

Reclamation District No. 2140
211 Main Street
Hamilton City, California 95951

Board of Trustees
Minutes of Meeting Held March 18, 2016

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Reclamation District No. 2140 (RD 2140) held on March 18, 2016, at the Hamilton City Community Services District office was called to order at 9:06 a.m. by Board President LeeAnn Grigsby-Puente.

Board Members present: LeeAnn Grigsby-Puente, Walt Stile and Dawit Zeleke.

Board Members absent: None

District representatives: Bill Paris, Legal Counsel; Tom Anderson, Interim Secretary

GUESTS: Jose Puente, General Manager Hamilton City Community Services District; Erik Nagy, Principal Engineer, MBK; Kim Floyd, Kim Floyd Communications (10:04 a.m. via telephone); Dan James, Hamilton City Fire Chief; and Jesus Campos.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Jesus Campos suggested the District prepare a newsletter.

MINUTES:

Board member Walt Stile made a motion to approve the minutes for the meetings held February 19, 2016, as written. The motion was seconded by Board member Dawit Zeleke and it passed by a unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Miscellaneous correspondence – no action required nor taken.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Status report of the project:
 - a. Mr. Nagy reported that Phase 1 construction should begin the week of March 28th, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) having a “kick-off” meeting beforehand. Mr. Nagy reported that he met with Roque Merlo, who was representing the Jensen Ranch, to discuss concerns Mr. Merlo had involving power line realignment and how that would affect Jensen Ranch agricultural operations. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and COE signed a “permanent interest” to maintain the levee. The COE is reviewing a draft entry permit. There could be issues with coordination at the Irvine Finch Boat Launching Facility during construction.
 - b. Mr. Nagy reported there will be limited physical activity under the Phase 1 restoration component until calendar year 2017.

- c. Lee Ann Grigsby-Puente reported that the trip to Washington, DC was “productive and positive”.

Mr. Paris left the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

2. Mr. Nagy provided an update on development of engineer’s report and other information supporting information for the Proposition 218 election. He reported that he helped COE in providing flood plain analysis to Larsen Wurzel & Associates, Inc. (LWA) to allow them to prepare the benefit assessment methodology
3. The Board discussed Phase 1 levee construction outreach efforts, including website development, hotline and direct mailings pair. Ms. Kim Floyd, Kim Floyd Communications, participated via telephone. Ms. Floyd provided an outline of activities:
 - a. A letter was mailed to property owners who may be affected by construction activities.
 - b. A “Hot-Line” card for distribution to the general public is ready (pending approval of the RD 2140 logo).
 - c. The RD 2140 website could be ready for use by March 21st.

A question arose about the U.S. COE wanting to involve high school students in certain activities. The consensus of the Board was if COE goes forward with that concept the RD 2140 will accept no responsibility for the students and should not be expected to help pay any costs associated with involving students.

Ms. Floyd left the meeting at 10:11 a.m.

4. Updates on levee repair. Mr. Nagy reviewed the levee repair work on the The Nature Conservancy (TNC) “Westermann Ranch” property was completed with regrading and fence/gate repairs being completed. Fire Chief Dan James reported there was some bank erosion in the levee north of Swift Point.
5. A discussion was held on a burial treatment plan with the Mechoopda Tribe. Mr. Nagy reported the meeting with representatives of the Mechoopda Tribe was positive with a reasonable conclusion on how to proceed. Mr. Nagy summarized the findings as follows:
 - a. The U.S. COE will develop and present cultural resource training to the contractor, in concert with Tribal representatives, to increase contractor sensitivity to tribal concerns. This training is expected to be completed by March 28, 2016.

- b. An agreement between RD 2140 and the Tribe for payment for Tribal monitoring activities. Mr. Nagy noted that there may be a question if this can be paid from monies received from the Department of Water Resources grant. Mr. Nagy also noted RD 2140 does not need to pay the full Tribal costs but to help defray their costs.
- c. Mr. Nagy reported that the burial agreement plan will be between the “non-Federal sponsor (i.e. RD 2140) and the Tribal Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. A discussion was held concerning a request for \$350,000 in cash from TNC to be applied to the non-federal share of the costs of constructing the Hamilton City Project, the payment of which is a requirement of the up to \$5M grant obtained by RD 2140 from DWR. (Note: To accommodate Mr. Paris’s schedule, this item was considered after Old Business item 1a.) Mr. Paris stated that TNC agreed to provide the \$350,000 as a “Mandatory 5% cash match”. Mr. Nagy stated that a recalculation of estimates for the local share can vary based on items such as changes in land values so any funds received should be set aside to cover the local share.

A motion to approve receiving the TNC money was made by Stile with a second by Grigsby-Puente. The motion was approved by the following vote: Ayes – Stile, Grigsby-Puente; Noes – None; Not Voting – Zeleke.

2. The Board discussed authorizing Kim Floyd Communications to perform outreach and organizational activities for the Hamilton City Project groundbreaking ceremony as set forth in the December 17, 2015. (Note: To accommodate Mr. Paris’s schedule, this item was considered after New Business item 1 and before Old Business item 1B.) Board member Zeleke recused himself from the discussion as he is a TNC employee. The Board agreed to authorize an amount not to exceed \$14,500.

A motion to authorize the activities was made by Stile with a second by Grigsby-Puente. The motion was approved by the following vote: Ayes – Stile, Grigsby-Puente; Noes – None; Not Voting – Zeleke.

REVIEW of FINANCIAL ACTIVITEIS:

1. The Board reviewed the Director’s report from the County Department of Finance (DOF) for the period ending 2/29/2016.

REPORTS:

1. **Board:** No report.
2. **Secretary:** No report.

3. **Legal Counsel:** No report.

PAYMENT OF RD 2140 BILLS:

Interim Secretary Anderson presented a list of claims for payment (bills) submitted to the County Department of Finance for the period 2/20/2016 to 3/8/2016 and totaling \$3,023.59. Board member Dawit Zeleke made a motion to approve payment of the bills. Board member Walt Stile seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: 10:38 a.m.

The next regular Board Meeting will be held Friday, April 15, 2016, at the HCCSD office at 211 Main Street, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Respectively submitted,

Arthur T. (Tom) Anderson
Interim Secretary