

# SITES PROJECT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

## MINUTES OF MEETING

September 3, 2014

Chair Durst called the meeting of the Sites Project Joint Powers Authority (Sites JPA) Board of Directors to order at 1:39 p.m. The meeting was held at the Tehama Colusa Canal Authority, 5513 Highway 162, Willows, California 95988.

### **Present:**

County of Colusa, Kim Dolbow Vann

County of Glenn, Leigh McDaniel

Maxwell Irrigation District (MID), Greg Mensik

Reclamation District 108 (RD 108), Fritz Durst

Tehama Colusa Canal Authority (TCCA), Wade Mathis

Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (YCFC&WD), Ron Tadlock

### **Absent:**

Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID)

### **Also Present:**

Sean Doherty, Lewis Bair, RD 108; Jeff Sutton, TCCA; Rick Richter, Dan Ruiz, MID; Mary Spooner Danley, GCID; Oscar Serrano, Colusa Indian Community; Sue Woods, Center for Collaborative Policy; Lisa Hunter, Glenn County Ag Department; Mary Wells, Landowner; Jeff Herrin, URS; Mike Urkov, TCCA Consultant; Joe Lauwerijssen, Joe Carrancho, Family Water Alliance, John Garner, Landowner

### **Approve Agenda**

Director McDaniel moved to approve the agenda, Director Mensik seconded the motion, and the agenda was unanimously approved by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Durst, Mathis, Vann, McDaniel and Mensik

NOES: None

### **Public Participation**

Chair Durst called for public participation and as no one from the public wished to address the Board, the meeting continued.

### **Approval of July 9, 2014 and August 6, 2014 Minutes**

Director McDaniel moved to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2014, and August 6, 2014 meetings, Director Mensik seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Durst, Mathis, Vann, McDaniel and Mensik

NOES: None

WHEREAS, water districts, counties, cities, and local, state, and federal elected officials throughout California agree and acknowledge that a comprehensive, statewide water plan is necessary to create a more resilient water system that will provide for a secure and reliable supply of water for agriculture, urban, and environmental needs, now and for the future;

WHEREAS, the California Legislature and Governor Jerry Brown have signed The Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014, which will appear as Proposition 1 on the November 4, 2014 ballot. If approved by the voters of the state of California, it will provide funding in the amount \$7.545 billion to advance a comprehensive statewide water plan, which will include funding for new surface and groundwater storage, regional water supply reliability, sustainable groundwater management and cleanup, water recycling, water conservation, watershed protection and safe drinking water;

WHEREAS, in 2010, Glenn County, Colusa County, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, Tehama Colusa Canal Authority, Maxwell Irrigation District, Reclamation District 108, and Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District joined together to form a joint powers authority, the "Sites Project Joint Powers Authority," whose mission is: To be a proponent and facilitator to design and potentially acquire, construct, manage, govern and operate Sites Reservoir and related facilities, to improve the operation of the state's water system and to provide a net improvement in ecosystem and water quality conditions in the Sacramento River system and the Delta;

WHEREAS, included in the proposed funding provided by Proposition 1 is \$2.7 billion to construct new water storage, of which the proposed 1.8 million acre-foot Sites Reservoir would be eligible for significant funding for the public benefits that would accrue as a result of constructing this dynamic, multipurpose off-stream storage project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sites JPA Board hereby supports Proposition 1, The Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 on the November ballot.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this third day of September, 2014 by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Durst, Mathis, Vann, McDaniel and Mensik

NOES: None

ABSENT: Directors Bransford and Tadlock

ABSTAIN: None

Director Tadlock arrived at 1:57 p.m.

## **REGULAR BUSINESS**

### **Report on Strategic Action Plan Status and Updates**

RD 108 General Manger Lewis Bair reported that the efforts regarding Proposition 204 funding is continuing with the Department of Water Resources (DWR). General Manager

Bair also reported that the water rights that have been filed with the state for the Sites Reservoir Project are listed under DWR.

General Manger Bair also reported that the Memorandum of Understanding and Cost-Share Agreement was submitted to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) on September 2, 2014. The agreements will allow the Sites JPA and USBR to work collaboratively with one another. He also stated that Sites Reservoir is a low priority for USBR and that more of an effort will be needed to put Sites Reservoir in the forefront.

The General Mangers Group will be attending a workshop with a power consultant to explore and develop a finance and permitting plan related to the generation of hydro power by the proposed Sites Reservoir.

### **Committee Reports**

Chair Durst reviewed the committees that were restructured at the last Board meeting. He reported on the Coordinating Committee, which meets each week. The General Managers group is working on a time-line which will coordinate with the upcoming Water Bond, Proposition 1, on the November ballot.

### **Outreach Committee**

Mary Wells reported that the Outreach Committee has scheduled meetings with the Sites area landowners; those in the construction and pipelines zones. A letter of introduction, a form requesting their contact information and a schedule of meetings will be sent to the area landowners this week. A total of ten meetings will be held between September 16 and September 26; the locations will be the Maxwell Inn, Family Water Alliance office and Ridgetop Warehouse.

The Outreach Committee is suggesting that the Northern California Water Association and/or the Association of California Water Agencies assist in more tours of the Sites Reservoir area to gather support for the Water Bond.

### **Outreach to Conservation and Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO)**

Director McDaniel reported that the committee has developed a time-line consistent with the potential meeting dates for early October provided by Congressmen Garamendi and LaMalfa. They will coordinate with the Outreach Committee to ensure local interests are kept apprised of the Sites JPA actions, and are developing a presentation that will be used at public meetings. A draft presentation will be provided to the Board for approval.

He also stated that the National Monument designation is back for possible consideration, and confirmation that it will not affect the Sites area will be necessary.

### **Water Users/Investor Committee**

Director Vann and Alternate Director Doherty have met to discuss possible financing opportunities. She feels there is a need to have a high-end monetary value and a low-end monetary value for each alternative to better approach possible investors.

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 1, 2014, at Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Discussion was held regarding the questionnaire each member of the Sites JPA took to their Board. There was concern that the questionnaire raised more questions back to the Sites JPA that could not be answered at this time, and some members indicated that the questions may be too in depth for the present time.

It was also discussed that Yolo County Flood Control and Conservation District may have a presentation on how Indian Reservoir was created that could be helpful.

**MEMBER COMMENTS**

Director Tadlock stated that, in light of the likelihood of enactment of new groundwater regulation, he was interested in exploring the potential for groundwater recharge benefits associated with Sites Reservoir.

Chairman Durst announced that the Reclamation District 108 Board has discussed committing \$2.00 per acre, for the next three years, to assist financing the Sites JPA efforts. The intention would be that this dollar amount would be recognized as "seed money" that could possibly be reimbursed, or act as a credit towards future water use.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kim Dolbow Vann  
Secretary to the Board

Attest a true record of proceedings made and taken at the above foregoing meeting our consent thereto and our presence thereat.



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Frederick Durst