

MINUTES  
Minutes of the Board of Trustees Reclamation District No. 537  
June 6, 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 June 6, 2023, at 9:05 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, Brian Hamilton, Tina Anderson, and Nichole Leonard. In attendance via phone, Nicole Ortega-Jewell.

2. Approval of agenda

Trustee Mattos corrected the phone number listed for Billy Mattos on the agenda to 916-531-1199. Trustee Dan Ramos made a motion to approve the agenda, Trustee Yeung seconded, and the motion passed 5-0-0.

3. Approval of minutes of the Board Meeting on April 4, 2023

At the next regular meeting, the Board will consider approval of meeting minutes from the April 4.

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items District**

No members of the public attended the meeting.

**Business/Action Items**

1. Report on District Finances

a. Status of District finances

Trustee Thomas Ramos reviewed the financial information provided by Mr. Dumars, who was not in attendance at the meeting. Trustee Thomas Ramos reported the District had finally received its outstanding payment due from the State, and that there were no other delinquent payments pending.

b. Tractor balance and payment

Trustee Dan Ramos moved that the District pay the remaining balance of the tractor, plus appropriate interest; Trustee Peabody seconded, and the motion passed 5-0-0.

2. Discussion on 2023-2024 Budget & Benefit Assessment Rate

a. Review and adoption of 2023-2024

b. Consideration of Resolution 2023-06-01 Adopting Assessment Rate for year 2023-2024 for RD 537 Elkhorn Basin Benefit Assessment Area

The Trustees discussed changes in acreage due to the setback levee project. Trustee

Dan Ramos suggested the Assessment remain the same as the previous year \$30.16. Trustee Dan Ramos motioned to approve the amount of the Assessment, Trustee Peabody seconded, and the motion passed 5-0-0.

- c. Consideration of Resolution 2023-06-02 Requesting Collection of Charges on Yolo County Tax Roll for RD 537 Elkhorn Basin Benefit Assessment Area.

Trustee Dan Ramos moved to adopt the resolution, Trustee Peabody seconded, and the motion passed 5-0-0.

- d. Consideration of Certification of Assessment for RD 537

Trustee Dan Ramos motioned to approve the certification, Trustee Yeung seconded, and the motion passed 5-0-0.

### 3. Engineers' Report and Updates (MBK):

- a. DWR Spring Inspection:

Ms. Anderson reported that the spring inspection had been conducted and that the current inspector is training his replacement who will be conducting the Fall inspection.

- b. FMAP Update:

The District Trustees plan to conduct more maintenance activities prior to the fall inspection with the O&M portion of the FMAP budget.

- c. FEMA Update

The emergency debris removal and culvert repair work have been submitted to FEMA. Some additional photos of the removed debris were requested.

- d. Pump Station Update

Pump station testing will occur Friday, June 9, and will be video recorded for future use by District staff. Trustee Mattos discussed a potential issue with the newly connected power supply to the pump station. Ms. Anderson will confer with Sean Minard regarding the power load required to effectively run all the pumps prior to the pump station being turned over to the District.

- e. Yolo Bypass Levee Update

SAFCA received approval to degrade the old existing levee next week. The aggregate base and rip rap from the degraded levee will be stockpiled for later use.

- f. CAMU Update

Ms. Anderson reported that Comstock Johnson would like to meet regarding the finalized design of the Corp yard. SAFCA plans to schedule a meeting in mid-June or early July to finalize plans and produce an agreement to finish the CAMU corporation yard.

Trustee Mattos requested a copy of the maintenance contract for the LEBLS project area. Ms. Anderson said she would obtain a copy for the District.

- g. Upper Elkhorn Feasibility Study

Ms. Ortega-Jewell reported that DWR, through the DWR office of multi-benefit projects, has commissioned a feasibility study including expansion of the Fremont Weir. DWR is planning to set up a steering committee which would include representatives of USACE and SAFCA,

though the team and roles have not been finalized. The steering committee will inform the scope of the study. DWR plans on executing a feasibility cost-share agreement in August. Ms. Ortega-Jewell stated that based on their recent construction experience in the area, the District could offer input.

#### 4. USACE Weir Widening Project Update

USACE has awarded a contract and construction will likely begin later this summer, breaking ground in late July or early August. Ms. Anderson will coordinate with USACE staff to get project updates to the District.

#### 5. Attorneys' Report

Mr. Hamilton reported that the District has been asked to relinquish easements to lands associated with ongoing eminent domain actions. Mr. Hamilton reported he will schedule a meeting with DWR and the District to fully understand the scope and use of the existing easements and what, if any, responsibilities the District has if they retain any of the easements. Trustee Peabody would like to request maps showing easement boundaries. Trustees Thomas Ramos and Ross Peabody volunteered to attend meetings regarding the easements.

Mr. Hamilton also reported that design changes were made to the Yolo Bypass project, including an increase in capacity from 6,000 to 12,000 cfs, and the impacts associated with this change are not analyzed in the original EIR/EIS, which may be a CEQA violation. Mr. Hamilton's firm is developing a recommendation to obtain a tolling agreement, pausing the environmental review period so that this new capacity can be analyzed and modeled for impact. Trustee Peabody suggested that impacts from wave-wash should also be considered in the analysis of the new capacity.

Trustee Thomas Ramos made a motion to direct council to obtain a tolling agreement. Trustee Mattos seconded, and the motion passed 5-0-0.

### **Informational Items**

#### 1. Manager's Report

General Manager Mattos reported that the spring inspection went well, with the exception of some encroachments and animal control items. The District received a U rating for some existing waterside pump stations and for a couple of rodent control sites. The District plans to address rodent activity. Other maintenance actions planned in the near future include mowing to start this week, debris removal, and the repair of a foot path on the waterside of the levee.

General Manager Mattos also asked whether the levee behind the CHP station is the District's responsibility. It was confirmed that the CHP area south of the weir is within RD 900's jurisdiction.

#### 2. WSAFCA Update

Trustee Thomas Ramos reported that a contract was awarded for some work south of the bypass on Interstate 80 and that geotechnical exploration and analysis have begun for other planned work.

3. Additional Informational Items/Trustee Comments

Ms. Anderson reported that goat grazing rates will increase as goat grazers will now be paid prevailing wage per new legislation, starting January 1, 2024

Trustee Mattos raised concerns about the concrete mats and associated cracking or sloughing. Trustee Mattos will send a report to Ms. Anderson regarding the concrete mats.

Mr. Hamilton suggested that any proposal to perform the pole barn repair should contain a provision that any change orders to the project be executed in writing by the District and that the District should be made an additional insured on the contract.

4. Adjourn

Trustee Mattos adjourned the meeting at 11:22 AM.