

HONEY LAKE VALLEY
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

WATERMASTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WAC)
Special Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017

Location: USDA Service Center, 170 Russell Avenue, Suite C, Susanville

Present: Board: Daren Hagata Ramsey Wood
Wayne Langston Mike Bartley

Staff: Ian Sims Mitch Otto

Attendees: Laurel Marsters

I. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order by Vice -Chairman Ramsey Wood at 5:35 pm. The pledge of allegiance was recited and a quorum was noted.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ramsey Wood made a motion to approve the agenda, Daren Hagata seconded and the motion passed. All.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Laurel Marsters expressed concerns about paying water master fees for her 3rd priority water right on Baxter Creek. She has not received water in eight years and believes she should not pay a water master fee but does not want to relinquish her 3rd priority water right. Laurel would also like a postcard containing contact information for the water master and WAC members to be sent to water users.

IV. ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Approval of 12/8/16 regular meeting minutes.

Daren Hagata made a motion to approve the 12/8/16 minutes, Ramsey Wood seconded and the motion passed. All.

V. ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

A. Annual Organization Meeting – Election of WAC chairman and vice-chairman - Sims.

Mike Bartley was elected as WAC board chairman and Ramsey Wood was elected as vice-chairman.

B. Water Master Training Plan – Sims.

Progress to date includes Track-Kit training with Than King. Mitch Otto, the new Water Master Tech, has been learning about Capital Improvements Plans, studying the Decree, and Mitch and Ian attended a two-day IRTC course in Chico.

C. Reportable action from 1/25/17 RCD board meeting regarding Superior Court Case Number 58261 – Sims.

The RCD board gave affirmative direction to legal counsel to proceed with cross-complaint against Jeff White for RCD relief. The settlement agreement is final following Judge Ervin's decision last week upholding the appropriateness and propriety of the settlement agreement. The RCD board is not at liberty to speak about the cross-complaint, but terms of the settlement are on file at the County Clerk's Office.

D. Discussion of FY 2017/2018 Water Master Budget – Sims.

District Manager Sims discussed the Water Master Budget and told the WAC he would provide an updated

E. Third priority water right update – Sims.

There was a discussion regarding the water users within the Baxter Creek Decree under the Susan River Water Master Service Area abandoning their obligation to pay water master service fees as it relates to their decreed third priority water right. District Manager Sims will revise the letter to counsel inquiring as to the proper recourse to address this concern and will present it for review at the next WAC meeting.

F. Discuss WAC terms – Sims.

There was a discussion regarding WAC terms. None of the WAC members could remember exactly when they started, so it was determined that two of the regional representatives would serve four-year terms beginning 1/1/2016 and ending 1/1/20 and the other two representatives would serve four-year terms beginning 1/1/2014 and ending 1/1/2018. The LIC, RCD and Farm Bureau reps will be annually appointed by the responsible agency. District Manager Sims will provide an updated WAC term document at the next meeting.

VI. REPORTS

A. Watermaster Report – Sims/Otto.

Ian Sims and Mitch Otto provided the WAC Board a Water Master outreach plan that will be executed in the coming weeks to include meeting with all WAC members individually and various stakeholders. Water Master will also continue digitizing the system, become more familiar with all decree and legal documents, as well as making the proper preparations for the commencement of irrigation season.

B. RCD Report – Langston.

Board Member Langston presented the group with a proposition to make the members of the WAC more involved with the day to day operation of the Water Manager and to assist when needed during peak times. This, in turn, would alleviate some of the pressure the Water Master experiences during the peak operation season so he can focus on flow measurements and diversion adjustments. The WAC Board approved this approach and would like to assist the Water Master with needed work items.

VII. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS

None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm. The next special scheduled WAC meeting will be held Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at the USDA Service Center, 170 Russell Avenue, Suite C, Susanville at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ian Sims
District Manager
Honey Lake Valley RCD