were submitted by Secretary Holder.

Notice Is Hereby Given:

That the Board of Trustees will consider oral and written public comments. The Chair may announce time limits and direct the focus of public comments for any given proposal. For agenda items not requiring a formal motion, the Chair will announce the opening and closing of the public comments session. If you wish to speak, please stand and state your name and address. Please speak clearly and loud enough for everyone to hear. “This agenda shall be made available upon request in alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12132) and the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code 54954.2). Persons requesting a disability related modification or accommodation in order to participate in the meeting should contact the District Secretary Dina Holder at (925) 684-2398, during regular business hours, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Monday - Friday, at least 24 hours prior to the time of the meeting.” Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Trustees after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the District office located at 6325 Bethel Island Rd. Bethel Island, CA 94511