**Orick Community Service District**

**Regular Meeting**

**Wednesday September 13, 2023**

**OCSD Office**

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** Ron Barlowcalled the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ron Barlow, Bob Secor, Byron Frick

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Marla Zuber

**STAFF PRESENT:** Barbara Mitchell, Marcie Allen, Bill Allen, Larry Doss

**STAFF ABSENT**: Trevor Avram

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Chief Steven Baker,LACO representative Belle Ciotti,

Supervisor Steve Madrone, Hank Seemann Humboldt Public Works,

Mary Burke Cal-Trout, Leslie Wolf, Phillip Coombs, Michael Jackson

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Bob Secor made a motion to approve September 13, 2023 Agenda. Byron Frick seconded the motion; the motion was passed unanimously.

**3. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** Byron Frick made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Bob Secor seconded the motion; the motion was passed unanimously.

**4.** **PUBLIC COMMENT**: Mary Burke thanked Chief Baker and VFD for responding to the fire at the old mill site on Bald Hill Road. Ron Barlow said he was very grateful for Steven and his fire crew. He also thanked him for his work on the new building. Steve Madrone also commented on how good the building looks – and that it was quite a long process.

Mary did remind all that she would be available on Tuesdays for anyone wishing to tour the project site.

**5. INFORMATION – DISCUSSION:**

**a. Orick Levee System:** Ron Barlow thanked S. Madrone, H. Seemann, M. Burke

and L. Wolf for attending the meeting.

Steve Madrone addressed the Estuary Project plan, which is to remove the levee at the estuary. He is very grateful to property owners Zuber and Hufford for their cooperation.

Hank Seemann gave an update on the levee system from the beginning when the Corp of Engineers built the levee in the 60’s.

* Maintenance of the levee was eventually turned over to the County of Humboldt
* The Corp is still involved and did do yearly inspections until this year. They are now going to do inspections every 5 years. All reports from the Corp do state that the levee is good.
* The Corp does have funds dedicated solely to our levee structure, as it is a federal levee.
* The County does do regular mowing of vegetation along the levee, enabling visual inspections.
* Maintenance inspections of the relief wells can only be done during high water levels.
* There are concerns of trails (manmade) being cut into the levee, as well as animal burrows.
* Sediment deposits in the river are NOT an urgent concern.
* FEMA does maintain maps that identify special flood areas (Zone A). Orick’s map shows the Zone A area in the channel only. If FEMA ever wanted to reevaluate the maps the County would be notified well in advance.

Board Chairperson Ron Barlow did ask if there were any questions. Bill Allen did say that there are structures being built on the river bed and asked if the County had any plans to do anything about that. Supervisor Madrone said, “this is not an excuse, but we are very shorthanded which makes it harder to accomplish”. Ron B. asked if other agencies could help – the Park or the Yurok Police? Mr. Madrone said that he does get complaint calls on a regular basis from Donna Hufford regarding the homeless issues. It is very difficult to have someone removed from public property. He asked that we contact him or the Sheriff’s office when necessary. Ron did say that Bob Vogt, with the County, is in the area often trying to discourage building of trails on the levee.

Ron Barlow stated his concerns about the flood protection level for Orick with so much vegetation growth in the creek. If a major flood were to occur it would be an environmental disaster for Orick. He asked Hank Seemann if he agreed with that. Hank explained that sections along the levee are rated at different “flood year” protections, from high, medium, and low (100 – 50 years). He will talk to the Corp of Engineers regarding the vegetation growth in the channel and ask them to evaluate it. There are capacity standards of accumulative effects that have happened over time. The County has done a cross section survey. Supervisor Madrone said that drones can be used for this and are much more detailed than an “on the ground” survey group.

Hank did say that he would like Ron and Board to meet the Corp leader, as the CSD is basically the local government here in Orick. Hank did agree with Ron that the levee is Orick’s most important asset. The Corp has programs for environmental improvements without degrading the level of protection.

Steve Madrone said that if more gravel was removed at the Hufford site that it would help with the gravel flow in the river. The end goal is that no additional maintenance would have to be done (except mowing) and the creek would be self-maintaining.

**Estuary Project:** Mary Burke did thank Marla Zuber, Gregory Hufford and all the team for their involvement with the estuary. We have a very strong local team. Although the project has not been finalized, they do have enough expert advice to continue. The goal is levee removal at the estuary. Leslie Wolf and Mary said that models have been a critical part of the process. Results will be that the northside would no longer flood, which raised the question – does the modeling look into all possibilities of the river shifting? Yes, if it shifts to the left the visitors center would require armoring. Ron was glad to know that modeling all scenarios was a part of the process. Federal and State are contributing matching funds to the project. This has been a

2-phase design.

**b. Wastewater Study Grant:** Belle Coitti from LACO presented the monthly progress report (please see attached) which she did go over in detail. LACO is still pursuing treatment and disposal site locations. Ron Barlow asked Belle, if selecting the site is required to move forward with the feasibility study. She said yes. Supervisor Madrone asked what are the requirements for the site(s). She said finding a location out of the coastal zone is the top priority.

Mary Burke asked if this a community wide project. Belle explained the larger the need – the larger the site. Ron B. commented that the site could hopefully accommodate grazing.

Larry Doss said he is very confident with this project moving forward. Mary said this could increase commercial growth by 2%. Larry explained that any commercial property that has been closed for a year or more needs to start over, which makes growth in Orick very difficult.

**c**. **Tank Grant:** See T. Avram attached report

**d. Drought Relief Grants/Grant Writer:** See T. Avram attached report

**e. Discuss Finance:** Byron Frick and Ron Barlow both commented on the checking account balance. Barbara Mitchell did explain that there was a large expense with the standpipe pump replacement ($5,299.73). Byron did ask about the water rates. Barbara said they will be increasing $7.00 a month in November. (This is the 4th year in the 5-year plan).

**6. ACTION AGENDA:** No items on Agenda

**7. STAFF REPORTS:**

**a. OCSD Office:** Preparing information for the upcoming audit.

**b. Water System:** Bill Allen did say that all is good. See T. Avram attached report

**c. Fire Hall:** Chief Baker went over his report. The VFD had two volunteers leave the department. Steven has 2 people who are interested in joining, but do not meet the requirements in the current policy. He asked if he needed to confirm with the Board to make the following changes: (1) time lived in Orick and (2) being a licensed driver (would assist on calls only, not drive vehicles). Ron said yes, because the Orick CSD board is the governing body of the VFD. Larry Doss agreed that due to the age of the policies they may need to be updated anyway. Supervisor Madrone agreed. Chief Baker did question why the VFD had to pay for half the standpipe repair and asked if they could get half of the profits brought in from bulk water sales. Ron did say that we will look into this further. Phillip Coombs commented that he did see a water truck taking water out of a hydrant. This was when the standpipe was out of order and Trevor A. was assisting the truck.

**d. Community Hall:** Nothing to report

**8. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:**

a**. Levee Report:** See above

b. **Board Members:** Byron Frick will not be at the October meeting

**9. ADJOURNMENT:**  7:27 p.m.

**Next Regular Meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2023**