

State of California, County of Siskiyou

Board of Supervisors Minutes, April 30, 2024

The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Siskiyou County, California, met in special session this 30th day of April 2024; there being present Supervisors Brandon Criss, Michael N. Kobseff, Nancy Ogren and Ray A. Haupt, County Administrator Angela Davis, County Counsel Natalie E. Reed, and County Clerk and ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Laura Bynum by Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham. Supervisor Ed Valenzuela was absent.

The Board met in joint session with the Modoc County Board of Supervisors and the Klamath County, Oregon Board of Commissioners in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

The joint meeting was called to order by Klamath County Commissioner Dave Henslee at 9:02 a.m. Each county called their respective meeting to order. Deputy County Clerk Wendy Winningham called roll for Siskiyou County.

Commissioner Henslee led in the salute to the flag of the United States of America.

Present for Klamath County: Dave Henslee and Derek DeGroot. Commissioner Kelley Minty joined the Tour on the bus later in the morning.

Present for Modoc County: Supervisors Kathie Rhoads, Elizabeth Cavasso, Geri Byrne and Ned Coe.

Presentations from the Public

Klamath Water Users Association (KWUA) President Trace Liskey welcomed the tri-counties group to the upcoming tour.

Commissioners DeGroot and Henslee made opening statements regarding the tri-county efforts being made to address watershed issues in the Klamath Basin/Klamath Reclamation Project.

Modoc and Siskiyou County Supervisors and Klamath County Commissioners introduced themselves.

Members of the public, planning to attend the tour and representing various county staff, KWUA members, state agencies, state legislators and irrigation districts, introduced themselves.

Departmental Requests - County Administration - Three County (Siskiyou and Modoc, CA and Klamath, OR) Tour of the Klamath Reclamation Project – A charter bus will depart the Klamath Water Users Association (KWUA) Office at approximately 9:15 am, stopping at various locations. Tour taken, including various presentations along the way.

Klamath Water Users Association (KWUA) Executive Assistant/Office Manager Chelsea Shearer made available a six-page packet of maps and information regarding the anticipated Tour stops.

Various County Commissioners and Supervisors and members of the public boarded a Pelican Charters bus to provide transportation to the various Tour locations.

Once the Tour was underway, Klamath Water Users Association (KWUA) Executive Director Paul Simmons provided a history of the Klamath Reclamation Project, various crops/products produced in the Basin/Project and shared concerns regarding the negative impacts from the lack of or reduction in annual irrigation water allocations on the economies of local communities. As the tour continued, Mr. Simmons pointed out the location of the 'A' Canal, located within the City of Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Those attending the Tour disembarked at the 'A' Canal Headworks/Link River Estates – Tour Stop #1

Klamath Irrigation District Manager Gene Souza provided an overview and history of the Link River, Link River Dam and development of the 'A' Canal and the part the 'A' Canal plays in irrigation water delivery in the Klamath Basin/Project. Mr. Souza presented a 25-page document entitled: Upper Klamath Lake & Link River, Natural Conditions Assessment and a two-page factual data on the Klamath Project and map from the US Bureau of Reclamation Public Affairs Office.

Those attending the Tour returned to the bus.

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Departmental Requests - County Administration – (continued)

Continuing the Tour, KWUA representative Moss Driscoll provided an overview of the lake and canal system and the processes utilized for moving irrigation water to/from various Irrigation Districts and wildlife refuges.

Those attending the Tour disembarked at the Klamath Drainage District/Lower Klamath Refuges – Tour Stop #2

Klamath Drainage District (KDD) General Manager Scott White and KDD President Bill Walker provided an overview of the Drainage District water management processes, benefits of the District operations for local birds and wildlife and shared concerns regarding the negative impacts associated with water allocation management for the Basin/Project.

Those attending the Tour returned to the bus.

Continuing the Tour, Mr. White presented and summarized a two-page document entitled: Replumbing the Klamath for People, Fish and Wildlife: a Nature-based Solution for Drought and Desertification in Lower Klamath Lake. Mr. White spoke in support of the proposal as a means to restore and reconnect the Basin's wetlands, improve water availability for environmental and agricultural uses and promote a sustainable approach to agriculture production in order to support the local economy.

Those attending the Tour disembarked for lunch at Liskey Farms - Tour Stop #3

Lunch was provided by Liskey Farms for those attending the Tour, with a break taken from 11:15 a.m., to approximately 12:30 p.m.

Those attending the Tour returned to the bus.

Continuing the Tour, KWUA member Jeff Boyd provided an overview of the efforts made to develop the refuges, the processes utilized for draining water to provide land for homesteading, the process for moving irrigation water around the Project and various crops historically grown.

Those attending the Tour disembarked at Pumping Plant D/Tulelake Refuges – Tour Stop #4

Tulelake Irrigation District (TID) Manager Brad Kirby and TID President John Crawford provided an overview and history of Pumping Plant D (a flood control facility), the process for draining land in/around the Tulelake Basin to provide agricultural land for homesteading and farming and the recent efforts made to make Plant D pumps operational.

Mr. Simmons spoke in support of the benefits associated with proposed water recirculating efforts.

Those attending the Tour returned to the bus.

Continuing the Tour, Mr. Crawford spoke about being a Federal lease land farmer and spoke in support of the benefits associated with recirculating irrigation water as a means to improve the water quality.

Those attending the Tour disembarked at Copic Bay/Petroglyphs – Tour Stop #5

Tulelake Irrigation District (TID) member Scott Seus provided an overview of farming operations taking place at Copic Bay, advising that, although there are groundwater wells available for irrigation, the electrical power costs for pumping the water are immense. Mr. Seus spoke in support the benefits that could be seen should the area be provided with sufficient surface irrigation water, advising that only 3% of the water leaving the mouth of the Klamath River would benefit the area. Mr. Seus additionally provided an overview of the petroglyphs located on a nearby rock wall similar to those located in the Lava Beds National Monument.

Those attending the Tour, walked along and viewed the petroglyphs, including stone carvings that took place at the time a Japanese internment camp was located nearby.

Those attending the Tour, returned to the bus.

Continuing the Tour, Shasta View Irrigation District (Malin, OR) member Gary Derry provided a history of the Shasta View and Malin Irrigation Districts, and an overview of efforts made in the early 1990s to develop a drought plan for the area.

Those attending the Tour disembarked at Cal-Ore Produce – Tour Stop #6

Departmental Requests - County Administration – (continued)

Cal-Ore Produce representative Marc Staunton provided a history of Cal-Ore Produce and an overview of the company's operations.

Mr. Crawford, also a member of Cal-Ore Produce, gave a brief presentation regarding the company.

Those attending the Tour split into two groups. Mr. Staunton and Cal-Ore representative Ryan Finney provided a tour of the facility and an overview of various operations, including the cold storage room, the sorting, washing and grading room, the process for utilizing clove oil as a sprout inhibitor and the processes for storing and then distributing potatoes grown in the Basin to various retail facilities (i.e. all of the Walmarts located in California).

Those attending the Tour were offered a small bag of red potatoes each and then returned to the bus.

Adjournment - There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m. and the bus returned to the Klamath Water Users Association Office, 2312 South 6th Street, Klamath Falls, OR 97601.

Attest:

Laura Bynum, County Clerk

Michael N. Kobseff, Chair

By: _____
Deputy