

WSRCD Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 23, 2017, 5:37 PM – 7:36 PM

6270 Parallel Road- Anderson, CA 96007-4833

Call to Order: 5:37 PM

Attendees:

WSRCD Board: Dennis Heiman (President), Ben Letton (Vice President), Elizabeth Betancourt (Director), Carl Weidert (Director), Phil Schoefer (Director), John Moore (Director), Alan Hill (Director)

WSRCD Staff: Chester Anderson (District Manager), Ali Warren (Fiscal Officer), Harmony Gugino (Project Manager), Sean Arnold (Clerk of the Board)

- 1. Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** Gugino's New Business to the top of agenda. Holiday Schedule and Gary Lauben's contract require motions.

2. Public Comment Period: No members of the public addressed the board.

3. New Business (Gugino)

Discussion:

- (Gugino) addressed the board with the River Garden Farms proposal to place up to 25 structures as a way to get species numbers up. River Garden Farms will take on the role as subcontractor.
- (Heiman) wants to know: who are they and why are they spending \$400,000?
- (Gugino) they engage in rice farming and they want to preserve water rights. This was from the conversation she had with Roger Cornwall, the owner of River Garden Farms.
- (Schoefer) comments on how we would manage the permitting and operation.
- (Gugino) Army Corps wants an Operations and Maintenance Plan. But until we get the necessary funding, we are not going to submit one. Gugino will again present to the board before submitting the Operations and Maintenance Plan. The \$400,000 will pay for the actual construction, Jeff Souza's time, and some other necessary funds. All contingent upon number of structures. We pay for procurement of materials up front as cost share. River Garden Farms pays for installation of structures and then walks away, liability free.
- RCD would then become the one with the liability.
- (Gugino/Heiman) Another project was discussed that was carried outside of the WSRCD. The Palisades Project at Woodsman Bridge for bank protection.
- The Army Corp concerned that these structures could potentially be in the way of traditionally navigable waters.
- (Gugino) All would be billed to 35-50 and permission was already asked from BOR.
- The location is S. Bonnyview/Tobiasson Island.
- The Sheriff Department says it is okay as long as they can get in and out of boat ramp during emergencies.
- DWR and Mike Berry are behind the project, while Howard Brown also thought it was a good idea.
- (Letton) asks Gugino about any possible downsides of taking on the project.
- (Gugino) is worried about liability though she believes we should be okay. She is also concerned about the Corp telling the RCD to jump through a large number of hoops and having no money available. She is also uncertain as to whether or not we really need 25 structures.
- (Anderson) they are going to need someone to own it and that will probably be the RCD. A lot of negotiation is going to happen.

- (Gugino) Agrees. Suggests we put in MOU, stating that we will pay up to \$200,000 from BOR contract.
- (Hill) likes the idea, but admits to still not knowing the details well enough.
- (Anderson) is interested in the opportunity of partnering up with water districts.
- (Heiman) has faith in people supporting the project, but is concerned about not having a quorum the next meeting.

Betancourt (Motions) / Letton (2nd) / Motion unanimously passed to amend 35-50 contract

4. Financials:

Discussion:

4.1 Report from Finance Committee re: debt restructuring discussion:

- (Anderson) went over conservation easements. Passed around document. A list of questions for the lawyer was compiled by Sara Letton. We have Shastina and Rivercrest invested. Highlands (\$190k) need to be invested. Stillwater has \$42,000 with Morgan Stanley. If we invest a million with Morgan Stanley, fees will be waved.
- (Warren) addresses resolution and explains movement of funds to Morgan Stanley.
- (Heiman) clarifies that everything goes to Morgan Stanley and (Schoefer) sees no problem in doing so, which (Anderson) agrees.
- (Letton) Tad specializes in conservation.
- (Warren) Anderson will be placed on account, as stated by resolution and everything will be placed under Tad. Warren reads the resolution.
- (Anderson) BBK lawyers need to find time for a lawyer to sit down with the finance committee re: debt with Tri Counties.

Schoefer (Motions) / Weidert (2nd) / Motion unanimously passed.

4.2 November, December Financial Statements:

- (Warren) covers finances. Bulk of the lost went to paying Charlie Pillon for the audit, but we have been making gains since. \$271,810.05 is detailed in further reports. The largest expenses were DWR and Northwest Hydraulics, which were doing side channels on Gugino's project. The current A/R is at 624,000. It is good to have the A/P so low and the A/R so high. Tetra for Teubert's project has been paid. She goes over the net revenue and explains how we are paying off a lot of old debt. This is the first time in six years she has seen it look this good. An additional note is made that a couple of projects were expected to start this year, but will not until later.

Letton (Motions) / Moore (2nd) / Motion unanimously passed.

4.3 Budget Adjustment:

- (Warren) Reducing services provided revenue.
- (Warren) heard capstone for fall / (Anderson) heard that it is still on for spring.
- (Warren) Adjustments shall be so we have funds to spend.
- (Letton/Warren) discuss how the adjustments work. RCD is held to as a Special District and therefore cannot spend over budget amount. Charlie was the one that said adjustments were necessary for board. It is a requirement for Special Districts to inform public on how money is being spent.

Weidert (Motions) / Betancourt (2nd) / Motion unanimously passed to put Chester on account and move all

investments to Morgan Stanley.

5. Review and approve minutes of 11/3/16 & 11/28/16 Regular Board Meetings and 11/11/16 Special Board Meeting:

Betancourt (Motions) / Letton (2nd) / Motion unanimously passed.

6. Correspondence:

Discussion:

None to report.

7. SCF:

7.1 Contract between SCF and WSRCD for services:

- (Anderson) explains the contract.
- A quick adjustment is made to make Weidert president, not Schoefer.
- Heiman and Weidert sign contract.

Hill (Motions) / Betancourt (2nd) / Motion unanimously passed.

8. NRCS Report:

None to report.

9. CARCD activities:

None to report.

10. District Manager's Report:

- (Anderson) goes over report. Crowley Gulch held up through high flows.
- Camera at Clover Creek was ripped out, but everything else is great.
- Lots of projects delayed with BLM. They are trying to hire a forester but under a federal hiring freeze.
- Swede Creek (flooding) is an opportunity to work with local land owners, which Anderson appreciates.
- AHMAP – we are getting engineering designs from BOR, but they are not going to stamp them. Anderson wants to know the liability and whether or not we can move forward.
- (Hill) is surprised and indicates that we will need to talk more on that topic.
- Amy Stork from Solid Ground Consulting will be running a staff retreat for our employees, focusing on team building.
- Our website is almost up and running. Veronica has taken over from Analia.
- All trucks, hand tools, and equipment are in good repair.
- Anderson is interested in partnering up with Water Districts in the Sacramento Valley and pursuing opportunities with NCWA and CARCD.
- NRCS does not have Forester and Anderson explains how we are short on them in the region.
- Sara Letton and Elizabeth Betancourt met with farmers regarding the Happy Valley Greenhouse. An opportunity to get involved with education and farming in the area and to develop more agricultural related projects.
- Wildfire protection plans have been completed.
- Many RCD babies are on the way, 4 employees expecting.

11. New Business Continued:

- Two contracts with Gary Lauben's project, to extend and do mastication along road.

Moore (Motions) / Schoefer (2nd) / Motion unanimously passed.

- New Holiday Schedule is handed out for review and approval.

Letton (Motions) / Moore (2nd) / Motion unanimously passed.

12. Closed Session:

12.1 Personnel:

- Discussed hiring of Sara Letton.

13. Set next meeting date: Monday, February 27, 2017 / 5:30 PM

Possible that Dennis Heiman may not be present.

Adjourn: 7:36 PM

Letton (Motions) / Moore (2nd) / Motion unanimously passed.