

MINUTES
Minutes of the Board of Trustees Reclamation District No. 537
February 7, 2023

Pursuant to the foregoing consent and the notice thereof, duly and regularly posted and given to all members of the Board of Trustees, and by-laws of said District, a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Reclamation District No. 537 was called to order by President William Mattos on Tuesday February 7, 2023, at 9:03 am in-person and via Teams online meeting.

1. Meeting attendance/introductions:

Meeting was attended by Trustees William F. Mattos, Dan Ramos, Tom Ramos, Ross Peabody, and Ray Yeung. Also in attendance were the following RD staff and consultants: William A. Mattos, Dustin Dumars. Rebecca Smith, Nicole Ortega-Jewell, Ric Reinhardt, Tina Anderson, and Nichole Leonard.

2. Approval of agenda

Trustee Dan Ramos made a motion to approve the agenda, Trustee Yeung seconded, and the motion passed 5-0-0.

3. Review and consider findings related to remote meetings pursuant to AB 361

Trustee Thomas Ramos made a motion to adopt the findings pursuant to AB 361, specifically that a statewide State of Emergency was still in place, and that in light of local conditions and in order to ensure full participation, the Board meeting should include a remote participation option pursuant to AB 361. Trustee Yeung seconded, and the motion passed 5-0-0.

4. Approval of minutes of the Board Meeting on December 6, 2023

At the next regular meeting, the Board will consider approval of meeting minutes from the December 6, 2022 meeting and the Monday, January 9, 2023 special meeting.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items District

No members of the public attended the meeting.

Business/Action Items

1. Report on District Finances

Mr. Dumars presented financial reports including the budget, balance sheet, and outstanding bills, including two Sacramento and San Joaquin Drainage District bills from 2021. Ms. Smith said she had followed up via email regarding the bills and was still awaiting reply. Trustee Mattos reported he would follow up via a phone call.

2. Engineers' Report and Updates (MBK):

a. Pump Station/Interior Drainage Update

Ms. Anderson reported that the two parts required for completion of the pump station are

being shipped, with delivery occurring close to the end of the month. The contractors are attending to items identified during the pumpstation walkthrough. She also reported that the pump station will need to be tested. Water may have to be pumped into the system if there is not enough rain fall to test the pump station.

b. CAMU Update

The District will change the locks on the gates after construction is complete. Ms. Anderson reported that SAFCA is in the process of determining the budget for maintenance of the new levee system once it is turned over to the District. Ms. Anderson will confirm whether the agreement will be in perpetuity or have a review and renewal date. The Corporation yard will likely bid in the spring or summer and construction could begin as early as Fall.

c. FMAP Update

All 2022 FMAP funds were expended, and no money needs to be returned to the State. There was one amendment to the FMAP agreement to move funds from SWIF to O&M, as the District is waiting for approval of their SWIF.

3. USACE Weir Widening Project Update

The weir widening work is ongoing. PG&E has moved utility poles under a CVFPB permit. The CVFPB should have notified the District and allowed input; however, Sacramento Maintenance Yard was mistakenly listed instead of Reclamation District 537, and the District was not notified. All future work will be coordinated with the District. Trustee Dan Ramos asked whether the old weir would be expanded or remodeled after work on the new weir is complete. Mr. Reinhardt reported that sediment is transported by the flow from the old weir and would probably remain as is for some time.

4. FEMA:

a. Emergency update

During the December-January storm, 11 trees were downed and there was damage to one of the District's culverts. As of right now, permanent repairs to facilities are not eligible for reimbursement under the current federal emergency declaration in Yolo County. This could change. The District has until February 25th to perform tree clearing and other debris clearing work to be eligible for 100% reimbursement through FEMA. After that, FEMA will only pay 75%. The District received three bids for tree removal. The District is drafting a contract with Clearwater Landscape services for tree removal; the stumps will be cut at ground level and the root balls put back in place in compliance with Cultural Resources. Once the work is complete the District will file an Emergency Work Notification with the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

b. CalOES 130 Resolution (Designation of Applicant's Agent Resolution for Non-State Agencies)

Ms. Anderson reported that the CalOES 130 Resolution, Designation of Application's Agent Resolution for Non-State agencies is required for all applicants to be eligible for state funding. Trustee Peabody made a motion to approve the Resolution, Trustee Yeung seconded, and the motion passed 5-0-0.

c. RD 537 Emergency Resolution

The Board revisited Resolution 2023-1-1, passed on January 9, 2023, to consider whether emergency conditions still exist. The Trustees discussed the emergency conditions that still exist which create a risk to public health and safety. As the Board still finds that immediate action and expenditure of funding is necessary to respond to and correct the conditions, Trustee Dan Ramos moved to certify the Trustee's authorization of emergency expenditures. Trustee Peabody seconded, and the motion passed 5-0-0

5. Attorneys' Report

Ms. Smith reported that Reclamation District No. 537 has been named in several eminent domain actions related to ongoing DWR projects in its jurisdiction. She said the District will not be participating in the actual litigation. Ms. Smith asked whether the District wanted to retain their easements. The Board confirmed they would like to maintain their easements related to flood control activities

Informational Items

1. Manager's Report

Manager Mattos reported that as the weather has subsided, he performed a patrol to inspect levee conditions; he observed that the high water has subsided and there was nothing of concern to note other than the downed trees, which were addressed earlier in the meeting.

2. WSAFCA Update

Trustee Thomas Ramos reported that the President had signed the budget on December 31 and preliminary design work has begun for two projects. The project budget for USACE has not yet been released.

3. Additional Informational Items/Trustee Comments

Ric Reinhardt will be turning over the role of District Engineer to Thomas Engler of MBK Engineers, effective February 16th. Tina Anderson will continue assisting the District, and Nicole Ortega-Jewell will also be coordinating with District regarding the Yolo Bypass extension activities.

Trustee Mattos expressed concern about potential wave wash erosion on a section of the newly constructed project where there is a 40–50-foot area of slope where the matts don't extend to the levee toe. Trustee Dan Ramos stated that it appeared to be a design deficiency and should be addressed. Mr. Reinhardt agreed that it appeared to be an oversight and should be addressed prior to the DWR handing off maintenance of the area to the District.

4. Adjourn

Trustee Mattos adjourned the meeting at 10:08 pm.