Reclamation District No. 1607

VAN SICKLE ISLAND-SOLANO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Minutes of the Special Meeting 10.12.26

1.The meeting was called to order by president Kevin Confetti at 4:00pm at the district office. Board members attending were Steve Thomas, Edmund Linscheid, Bob Pinkston, Andrew Cain. Also in attendance were Curt Schmutte consultant, Emily Corwin SFEI, Shawn Kelly, Tim O'Dea, Lydia Vaughn SFEI, Steven Deverel from Hydrolock.

2. Approval of Minutes 7/16/26, 8/25/26 motion Pinkston, second Thomas

3. Engineer update on upcoming final FEMA work. **Resolution 10.12.1. Shall the Board authorize the engineer to complete the project as presented. An engineer's report is attached to these minutes.**

4. Presentation By Curt Schmutte on Floating Marsh Project.

With guests online president Confetti opened the discussion of the proposed floating marsh project. Curt Schmutte, former director of the DWR Delta Subventions Program and past consultant to the Metropolitan Water District proposed a project that could provide huge benefits to aquatic species in the Delta and offer financial support for Van Sickle Island levee maintenance projects. Landowners would need to allow varying levels of water management during the year in exchange for levee maintenance.

Background and Project Summary: Reclamation District No. 1607 (Van Sickle Island) would would be the lead agent with no financial commitment and partner with the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI), GEI Consultants, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) to advance a multi-benefit tidal wetland restoration and flood resilience project. The proposed project leverages state funding under the Delta Conservancy's Proposition 4 Climate Bond Grant Program to develop conceptual designs, ecology and hydrodynamic modeling necessary to position the district for future final design and construction funds. In alignment with state climate priorities, the project proposes to substantially improve perimeter levees to mitigate flood risk, contour interior landscapes for tidal marsh, and install operable control gates. These gates will enable managed tidal inundation during the spring, fall, and dry-year summers to export primary productivity ("fish food"), buffer Delta salinity, capture carbon, reverse island subsidence, and control invasive plants, while remaining closed during hunting season to preserve recreational operations. There would be no financial commitment from the district.

Action and Next Steps: Board of Trustees approve a resolution authorizing the Reclamation District to act as the official project proponent and lead applicant for this Delta Conservancy planning grant. Upon Board approval, the technical partner team—consisting of SFEI, GEI, USGS, and potential other organizations—will finalize the grant application materials in coordination with the district and submit the completed proposal in advance of the Delta Conservancy's October 24 deadline. Acceptance of this planning grant will facilitate the ecological evaluations, hydrodynamic modeling and engineering groundwork required to protect island infrastructure and secure long-term capital improvement funding.

A comprehensive description of the special funding opportunities for this project can be found at:

https://deltaconservancy.ca.gov/grant-program/prop-4/

Agenda Item: Authorization to Serve as Project Proponent and Submit Proposal for Delta Conservancy Proposition 4 Grant Funding

Resolution 10.12.2 Shall **the District be allowed to be the lead agent in a special funding request to allow Van Sickle Island to explore special environmental processes in exchange for future levee maintenance? A motion was made by Steve Thomas to approve the resolution as long as there is no cost and seconded by director Cain. The motion was approved unanimously.**

5. Resolution 10.12.3 Declaration of Emergency in anticipation of El Nino storms.

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Due to the expectation that the super El Nino weather condition is predicted to caused extreme rainfall in the delta this upcoming winter, shall the district declare an emergency to be able to obtain additional flood fighting supplies to be distributed by the county, state and federal sources? This would include asking for or purchasing special flood fighting materials such as K Rails, Aquadams or Muscle walls. Should the district authorize the purchase of such materials as necessary. The resolution 10.12.3and description is attached to these minutes. It was moved by Thomas and seconded by Cain. It was approved unanimously,

6. Resolution 10.12.4 Island Flood-up date. How and when should the district commence flood up for the 10/24 opening day of hunting. There was a discussion and it was decided to start flooding for duck hunting would start immediately.

7. Andrew Cain has been working with Ducks Unlimited on a project that would create a living levee on the inside slope of some of our parcels. Ducks Unlimited would like to apply for a funding grant to create a plan for our island.

Resolution 10.12.5 Should the Reclamation District authorize Aaron Will (Ducks Unlimited) to submit grant applications on behalf of the district for the purpose of funding the living levee project plan for the south side of Van Sickle Island. The district shall serve as the lead agent for these applications, with no financial obligation incurred by the district unless terms are further negotiated and approved by the board. A motion was made by Andrew Cain and seconded by Edmund Linscheid and was approved unanimously.

8. Discussion and recommendation on driving on west levees when the levee gets wet. All board members supported the closure of the levee on Honker Bay to traffic once the rain starts. The levee is fragile and dangerous. Traffic would be limited to smaller atv's once the levee is wet. It was recommended that the gate be locked.

9. Adjournment. Mr. Thomas moved that the meeting be adjourned and the motion was sconded by Mr. Linscheid. The motion was carried by all and the meeting was adjourned at 6:03.

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