

# Reclamation District No. 1607

VAN SICKLE ISLAND-SOLANO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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## Minutes of Meeting

**A Special Meeting of the Van Sickle Island Board of Trustees  
September 16, 2024 at 4:30 pm held at the District Office at 4301 Inverness Drive,  
Pittsburg, CA along with an online component**

The meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order by Trustee Kevin Confetti at 4:34 pm. Also present were Board members Robert Pinkston and Steve Thomas. At 4:39 President Gerald Dinelli and Edmund Linscheid arrived and making a full board for the meeting. Also present were Secretary Chris Lanzafame, Eric Conn, Matt Stretch. Online attendees were Andrew Cain and Engineer Michael Moncrief.

The minutes of August 9th, 2024 were skipped over

Mr. Moncrief described the progress on the two DWR emergency grant projects. The levee seepage spot at marker 102 was sealed up by Wetland Construction and was holding well. There will be some additional work done with the balance of the grant in October when Wetland gets free from other jobs.

The Sheet pile repair started earlier on Sunday September 14 where Dutra offloaded material behind the damaged sheet pile and stockpiled the remaining material on the adjacent levee slightly to the east to be used before winter. Mr. Moncrief offered that Marsh Rat tractor would spread the material from piles to recreate the levee behind the wall over the next few days. He also described his efforts to get FEMA support from the 2023 floods and to get additional help and possible sheet pile from DWR.

Mr. Lanzafame went over the financial statements which are attached to these minutes. Though the bank account has over \$100,000 in cash, all but about \$9000 is already committed to the emergency repairs as the bills will need to be paid shortly. The next bill to be paid would be the Auditor's invoice which would be about \$8000.

**Proposals 2024-8.1 and 8.2** were discussed in great detail regarding whether private contributions to pump before the duck season would be allowed. In general, it was agreed that the district was not in a financial position to pump. Steve Thomas and Andrew Cain offered that they could organize a group of private landowners to raise up to \$25,000 of their own money to operate the Riverdog pump, repair the Honker pump and drop the current water levels which were at 1.58 on the Spoonbill gauge down about 6 inches. This would be paid for by private payments to use the Riverdog pump until the Honker pump could also go online. Because this is a private enterprise, it was determined that no board action was necessary to approve any funding.

**Proposal 2024-8.3** was discussed in regards to the possibility that the district would sometime in the future reimburse the private landowners and the discussion led to a slight alteration of the language of the proposal. The discussion went on for quite a while and clearly there were those who did not want the district to make any promises on reimbursement and some thought we should consider it if the levees are in good shape and future money becomes available. The desire was to alter the proposal just as a place holder that someday the board would evaluate whether it was in a good enough financial position to reimburse those who were willing to step up to pump the water down for the upcoming season. The only obligation would be that the board would consider the concept in the future if the district gets back to a stronger financial position. The final language evolved to:

**Proposal 2024-8.3:** In the future, shall the district consider reimbursing up to \$25,000 the cost of pumping by private landowners. Mr. Confetti made the motion, Mr. Pinkston seconded it and the aye vote was unanimous.

**Proposal 2024-9** Motion Confetti, Second Pinkston, approved unanimously  
Checks written for District expenses must be signed by any two of the following: Any Board Member, District Secretary. Bank signature cards would be updated when necessary.

At the end of the meeting Secretary Lanzafame announced that he is ready to step down and Secretary as he has held the position for over 20 years and that he thinks its time for him to pass the torch to someone new. Mr. Lanzafame doubled as the Secretary and the levee manager over these years and he felt that the Board needs to search for a replacement in the near future. Mr. Lanzafame would stay on until a new person is selected and he would help train that person.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 (motion Confetti, second Pinkston) and there was a unanimous agreement.