

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

March 8, 2010

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District was called to order by President Brown at 7:02 p.m. in the Board of Directors Hearing Room, 500 West Ridgecrest Boulevard, Ridgecrest, California.

CALL TO ORDER

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Leroy Corlett.

PLEDGE

DIRECTORS PRESENT: President Peter E. Brown
Vice-President Harold W. Manning
Director Margaret "Peggy" L. Breedon
Director Leroy H. Corlett
Director Donald J. Cortichiato

ROLL CALL

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Jim Worth, Attorney;
Tom Mulvihill, General Manager;
Jennifer Keep, Chief Financial Officer;
Reneé Morquecho, District Engineer;
Lucinda Crosby, Public Education and
Conservation Coordinator;
Rose Koch, Recording Secretary

AGENDA DECLARATION

**AGENDA
DECLARATION**

Recording Secretary, Rose Koch, reported that the agenda for tonight's Regular Board Meeting was posted on Friday, March 5, 2010.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

**CONFLICT OF
INTEREST**

None.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

**PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

None.

**PRESENTATION BY MARK ARCHER, BURROUGHS HIGH SCHOOL ART DEPARTMENT
INSTRUCTOR: PAINTING "WATER" BY KAYLIE WEICH**

PRESENTATION

Lucinda Crosby introduced Mark Archer, Burroughs High School Art Department Instructor for the presentation of the painting "Water" by Kaylee Weich (student). Mark Archer commented that Ms. Weich contributed to the community this aesthetic expression to make a statement in the environment and connect themselves with the community. Ms. Weich spent approximately three-quarters of the school year on this art for her senior project. This is part of an on-going

process where they are encouraging students to use art as a vehicle for enhancing the community, especially in public places. Ms. Crosby announced that on behalf of Kaylie Weich and with the inspiration of Mark Archer, and on behalf of the Burroughs Art Department and Burroughs High School, the painting was donated to the District.

The painting by Kaylie Weich was accepted by Board consensus.

XERIC® RECOGNITION

**XERIC®
RECOGNITION**

The following Indian Wells Valley residents were recognized for excellence in residential Xeriscape:

Ron Kicinski and Sharon Girod at 1911 S. Downs, Kim and Mike Matsunaga at 401 Shamrock, and Chris and Maureen Toftner at 128 W. Franklin.

CONSENT CALENDAR

**CONSENT
CALENDAR**

MOTION: was made by Director Breeden and seconded by Director Corlett, to approve the Minutes of the February 8, 2010 Public Hearing and Regular Board meeting, and to approve payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$437,427.12. The Motion was carried, unanimously. (Vote 5-0)

WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**WATER
MANAGEMENT**

Director Breeden presented the benefits of membership to the Alliance for Water Awareness and Conservation (AWAC). By becoming a member, the District would be allowed access to landscape templates, conservation programs, and forms and materials for a Cash for Grass Program. The committee recommended Board approval of the membership because it will be beneficial and is at no cost to the District.

AWAC

MOTION: was made by Director Breeden and seconded by Director Corlett to join the Alliance for Water Awareness and Conservation (AWAC). The Motion was carried, unanimously. (Vote 5-0)

PLANT AND EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

P & E

President Brown reported that the District would like to abandon an old 8-inch transite water main located between Lumill Street and San Bernardino County Line Road. The property owners, Gordon Steffak and Tom Koch, have expressed concerns with taking the hydrants out of service. President Brown explained that the District needs to abandon the line because it does not meet public health standards with the Department of Public Health and is no longer needed. Mr. Mulvihill added that the Department of Public Health would like the water line to be located 100 ft. or more from an auto recycling facility. The District has been informed by the Kern County Fire Department that the old hydrants are not needed and that the new fire hydrants installed on San Bernardino County Line Road meet the public fire service requirement. The Kern County Fire Department is not requiring or recommending the old fire hydrants remain in use. The committee

**LINE
ABANDONMENT**

recommends the District offer to the property owners a credit for the amount it would cost the District to abandon the line, estimated at \$1,700.00, and apply it towards the cost of a required detector check assembly for the private fire service. The property owners would be responsible for the repair and maintenance of the fire service. The property owners will also be charged a monthly fee for the private fire service.

Property owner Tom Koch asked the District to present a written letter from the Department of Public Health regarding their concerns for the water line not meeting public health standards due to the auto recycling businesses being in proximity.

The Board requested this agenda item be tabled until a letter has been received from the Department of Public Health.

The committee reviewed a memorandum created by Krieger & Stewart outlining the cost difference between open trench and bore and jack pipeline installation for the 12-inch raw water pipeline between Wells 11 and 13 on Mahan Street where it crosses Las Flores Avenue. The estimated cost for open trench installation is \$110 per lineal foot (LF) whereas bore and jack is \$820/LF. The estimated bore and jack length is 100 LF. Since Las Flores Avenue is not a newly paved road at this crossing and Kern County will allow for open trench installation, the committee recommended using open trench installation for the new pipeline.

COST
COMPARISON

MOTION: was made by President Brown and seconded by Vice-President Manning to use the open trench method for the installation of the 12-inch raw water pipeline between Wells 11 and 13 on Mahan Street where it crosses Las Flores Avenue. The Motion was carried, unanimously. (Vote 5-0)

ADMINISTRATION/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ADMIN/EXEC

This agenda item was tabled until after Closed Session.

GM
COMPENSATION

After review of Kern County LAFCo ballot for Special District Representative, the committee did not have a recommendation for the Board. The committee was reluctant to make a recommendation for anyone that they did not know. Mr. Mulvihill reported that legal counsel was consulted and he had not heard anything negative about the incumbent Mel McLaughlin. Mr. McLaughlin does have water district experience and has been the Special District Representative on LAFCo for the past 10 years.

LAFCO BALLOT

MOTION: was made by Director Cortichiato and seconded by Vice-President Manning to vote for Mel McLaughlin for Kern County Local Agency Formation Commission Special District Representative. The Motion was carried. (Vote 4-1)

INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

IRWMP

Director Corlett reported that he had attended a meeting last week at Crowley Lake. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how the Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) would be

governed. The Planning Committee, which Director Corlett is part of, has a vote. The Steering Committee, which does the detailed work, is ran primarily by Inyo County. Inyo County and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) favor a situation where the Planning Committee works out what they want to do and then is passed to the Steering Committee, which make the decisions and has the power to override what the Planning Committee wants to do. After several hours of discussion, IRWMP participants voted against Inyo County and LADWP. The Planning Committee will make their own decisions and the Steering Committee will be an advisory group.

APPROVAL: PURCHASE ONE DUMP TRUCK

DUMP TRUCK

Four bids were presented for the purchase of one dump truck from the following vendors:

Three-Way Chevrolet	2006 Chevrolet C7500	\$60,223.48
Motor City	2007 GMC C7500	\$64,434.74
Three-Way Chevrolet	2007 Chevrolet C7500	\$69,307.59
Jim Burke Ford	2009 Ford F650	\$74,134.34

Tom Mulvihill reported that all of the vehicles are brand new and have a two-year warranty. The Board voiced concerns about purchasing older vehicles that have been sitting idle and the inefficiency of the older diesel motors.

The Board agreed to table this agenda item and have staff address concerns and get more information. This item will be discussed again at a subsequent Plant and Equipment Committee meeting.

GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE

**GENERAL
MANAGER &
STAFF UPDATE**

Tom Mulvihill reported that water production for January was 111,001,300 gallons (341 acre-feet) and February was 102,301,000 (314 acre-feet). There were six new residential services for the month of February.

**PRODUCTION/
NEW SERVICES**

Tom Mulvihill reported that the draft of the District's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELo) was reviewed by the Water Management Committee and legal counsel. The draft has been sent to the City of Ridgecrest for their review and comment. The draft ordinance will be brought back to the Water Management Committee and is expected to be on the April Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

WELo

Reneé Morquecho reported that work is being done on the underground utility installation at all three sites. Last week, work was completed on the permanent connection on Bowman Road at the Well 34 site. Construction progress meetings are scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.

**ARSENIC
TREATMENT
FACILITIES/
WELL 34**

Reneé Morquecho reported that the asphalt patch bid package was distributed to nine companies last Friday. The bid package also included raising the valve cans on Highway 178. Bids are due by March 19th at 4:00 p.m.

**MAINLINE
REPLACEMENT
PROJECTS**

The Construction Crew has started potholing on Sunland Street, between Ridgecrest Boulevard and Church Avenue. The potholing will determine where the line will be placed based upon the location of the sewer laterals.

The Maintenance Crew has been working on Ward Avenue replacing lines and will be completed this week. The crew will move onto Atkins Avenue, west of Downs Street, to replace polyethylene service laterals. Tom Mulvihill added that they had to trench across Ward Avenue because the new Grundocrack Jr. boring tool cannot be used due to the location of other service lines.

Tom Mulvihill announced that staff will man a booth at the Home & Leisure Show on March 27th and 28th. Conservation items and literature will be distributed at the show. The booth will be located at the Fair Grounds in the Continental Labor Hall.

H & L SHOW

Tom Mulvihill also announced that a XERIC[®] Seminar will be held at 1:00 p.m. on March 27th at the Home & Leisure Show. Seminar highlights include Norm Schilling who will be giving a Hands-On How-To Seminar. The Seminar is free of charge and it is encouraged the attendees come early to peruse the District's booth before the seminar.

XERIC[®]
SEMINAR

BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

**BOARD
COMMENTS**

Director Corlett thanked the staff for the good job putting together the new billing invoice format. The invoice now includes difference in cost by tier, the Arsenic Compliance charge, and the Ready to Service charge. Director Corlett also was impressed with the quick turnaround time from the time of request until it was implemented.

With no further Board comments, President Brown recessed the meeting and adjourned to Closed Session at 8:02 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

**CLOSED
SESSION**

The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 8:10 p.m.

The meeting was recalled to Open Session at 9:30 p.m.

President Brown referred to Item 11 (D), Conference with Labor Negotiators the following Motion was made:

MOTION: was made by Director Cortichiato and seconded by Director Corlett, to increase the pay range of the Administrative Assistant to \$5,712.00/month effective March 8, 2010. No other increases to pay ranges were approved. The Motion was carried, unanimously. (Vote 5-0)

President Brown referred to Item 9 (D) (1), General Manager Compensation.

MOTION: was made by Director Cortichiato and seconded by Vice-President Manning, to amend a portion of the employment agreement of the General Manager by increasing the General Manager's annual vacation leave by five days effective January 1, 2010. The Motion was carried, unanimously. (Vote 5-0)

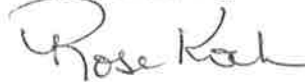
There was no other action taken which would require disclosure under the Brown Act.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned by President Brown at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rose Koch
Recording Secretary

APPROVED: April 12, 2010