

NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Water & Hydroelectric Operations Committee

September 10, 2019

MINUTES Regular Meeting

Committee Members Present: Chris Bierwagen, Director, Division 2
Ricki Heck, Director, Division 1

Committee Staff Members Present: Remleh Scherzinger, General Manager
Chip Close, Water Operations Manager
Keane Sommers, Hydroelectric Manager
Pam Robinson, Management Assistant

Staff Members Present: Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager

Public Comment

No public comment.

Minutes of the August 13, 2019

Approved as submitted.

Dutch Flat#2/Chicago Park Powerhouse Area Trespass Issues

Keane Sommers, Hydroelectric Manager, presented the item to the Committee at the request of Board President Miller. A concerned property owner spoke at a recent Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting regarding OHV usage in the Dutch Flat#2/Chicago Park Powerhouse area.

This area has become a popular OHV area. The District is seeing significant soil erosion in the area around the Dutch Flat #2/Chicago Powerhouses.

He presented pictures showing OHV riding under the PG&E transmission lines. There is significant trash and debris left behind as well as a lot of illegal parking.

Staff worked through requests from the member of the public to help prioritize today's agenda. The Nevada County Sheriff's Department reached out to the District regarding parking on the Dutch Flat #2 forebay and the illegal use of District land requesting the District take action to limit activity. Prohibited activities on District land is governed by Board Policy 10500. This Policy specifically identifies activities prohibited on District land including vehicle travel off established roadways, camping outside of designated areas, campfires outside of designated fire rings and parking outside of designated parking areas.

District staff have observed all of the above over the years. Over the past two years, parties have occurred during mid-September in the same location and are expected to occur this year as well.

District staff have also witnessed the illegal cutting of trees, significant erosion, camp fires, moving of barricades, and cutting of District locks on District property.

The District has installed signs that are regularly removed or shot. The District has also attempted to block access wherever possible.

Landowners, and some users of the area, are in attendance today as well as some of the agencies such as BLM, Forest Service, Cal Fire, Highway Patrol, and Sheriff's Department.

Following up on the request to the sheriff's department, staff believes installing K-rail/Jersey barriers costing \$7,500-\$10,000 at the Dutch Flat#2 forebay area. This would eliminate the parking issue, although doesn't address the ongoing resource issues in the area.

On August 23rd, staff distributed a notice of this meeting to individuals and resource agencies in an effort to seek a collaborative solution. The letter was also forwarded to the OHV community, although limited. Within the letter, it was asked for the residents to provide comments of their personal experiences at this meeting today.

Public Comment.

Janice Belding, Landowner

- District signs are removed or destroyed by people
- People shoot across the road and river
- Concerned about fires from the bon fires and OHV's
- Experienced an incident where an OHV rode past the front of her house and stopped. The rider entered her house and she had to threaten him with a gun. The rider then left.
- Experienced a rider go by her house and hit the back of her head with a rock
- Concerned there are children riding on the road without the concept of safety

Janet Riesbeck, Landowner

- Lived at her property 35 years, the District has spent a lot of money to protect the powerhouses by installing fences, barriers, and signs to be destroyed or needing repair
- Online, the area is known to motorcycle clubs as a legal OHV
- The amount of OHV traffic is growing
- CHP and the Sheriff's department are under staffed
- District staff has mentioned to her they don't feel comfortable accessing the area

- Thanked the District for all they attempt to do and for listening to the land owners' concerns

Nik Kelley, Landowner

- Lived at the property for over 40 years
- Steep Hollow fire was caused by people firing guns around noon time in the middle of summer
- Since the Steep Hollow fire a few year ago, OHV use has become worse
- There is a trespassing problem on NID property near the powerhouse and down the hill above the forebay
- Trespassers are entering through the end of Steep Hollow Canyon and Chicago Park Powerhouse
- Looking for the District to take action

Delbert Belding, Landowner

- Evacuated during the Lowell Hill Fire
- Used his loader to replace barriers that have been moved by trespassers on the backside of the Dutch Flat Forebay
- Has called Cal Fire 911 numerous times due to illegal camp fires, etc. at the Dutch Flat Forebay and Dutch Flat Afterbay
- He has been hit by Quads while in his truck causing damage
- Children are unsupervised, riding ATV's on the road or wandering
- Numerous garbage dumpings
- Suggesting a gate

Lori McMellon, Landowner

- Informed from Nevada County Road Department no green sticker access from Red Dog Road to Hwy 20 on Lowell Hill Road
- Informed from BLM no motorized vehicles from Red Dog to the Forebays
- OHV riders are cutting roads from Steep Hollow Road across BLM land
- OHV riding along District Chicago Park Powerhouse emergency spillway

Danny McMellon, Landowner

- Has clear overview of different access areas from his property
- Reviewed and distributed a packet to Committee and Board Members
- Spoke about mining claims and keys to access gate
- Had meetings with Sheriff's Department and BLM
- Witnessed a helicopter rescue from bottom of the overflow
- Recommended the District and BLM work together

Warren Garrett, Geologist, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

- Mining claim allows mineral rights on specific land for a specific timeframe
- Mining claim does not guarantee access to the location of the claim

- Mining claim cannot be on private property
- Mining claims are established by placing a stakes in the ground. Area is located to establish on a map in Sacramento

Sean North, Land Owner, Mining Claim Owner

- If property owner is considering access of a mining claim owner via their property, property owner should request paperwork authorizing mining claim
- Mining claim can be accessed via a creek
- Spoke about supporting gate options in different locations although this creates various accessibility issues for others

Josh Sjostrom, Assistant Field Manager, Motherlode Filed Office BLM

- Looking forward to working together
- BLM covers a lot of area, presence is minimal

Darren Entrican, Law Enforcement Ranger BLM

- Spoke about meeting property owners and discussing issues in the area
- Intends to have an ongoing presence within the area with regular patrolling
- Encouraged property owners to keep in contact with him while patrolling
- Spoke roughly about jurisdiction topics of the County versus BLM
- Addressed target shooting issues in relation to BLM regulations brought up by landowners

Ray Kress, Nevada County Sheriff Search and Rescue

- One of his projects oversees OHV
- Responded to NC Sheriff actions taken for OHV
 - Deputy stationed 8 times this year
 - Turned around 72 vehicles thus far
- Many people think Dutch Flat area is an OHV park

Mike Rufenacht, Cal Fire

- Cal Fire law enforcement is patrolling more often since August
- Many Cal Fire signs posted
- Key is education, prevention and interaction, not necessarily reaction and enforcement
- Discussed citation definitions for camp fires/burn piles
- Recommended painting no camping, no fires on the jersey rails

Eric Sweet, SPI (Sierra Pacific Industries)

- SPI shares similar issues with trespassing, trash dumping, shooting ranges
- SPI gives powers to law enforcement to administer SPI rules as well as Federal and State laws
- SPI supports any gates, signs

- SPI contacted local shops promoting trail system on private property and communicated it is illegal to promote private property. Requested removal of information on websites and flyers
- Many shops are unaware that they are promoting trail use on private property
- SPI property on North Side, Steep Hollow, where most of their holdings are is pretty well gated
- SPI Lowell Hill side has fewer gates. Most of the area is surrounded by private parcels
- SPI has a full time patrol employee who covers 150,000 acres
- SPI does not allow camping, fires, target shooting, trail building, organized activities, no off road vehicles, no motorized use behind any gates or barricades
- SPI allows hunting during season as well as fishing with valid license
- SPI allows travel on open roads, does not allow travel on closed roads

After discussion, the consensus was to research gate installation and reconvene in the near future.

Operations Department Activities Update

Chip Close, Water Operations Manager, provided an update of the District Water Supply and Operations Department activities:

The District's reservoir storage as of September 4, 2019, is 221,648AF 117% of the 6-year average, and 82% of capacity.

Bowman Lake precipitation as of September 4, 2019, is 0.00", 100% of average.

Treated Water Conservation for 2019 is 23%.

Water Supply Summary

- Short term forecast trending:
 - Below average temperature
 - Above average precipitation
- Long term forecast trending slightly above average
- Reservoir Storage @ 103% of average
- February 1, 2019 snow survey @ 113% of average
- Things looking good for runoff

Department activities included:

Distribution

- Peak Flows continue in distribution system
- Daily Cleaning
 - Leaf Fall Already Occurring
 - Managing Aquatics

- Prepping for outages
 - Combie Ophir 1
 - Bear River Canal
 - Gayle-Boreham Tie in
 - Maben Rehab and Tie in
- Backflow at full speed
- Reservoir Maintenance
 - Loma Rica Reservoir Drained
 - Newtown Reservoir Bypass installed

Water Treatment

- Treated Water Production:
 - August 402.3 MG
- Sampling
 - Crypto, Lead Testing for Schools
- Caustic Soda @ LOP
- Campground System
 - Jackson Meadows still flowing
 - Design of Long Raving water system
 - Scotts Flat Bleach
- Safety swing gate on tanks

Water Resources

- Water Rights
 - Loma Rica Hydro
 - Change Petitions
- Gaging Station Preparation
 - Retrofitting stations

Customer Service

- LIRA Applications Out
- Meeting with Paymentus
- Moving Dispatch & Cubes

Electrical

- FTW & EFF Valves Lake Wildwood
- Scotts Flat 2 Power
- Long Ravine PLC
- Loma Rica to Lake of the Pines BEP startup for automated control station Startup
- Hemphill Data Logger at the gaging station
- Office electrical
- General Maintenance of pumps, etc.
- Power Ball – measuring wheel with paddle producing power

Hydroelectric Department Activities Update

Keane Sommers, Hydroelectric Manager, provided an update of the Hydroelectric Department activities:

Outage Report

- Bowman
 - PG&E scheduled line outage
- Dutch Flat #2
 - CAISO Meter Testing
 - PG&E scheduled line outage
- Combie South
 - Annual Outage
- Combie North
 - Replace pressure transducer
 - Canal setpoint timeout
 - PG&E unscheduled line outage

Key Activities - Operations

- Benchmarking
 - Dams
 - 70% of weekly dam inspections complete
 - All monthly inspections complete
 - Linear Facilities
 - Dutch Flat #2 and Chicago Park Flumes inspected
 - Bowman Transmission Line partially inspected
 - Powerhouses
 - 92% of daily inspections
 - Other items: station batteries, spill kits, fire extinguishers
- Implemented new dam specific inspection forms

Key Activities – Maintenance

- Constructed electrical control systems and pulled communications wire for new Rollins LLO
- Replaced poles at snow courses
- Rebuild gage at Jackson Meadows Dam
- Improved access ladder to Milton/Bowman Tunnel intake
- Hazard tree removal on Bowman 60kV line
- Combie South Annual Outage
 - Install CAISO meters and associated PTs/CTs/Pole upgrades
 - Remove #1 TSV for service
 - Rewire communication panel
- Inspect Milton and French Low Level Outlets with divers
- Repair Faucherie Low Level Outlet actuator
- Installed flow straighteners on Dutch Flat Afterbay low level outlet
- Vegetation management at Bowman, Faucherie, Sawmill, and Jackson Dams

Key Activities – Administration/Compliance/ Dam Safety

- Sawmill and French Lake toe leakage testing
- Finalized contract of CAISO RIG replacement
- Issued contract to continue updating inundation maps (adding flood day maps)
- Develop work plan for Deer Creek Powerhouse/South Yuba Canal pretransfer requirements
- Released RFP for Combie Dam Scour Protection/Stabilization study. Proposals due 10/11.
- NERC
 - Response to NERC Alert
 - Update CIP-003 Leadership Delegation Procedure
 - CPPH TPP Data Request Response from CAISO & Follow Up with Kestrel for completion