

# **Reclamation District No. 1607**

**VAN SICKLE ISLAND-SOLANO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

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## **Minutes of Meeting**

**April 19,2021**

The meeting was called to order by President Dinelli at 6:03 pm via a Zoom teleconference. In attendance besides President Gerry Dinelli were Trustees Kevin Confetti, Mike Warriner and Jay Gudebski. Also in attendance were Secretary Chris Lanzafame, Nancy Lanzafame, Bob Pinkston, Matt Stretch, Shawn Kelly, Todd Clark, Mike Coniglio, Rich? and Rich Nave Junior. Guests in attendance were Robert Eddings of the California Water Fowl Association (CWA) and Steve Chappell of Suisun Resource Conservation District (SRCD).

Robert Eddings began a discussion of the survey of the Island that was completed back in October of 2020. Mr. Eddings presented a color coded graph of the Island showing the elevations of the ponds and internal levees. Mr. Eddings suggested that our original intention to bring in a new pump on the Concord Club would not benefit the waterfowl habitat as much as making individual pond improvements would. Mr. Eddings suggested that trying to manage the water levels independently throughout the Island was almost impossible without making improvements to internal levees and altering pond elevations. A better approach would be to divide the Island into regions and settle on optimal water levels to be managed in each region. The funding source from the original pump plan could be converted to use for this activity provided it benefits at least the amount of acreage that was approved for the pump project. Mr. Eddings identified a few projects that he knew would qualify such as a separating levee between the Riverdog Club and the Wreck Slough Club which could use dredged material from the nearby pump canal to place on the levee that separates them. In this way both clubs with different bottom elevations can hold different water levels. Also, the Hit and Miss club and the Webfoot club have higher pond bottoms and need their levees raised which could be done by dredging the adjacent canals. This could benefit all of the other clubs on the south side of the Island that would like to hunt at lower water levels which at this time would be too low for the Hit and Miss club and Webfoot. Mr. Eddings suggested that we quickly come up with a priority list of projects that our landowners would need to get work done this year. The funding would require no more than the \$39,000 that would have previously gone to the pump project for the District's 25% share.

Mr. Chappell was asked to explain how the SRCD could help our landowners manage the water levels on Van Sickle. Mr. Chappell explained that SRCD would be happy to help us come up with objectives targets and goals as suggested by Mr. Eddings and our landowners and help us implement those. He was a little concerned about access to our pipes and gates during the winter season and might need help from the landowners to make the adjustments on the ground but would be happy to hold discussions during the season on ZOOM to evaluate how the plan is doing during the hunting season. He also warned against the idea of staying flooded all year on some years in that it could cause undesirable growth in our canals and ponds. Extra steps would need to be taken to get a benefit out of that practice.

Minutes of the meetings of September 16, 2020 were approved as read (Moved Warriner/seconded Confetti)

Mr. Lanzafame discussed the financial report that is attached to these minutes. A discussion of the proposed projects listed in the treasurer's notes were discussed. Mr Lanzafame suggested that the board approve the use of funds originally slated for the Concord Club Pump Replacement using a CWA cost share with internal canal and pond improvements as suggested by Mr. Eddings. Mr. Lanzafame also recommended that the District use the entire \$50,000 contribution from CRC gas company on levee improvements on the Sacramento Levee on the 400 foot low spot that needed plastic and aquadams this past winter. Also he recommended that the other projects be completed if the funding

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sources were available. A motion was made and passed to adopt Mr Lanzafame's recommendations. (Confetti, Warriner)

President Dinelli asked if we could mow the levees to get rid of Coyote Brush and Mr. Lanzafame stated that the cost estimate to bring in the side cutting tractor would cost about \$20,000 which all agreed would be more than we could afford this year. Also, some of the brush had been burned along Montezuma Slough during a controlled burn that jumped the road. Mr. Lanzafame recommended that we use a regular mower this year which would cost about \$1000. Others suggested that we get a debris burn permit and see if we can cut and pile up the coyote brush by hand and then burn it. Mr. Nave was going to check for permit requirements.

Resolutions 4.19.21.1, .2 and .3 were presented and are attached to these minutes. These were annual approvals for the President or Secretary to enter into an agreement with DWR for subventions funding for 2021-2022. In addition, a clarification over the 2020-2021 was presented and discussed. All three proposals were approved unanimously. (Confetti, Warriner)

Mr. Gudebski asked if we could get a list of all of the things that need to be done on the Island. Mr. Lanzafame stated that we will never be able to attempt to make all of those necessary repairs given our current budget. Mr. Confetti asked what it would take to raise assessments and Mr. Lanzafame stated that we would need an engineer's report and estimate of work to be done and how it would benefit the individual landowners and what their individual assessments would be. Then we would need to hold a district election to approve the assessment increase utilizing the requirements of California Proposition 218. Mr. Confetti proposed a motion that Mr. Lanzafame look into the cost of obtaining an engineer's report and holding an election. Mr. Gudebski seconded that motion and the board approved it unanimously. Mr. Lanzafame agreed to report on this at the next meeting.

The proposal to approve no changes to the Conflict of Interest Code was approved unanimously. (Moved Confetti/seconded Warriner). The proposal is attached to these minutes and is the same as last year.

The expiration of two seats on the board and the nomination of candidates was discussed.

A motion by Jay Gudebski was made to authorize the secretary to sign a \$50,000 lease agreement with CRC gas company. The motions was seconded by Kevin Confetti and approved unanimously.

A motion was asked to be made by President Dinelli to adjourn at 7:46 and was approved unanimously. (Gudebski,Confetti).

Approved 12/11/21