

MINUTES OF THE
TULARE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSIONERS MEETING
February 28, 2014

Attendees:

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

Commissioner(s) absent: Fergus Morrissey.

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

Visitors: Carol Clum, Shane Smith with Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District (KDWCD), Aaron Fukuda with Tulare Irrigation District and Douglas Jackson from Alpaugh.

Agenda Items:

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

Item 2. Minutes of August 23, 2013 meeting:

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

Item 3. Public comment period:

Carol Clum made comments regarding a meeting of the Planning and Conservation League in Davis, CA in which there was a session titled "Smart use of Stormwater to help solve California's Water Problems" regarding the benefits of having more basins to capture and filter storm water on site.

Item 4. Staff report on Flood Control District matters:

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

Project forms were submitted to Upper Kings Basin IRWM Authority for round 3 grants. Commissioner Mark Larsen inquired whether Upper kings has prioritized or not the projects. Staff response: we believe the JDF, Seville and Yettem projects will be included in their project list.

Chairman Vink advised the County to research on the possible grants created to reduce the impact of the drought situation. Grants may be available at State and federal level. Key factors in grant applications are water conservation, supply and enhancement.

In a recent Board meeting, RMA walked the board of Supervisors through the development process of the Juvenile Detention Facility which has had numerous

changes from its original concept to where we are today and the restoration aspect of the Cottonwood Creek alignment. It was really defined by the Corps of Engineers in the last April, when we made a presentation to the Corps of Engineers with the environmental group of RMA. It was a key meeting because we were allowed to proceed with the restoration of the alignment.

The proposed original creek alignment restoration and berm, north of the DeJong property, was a good plan until we met with DeJongs and they said no, they did not want the berm at this location, so we had another choice to make, we decided to develop the berm around the sand pit, in a southerly direction, knowing that our ultimate plan in future phases might include the sand pit as a phase and at least we will have this element and we can control it since it is on County property and the cost will be less, no acquisition, no easement, no other parties involved. This was probably not the most desirable option but it certainly one we needed to develop to keep the project moving. Theoretically, the JDF project, Phase I construction will be in the August-October time frame.

Seville project: property owners have been cooperative regarding easement needed for the proposed structures. Most likely, this project can be done by County forces. This project is a strong candidate for a grant. In regards to the County potentially providing work force for the Seville project, Mark Larsen mentioned that the Tulare Irrigation District (TID) is offering their services since it will not be running water.

The Yettem project is still at concept stage. At this point, it is proposed to focus on acquisition and/or easement of properties upstream of the community of Yettem to create storage areas and capture part of storm waters before they flow downstream. This project is last on the list.

Four pumps from the Flood Control Department inventory were serviced in the last 8 months: one in Orosi, one in Seville, one in Tulare and one in Cutler. A total of 24 basins are being maintained during the current fiscal year. The Probation youth work force is providing a valuable service maintaining the basins. Funds used are from the Flood Control budget.

Chairman Vink expressed his appreciation for the county's organization and sequencing all the work, approaching it in such a way that it is getting done.

Item 5. Receive resignation of Commissioner Steve Martin:

Steve Martin expressed his gratitude to his fellow commissioners and to the County for the opportunity to be a member of the Commission.

Reluctant motion by Commissioner Mark Larsen to accept Steve Martin's resignation to equally reluctant second by Dale Brogan.

Steve Martin recommended Douglas Jackson for replacement.

Douglas stated he was born and raised in the area of Alpaugh and lives there currently. He went to school in the area, K to 12, his family have been farmers for

three generations. He attended college in San Luis Obispo, Cal Poly, graduated 14 years ago. He sat down two water boards, one of them the Alpaugh Irrigation District Board. The consensus of the Commission was to endorse Steve Martin's recommendation of Doug Jackson for the Alpaugh Member's seat.

Item 6. Other Business: None

Item 7. Set next Flood Control Commission meeting.

The next Flood Control Commission meeting was set for Friday, March 28, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. in the main conference room at RMA's office.

Item 8. Adjourn meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.