

Reclamation District No. 1607

VAN SICKLE ISLAND-SOLANO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Minutes of Meeting

Van Sickle Island Board of Trustees

Wednesday, May 21, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Dinelli at 3.33 pm via a Zoom teleconference. In attendance besides President Gerry Dinelli were Trustees, Edmund Linscheid, Mike Warriner, Kevin Confetti and Jay Gudebski. Also in attendance were Secretary Chris Lanzafame, Mike Luippold, Shawn Kelly, Matt Stretch, Steve Luoma, Bob Pinkston, Bill Luippold, Robert Eddings of CWA, Phelan McKinney of SRCD Igor Charsov, Igor Charsov and Barney Howard.

The minutes of the meeting of 11.22.19 were approved unanimously. (motion Warriner /second Gudebski.)

Mr. Lanzafame submitted financial statements which are attached to these minutes. Mr. Lanzafame explained that we had received a \$200,000 reimbursement check from the DWR Subventions program and that we had significant funds to spend for repairs this summer which would be discussed later in the meeting.

Me. Dinelli called on Robert Eddings of California Waterfowl to make a presentation about having an internal survey done of internal Island Structures and elevations to help find a better way to manage our water levels on the Island. Mr. Eddings explained that by doing surveys the Island may be better informed on how to juggle various water levels on the Island and how we could circulate better quality water flows for waterfowl enhancement. A complete all Island survey would cost about \$5,000 and would point out deficiencies that could be improved with some type of matching NAWCA funds secured through CWA. Phelan McKinney explained that the timing is good because the SRCD is working on mandatory club management plans for all of the individual parcels and the survey would be of great value in coming up with annual strategies for improving circulation and habitat. Mr. McKinney would work with each club on the Island to start their management plan over the next few weeks and Mr. Eddings would submit a proposal for board approval within a week for District review.

A discussion was held about the list of necessary projects listed in the treasurer's report. These projects are listed in the treasurer's notes attached to these minutes. All agreed in discussion that these projects were essential. The River Dog pump project was previously approved in 2017 and would be done for sure once the Roaring River water levels were drawn down. Mr. Lanzafame stated that he was purchasing the Pipe and Gate for this project and would put out the labor portion for informal bids. Other projects would all likely be done and the board would approve each one as the bids come in depending on funding. Mr. Dinelli asked about the timeline and mentioned that there was not much time left in the work season. Mr. Pinkston asked that we hurry and complete the Hit and Miss project asap this year and if it was a matter of money, they would be willing to defer the timing of time warrants that they hold to get the project in this season.

Mr. Lanzafame mentioned that the levee needed mowing to be able to see the spots that need work all around the Island. Mr. Lanzafame asked the board to consider approving the expenditure so that the project could be done right away. The motion was moved by Mr. confetti and seconded by Mr. Warriner and approved unanimously.

Mr. Lanzafame stated that the eminent domain action to gain a road easement over the 4 G Ranch club would be continued with an appearance on June 1, 2020 to make a motion for possession of the road in the county court. He also stated that the defendants, Richard and Jennifer Grillat of the 4 G Ranch have filed a cross complaint and a Defendant's Opposition for Order of Possession. Our attorney, Ms. Kelly Pope would work with Mr. Lanzafame to create a response for the court.

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Mr. Lanzafame Stated that he was having difficulty collecting the past due assessments from one landowner that has been delinquent for over a year and totals over \$12,000. By suggestion of the Solano County Assistant Treasurer Michael Cooper, the District should look into having our assessments be placed on the general tax roll instead of doing quarterly assessments on our own as we do now. After much discussion with Mr. Cooper and staff from the Office of the Controller-Auditor Mr. Lanzafame suggested that we use the tax roll method for collecting only extremely delinquent accounts. The suggestion was that after a certain period of time, say 6 months or 1 year, the district would take the lump sum of any delinquency and have it added directly to county tax roll. The delinquent amount would then be paid along with the other county taxes which are due in two installments. Any new assessments would be mailed out quarterly as they are done now but just the delinquent portion would be on the tax roll. Mr. Confetti liked the idea but warned that if we used this method it would have to be used for anyone delinquent over the specified time and that the District secretary would have to handle all future delinquencies this way. Mr. Dinelli asked about whether the interest would continue to accrue each month if it is on the tax roll. Mr. Lanzafame said he wasn't sure but would look into it. Mr. Dinelli asked Mr. Lanzafame to present a proposal for the Board to consider at the next meeting. Mr. Confetti had some suggestions for language that should be added to such a proposal stating that this type of county help would be appreciated since it would take the burden off of the District which does not have the administrative processes, procedure, and staff to collect such delinquencies ourselves and it makes sense to turn it over to the County for help.

Mr. Dinelli suggested that the District should create a committee to work on the water management surveys and landowners across the Island to come up with a new water management strategy to benefit all equally. Mr. Dinelli twisted Mr. Confetti's arm to temporarily chair the committee and Mr. Stretch and Mr. Gudebski offered to sit on the committee. This group would meet and decide on a plan incorporating the SRCD and CWA surveys and suggestions and report back.

Mr. Kelly added some new business stating that people had been using his road along the railroad trestle and that he planned to repair the gate that is on the road so that he could ascertain who is using the road and who he would continue to give permission to use the road. Mr. Kelly stated that he concerned that in the future, if the oil company abandons its well in the middle of the Island, the maintenance of the road will be left on his shoulders alone and that he wanted all to know that this his is road and that it is only by his permission that people can use it. He would expect that those he allows to use the road would need to contribute to the maintenance. Mr. asked if the District would have permission to use the road and Mr. Kelly said yes.

A motion was made by Confetti to adjourn and seconded by Mr. Warriner.. The meeting was adjourned at 4.52 pm. The next meeting would be held as soon as the Proposal from Mr. Eddings
Respectfully Submitted

Chris Lanzafame
Secretary to the Board of Trustees