

Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

AGENDA Board Meeting 34274 State Highway 16 Woodland, CA 95695 Tuesday, September 1, 2009 7:00 P.M.

Documents and materials relating to an open session item that are provided to the District Board less than 72 hours prior to a regular meeting will be available for public inspection and copying at 34274 State Highway 16, Woodland, CA.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you have a disability and need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, then please contact Christina Cobey at (530) 662-0265 or (530) 662-4982 fax. Requests must be made as early as possible, and at least one full business day before the start of the meeting.

AGENDA

- 7:00 1. Board Consideration: The Board will consider adoption of the minutes of the July 7, 2009 Regular Board Meeting.
- 7:02 2. Open forum (Limited to five minutes): Guest introductions, unscheduled appearances and opportunity for public comment on non-agenda items.
- 7:07 3. Board Consideration: Adding Items to the Posted Agenda.
In order to add an item to the agenda, it must fit one of the following categories:
a) A majority determination that an emergency (as defined by the Brown Act) exists; or
b) A 4/5ths determination that the need to take action that arose subsequent to the agenda being posted.
- 7:08 4. Board Consideration: Review of the District's Investment Policy.
- 7:15 5. Board Presentation: Review and History of Southeast Davis Drainage District.
- 7:35 6. Board Presentation: Update of Fiscal Year 2009-10 Budget Projections.
- 7:40 7. Board Presentation: Update of District's Conjunctive Water Use Management Program.

- 8:00 8. Directors' Reports: Each member of the Board will have the opportunity to report on meetings and conferences attended during the prior month on behalf of the District.
- 8:05 9. Attorney's Report: The District's attorney will report on the following:
a) Current legal and legislative activities.
- 8:15 10. General Manager's Report: The Board will receive a report from the General Manager or designated representatives regarding current general activities and projects of the District.
a) General Activities
b) Operations, Maintenance and Water Conditions
- 8:25 11. General Discussion: Opportunity for Board members to ask questions for clarification, provide information to staff, request staff to report back on a matter, or direct staff to place a matter on a subsequent agenda.
- 8:28 12. Board Consideration: The Board will consider the approval and the payments of bills.
- 8:30 13. Adjourn

The public may address the Board concerning an agenda item either before or during the Board's consideration of that agenda item. Public comment on items within the Board's jurisdiction is welcome, subject to reasonable time limits for each speaker. Upon request, agenda items may be moved up to accommodate those in attendance wishing to address that item. Times listed for consideration of agenda items are approximate only. The Board may consider any agenda item at any time during the Board meeting.

I declare that the foregoing agenda was posted at the office of the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, 34274 State Highway 16, Woodland, CA on August 28, 2009.

By: _____
Christina Cobey, Administrative Assistant



Y O L O C O U N T Y

**FLOOD CONTROL &
WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 1, 2009, 7:00 PM

**YCFCWCD Offices
34274 State Highway 16
Woodland, CA 95695**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) was held at 7:00 p.m. on September 1, 2009, at its regular place of business, 34274 State Highway 16, Woodland, California. Chair Tadlock convened the meeting. In attendance were:

District Board

Ron Tadlock, Chair
Ann Brice, Vice Chair
Jim Mayer, Director
Bruce Rominger, Director
Erik Vink, Director

District Staff and Consultants

Tim O'Halloran, General Manager
Christy Barton, Assistant General Manager
Margaret Kralovec, Writer/Editor
Max Stevenson, Water Resources Associate
Paul Bartkiewicz, Legal Counsel

Members of the Public

Duane Chamberlain
Dave Pratt
Don Rominger

9.30 1. BOARD CONSIDERATION: Approval of Minutes
M/S/C approved minutes for the August 4, 2009, Regular Board Meeting as submitted with a minor correction.

2. OPEN FORUM

Don Rominger asked if the District was too short on money to do anything about the weed, previously identified as Night-Blooming Primrose, he had brought to the attention of the District earlier in the season. General Manager O'Halloran indicated that he had recently spoken with Operations Supervisor Espinoza, who had informed him that area of the system had recently been taken care of. O'Halloran added that he would like to get clarification on the location of the weed from Mr. Rominger after the meeting so that he can ensure the problem can be addressed if it has not already been taken care of.

Legal Counsel Bartkiewicz indicated that Agenda Item 4 was simply a review of District's investment policy and was not going to be an action item requiring a motion as indicated on the Board packet Agenda Report.

3. BOARD CONSIDERATION: Adding Items to the Posted Agenda

None.

4. BOARD CONSIDERATION: Review of District's Investment Policy

Assistant General Manager Barton reported to the Board Legal Counsel Jim Boyd reviewed the District's investment policy, an annual requirement, and found that no changes need to be made to the policy.

General Manager O'Halloran added that he was interested in finding out if the District is in compliance, and doing what it has said it would do. A compliance check is not currently on the District's calendar but probably should be. Director Mayer suggested that such a check could be performed independently as part of the annual audit.

5. BOARD PRESENTATION: Review and History of Southeast Davis Drainage Maintenance District

Legal Counsel Bartkiewicz informed the Board that because Chair Tadlock leases land in the Southeast Davis Drainage Maintenance District (SDDMD), Tadlock would need to recuse himself from the discussion if it turned toward policy-making, but that he could participate if this agenda item remained informational only.

Assistant General Manager Barton showed Board members the location of the SDDMD, and described how the property land uses, divisions, and ownership had changed since the District had first agreed in 1982 to be a neutral pass-through agency by which landowners could pay their share of the costs of running the Davis pump station. The City of Davis, County of Yolo, and the landowners within the District agreed to fund a portion of the pump costs, allocated on the basis of ratios of estimates of drainage to the pump station for each area (currently: City of Davis – 40%, County of Yolo – 12%, Landowners – 48%). In 2005, one parcel within the SDDMD split into 44 parcels, making a total of 100 parcels for which the District receives \$600 to process the twice yearly City of Davis invoices to the SDDMD landowners. Many current

landowners in the SDDMD do not understand the fee arrangement, and the rising pump costs. District staff time far exceeds \$600 annually for invoicing landowners, collecting fees, managing delinquent accounts, and answering questions from landowners.

General Manager O'Halloran noted that the difficulties associated with this particular drainage district were instructive, as he has been interested in using "zones of benefit" such as those in the SDDMD for slough issues within the District. He stated that from a leadership perspective, he did not feel the District should simply walk away from the current arrangement, even if it is legally possible. He hopes to convene meetings with landowners and the City of Davis to discuss the issue and to get their input and to share with them the District's challenges so that a satisfactory solution can be found. Director Mayer noted that delinquent accounts have to pay a penalty fee to the District, which is appropriate. He suggested that another possibility to explore would be the raising of District fees to cover costs.

O'Halloran closed the discussion with a commitment to bring to the Board more information after September meetings with the City of Davis and SDDMD landowners. He added that this is the kind of issue that does not always rise to the attention of the Board, but which represents responsibilities that take considerable staff resources in the regular course of District work.

6. BOARD PRESENTATION: Update of Fiscal Year 2009-10 Budget Projections

General Manager O'Halloran presented a revised projection, effective September 1, 2009, of the 2009-10 fiscal year budget. This revised projection indicates a revenue increase of more than \$500,000, which will result in a smaller overall shortfall than first anticipated, provided current property tax revenue projections are not significantly changed by State appropriations in excess of 8%.

O'Halloran noted that wheeling charge revenues might not reflect the true expenses to the District for increased weed control necessitated by damp growing conditions in the canals used by farmers for moving their own water. He and Operations Supervisor Espinoza have been working on identifying the difference between weed control costs of spraying and mowing in canals used for wheeling and the costs of controlling weeds in a dry canal.

Duane Chamberlain expressed his concern that he was told to let the District control weeds in his canals, but that District weed control measures did not occur at optimum times in the canals he would be using, resulting in water losses and interference with his farming operations. O'Halloran concurred with Director Vink who pointed out that in weed control, timing is critical, and that overgrown canals are a significant source of water loss. He cited, however, the difficulty of turning over complete control of weeds in canals to individual farmers because of various pesticide use regulations. He felt weed control was an area in which the District could and would make significant improvements.

7. BOARD PRESENTATION: Update of District's Conjunctive Water Use Management Program

General Manager O'Halloran described the goal of the District is to drought-proof its service area. Groundwater is a vital asset in drought protection, and management of the conjunctive use of surface and groundwater supplies is the only way to protect this asset. Monthly flow measurements in wells this season have provided more data than was available previously. When combined with increased data from SCADA, and the subsidence monitoring performed by

the Water Resource Association of Yolo County (WRA), the District is in a much better position to understand and manage the conjunctive use of water. O'Halloran indicated he would be reporting next month on the specifics of the District's plan to move forward with the pump incentive program by installing its own pumps at key sites of the canal system. He also noted that if the Cities of Davis and Woodland continue to make progress on obtaining water from the Sacramento River, their use of groundwater will be reduced, increasing groundwater supplies and thereby increasing the drought-proofing capabilities of the conjunctive use system.

Director Mayer asked how much active recharge is occurring in the District. O'Halloran noted that injection is too expensive, but that the District continues to seek out opportunities for seepage ponds. Some seepage projects have shown that much of the water from certain locations returns to Cache Creek rather than being stored where it can be accessible for use at a later date. Director Rominger wondered if gravel pits could be used during the rainy season for just such a purpose, with collateral benefits for flood control. Water Resource Associate Stevenson noted that gravel pits offered a potential partial solution, and are part of the overall plan. He added that using the bladder at Capay Dam during the rainy season offers the opportunity for increasing canal recharge.

8. DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

None.

9. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Legal Counsel Bartkiewicz reported that the September 11 deadline for finalizing a Delta package and water solutions is unlikely to be met. He described that progress toward solutions had been interrupted by changes in process, diverse interests of different caucuses, and a general inability of this legislature to move forward on issues, including others besides water. He expects that unresolved issues of water, prisons, and the State budget will be targeted for a legislative special session. Bartkiewicz added that both the Northern California Water Association (NCWA) and the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) are actively following this challenging legislative session, and are doing a good job of helping shape the legislation.

10. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

a. General Activities

The California Department of Water Resources has accepted the Westside Region as proposed, consisting of Solano, Lake, Yolo, Napa Counties, and a small piece of Colusa County, for the regional Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP).

b. Operations, Maintenance, and Water Conditions

The irrigation system was shut down in August, but as of this day, September 1, the District has begun releasing its September allotment of 1,500 acre feet at approximately 100 cubic feet per second each day. The District will run this water as long as possible. Water is expected to be delivered just to water users at the head of the system to minimize losses.

Director Rominger asked if all water users had been notified of the availability and amount of September deliveries and suggested the use of email notification to all District water users.

Director Vink added that he favored the release of more information to all District customers because he thought that most were sophisticated enough to understand decisions on how the remaining water would best be distributed.

11. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Director Brice inquired about Yolo Land Trust's upcoming Day in the Country. General Manager O'Halloran indicated that the District would be providing Board members with tickets for the event.

Director Vink asked about the status of Knight Ranch. O'Halloran responded that the property would not provide the water storage capabilities hoped for. A decision needs to be made on whether to sell the property at this time or wait until property prices rise. The District is breaking even on the property because of tenant income.

12. BOARD CONSIDERATION: Payment of Bills

9.31 M/S/C approval for the following claim(s) for payment:

Yolo Flood Control Checks: # 42941-42953

13. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Ron Tadlock, Chair

ATTEST:

Tim O'Halloran, Secretary