

MINUTES OF THE  
TULARE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
August 23, 2013

Attendees:

Commissioners present: Dan Vink, Chairman; Dale West, Vice-Chairman; Dale Brogan; Mark Larsen; Steve Martin; Fergus Morrissey and Walter Bricker.

Commissioner(s) absent: None.

County representation: Mike Bond and Alfredo Reynoso-Haro with Resource Management Agency (RMA.), Clint Sims with County Counsel.

Visitors: Carol & Peter Clum and Shane Smith with Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District (KDWCD)

Agenda Items:

Item 1. Meeting called to order at 8:00 AM.

Item 2. Minutes of April 26, 2013 meeting:

A motion by Mark Larsen to approve the minutes was seconded by Dale West and approved by unanimous vote.

Item 3. Public comment period:

No public comments were made.

Item 4. Staff report on Flood Control District matters.

RMA staff made a PowerPoint presentation on the progress on the Juvenile Detention Facility-Cottonwood Creek (JDF Complex), Seville-Sontag Ditch, and Yetter-Button Ditch flood control projects.

Biological and cultural studies are under way.

Project forms were submitted to Kings Basin IRWMP for round 3 grants and is scheduled to make a presentation to the Kings basin IRWMP board on October 16th.

An update was provided on the environmental process to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

The preliminary Cottonwood Creek alignment follows the original course and was more recently modified to avoid potential wetlands and habitat areas to the north; and, the upstream channel design may now begin at the westerly boundary of the Chrisman sand pit. In lieu of the proposed creek alignment east of the Chrisman sand pit, through the deJong property, a berm is proposed as an alternate

solution, to avoid wetlands and habitat areas. An easement across the deJong property is necessary.

Chairman Vink advised that the cultural consultant be qualified for State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) studies.

Commissioner Brogan inquired whether the vernal pool is a consideration or the salamander.

RMA:

Vernal pools are the habitat of the California Tiger Salamander (CTS.)

Commissioner Brogan inquired as to the effect the CTS has on the project

RMA:

It is estimated the protocols to determine if the CTS exists in the areas of the project to take a year and half and cost of about \$150,000.

Commissioner Morrissey inquired whether avoidance of the vernal pool area is an option.

RMA:

Elimination of the realigned creek channel east of the Chrisman sand pit and designing a berm south of and away from the existing creek channel is an option being considered.

Chairman Vink suggested the project title be changed to "Cottonwood Creek Restoration" project to attract grant funding.

Chairman Vink inquired if Flood Control Department inventoried all the pumps and initiated a pump maintenance and replacement plan and suggested that a maintenance and replacement program be a regular item in the Flood Control budget.

The Yettem-Button Ditch project is in concept stage with alternatives under consideration to manage flood waters upstream of the Yettem community.

Item 5. Other Business: None

Item 6. Set next Flood Control Commission meeting.

The next Flood Control Commission meeting was set for Friday, October 25, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. in the main conference room at RMA's office.

Item 8. Adjourn meeting.

At 8:45 a.m., a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Vice-Chairman Dale West and was seconded by Commissioner Steve Martin.