

Special Meeting Minutes

**Klamath Project Drought Response Agency
Special Board Meeting
March 18, 2021
11:00 am**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Marc Staunton, the President, called the Special Board of Directors meeting of the Klamath Project Drought Response Agency (DRA) to order on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at 11:04 am at 2312 South Sixth Street and via the on-line conference platform called Zoom.

ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Marc Staunton, Luther Horsley, Luke Robinson Paul Crawford, Rob Unruh, Jerry Enman, and Mike McKoen
Guests: Chelsea Shearer, Paul Simmons, Kyle Knutson, Brad Kirby, Nathan Ratliff, Bill Ganong, Haley Grohs, Marc VanCamp, David King, Mike Neuman, Cherrese Wilson, Dan Scalas, and David King.
Media Presence: none

2021 Grant Application and Program Development

Nathan Ratliff stated that he, Mike Neuman with Reclamation, and Steve Larson received guidance on how to submit the DRA programs. Nathan stated that after today's meeting, he is hoping to submit the other programs to Reclamation. Bill Ganong stated that while he is submitting for a much higher dollar amount, it appears that the available funding is currently sitting at \$8 million. KWUA will continue to work the system to have more funds allocated.

The DRA has hired a grant writer to complete the program specifics. Bill stated that he is certain that the tasks given to the grant writer and others will fall under the \$25,000 mark, therefore not requiring a formal bid process.

Nathan proposed to retain MBK Engineers, Inc. to lead the discussion/ coordination/ negotiations required to determine the amount of water that can be pumped pursuant to a 2021 groundwater supplementation program. As well as determining of what monitoring/ by whom will be required by Reclamation, and the expenditure of up to \$10,000 to be paid to MBK Engineer's, Inc. for that purpose. Mark VanCamp stated that he has attempted to contact OWRD, and his calls have gone unanswered. He continued that MBK would use data that they have obtained from Mike Neuman and USGS to compile the best information available to use as program guidelines. Mike Neuman stated that as long as the DRA has done its due diligence and used the best data available, the program should be good. The board concurred that they feel USGS data is the best information available and hope that OWRD does not try to regulate according to other data not provided.

Motion: To approve retaining MBK Engineers, Inc. to lead the discussions/coordination/negotiations required to determine the amount of water that can be pumped pursuant to a 2021 groundwater supplementation program and the determination of what monitoring/by whom will be required by Reclamation, and the expenditure of up to \$10,000 to be paid to MBK Engineer's, Inc. for that purpose.

Motion by: Rob Unruh Second: Luther Horsley

Ayes vote: Marc Staunton, Luther Horsley, Luke Robinson Paul Crawford, Rob Unruh, Jerry Enman, and Mike McKoen

Negative Vote: none

Majority Vote yes: Motion Carried.

Motion: To Approve the expenditure of up to \$10,000 for Parks & Ratliff to participate in discussions relating to groundwater program and limitations as described in Item 2a of the Agenda regarding MBK

Motion by: Luther Horsley Second: Rob Unruh

Ayes vote: Marc Staunton, Luther Horsley, Luke Robinson Paul Crawford, Rob Unruh, Jerry Enman, and Mike McKoen

Negative Vote: none

Majority Vote yes: Motion Carried.

Special Meeting Minutes

Nathan stated that after yesterday's meeting with Reclamation, the agenda item to discussed changes made to the 2021 Assistance programs (non-irrigation and winter irrigation) to provide for independent verification of compliance by applicants with the program criteria and for payments is now a moot point. The board members were not in favor of adding any extra expenses for compliance over what the contract language currently states.

The board discussed authorizing Nathan Ratliff to provide the assistance programs policies and Domestic Well Mitigation Policy to Reclamation for review and to have approval and to take any other steps incidental thereto. Nathan and Bill both stated that they felt they had acquired enough information to submit the applications.

Motion: To Authorize Parks & Ratliff to provide the Assistance Program policies, Domestic Well Mitigation Policy, and Groundwater Supplementation Policy to Reclamation for review and approval and to take other steps incidental thereto

Motion by: Mike McKoen Second: Luther Horsley

Ayes vote: Marc Staunton, Luther Horsley, Luke Robinson Paul Crawford, Rob Unruh, Jerry Enman, and Mike McKoen

Negative Vote: none

Majority Vote yes: Motion Carried

Nathan discussed the possible expenditure of not more than \$10,000 for Isler Co. to assist in preparing the SOW and the budget/narrative for the 2021 grant application. He also discussed the possible expenditure of not more than \$10,000 for MBK Engineer's, Inc. to assist in the preparation of the SOW and budget/narrative.

Motion: Motion to Authorize a) the expenditure of not more than \$10,000 for Parks and Ratliff to assist in the preparation of the SOW and Budget/Narrative for 2021 Grant Application;

b) the expenditure of not more than \$10,000 for Isler Co. to assist in the preparation of the SOW and Budget/Narrative for 2021 Grant Application; and c) Authorize the expenditure of not more than \$10,000 for MBK Engineers Inc to assist in the preparation of the SOW and Budget/Narrative.

Motion by: Rob Unruh Second: Paul Crawford

Ayes vote: Marc Staunton, Luther Horsley, Luke Robinson Paul Crawford, Rob Unruh, Jerry Enman, and Mike McKoen

Negative Vote: none

Majority Vote yes: Motion Carried

Mike McKoen asked to go on record; that since the DRA was told the needed additional grant work to complete the grant, he views this involuntary cost of \$50,000 that could have gone to applicants.

Marc Staunton opened the floor to public comment; Mark VanCamp announced that while in this meeting, he was told he now has a 3rd grandbaby.

Marc Staunton asked Paul Simmons to join the meeting. Marc asked Paul if there were any other places that growers could put pressure on to get the funding faster. Paul believes the DRA will be informed on how much is available very soon. He stated that Jeff Payne (Regional Manager of Reclamation) stated they should know by Friday. He also stated a group of people, along with Robert Bonnie at USDA are asking for \$from the CCD to give to USDA to help add funds to the program. KWUA prepared them a briefing paper for their review. Paul stated that Jeff Payne told him moments ago that Reclamation was up to \$9.3 million and continuing the push for more. He also stated that he was told the original time frame for review was "dramatically reduced," but he doesn't know what that means exactly.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned the meeting at 12:31 pm.


Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Motion by: Rob Unruh Second: Rob Unruh

Unanimous vote: Motion Carried.

Special Meeting Minutes

Minutes prepared by Chelsea Shearer

Approved: Marc Staunton , President

Approved: Rob Unruh , Secretary