

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

DECEMBER 12, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District was called to order by President Saint-Amand at 6:00 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 Stan Rajtora. **PLEDGE**

DIRECTORS PRESENT: President David C.H. Saint-Amand
Director Ronald R. Kicinski
Director Charles D. Griffin
Director Stan G. Rajtora
Vice President Mallory J. Boyd **ROLL CALL**

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Don Zdeba, General Manager
Jim Worth, Attorney
Ty Staheli, Chief Financial Officer
Jason Lillion, Operations Manager
Renée Morquecho, Chief Engineer
Lauren Smith, Recording Secretary

AGENDA DECLARATION
Recording Secretary, Lauren Smith, reported that the agenda for tonight's Regular Board Meeting was posted on Friday, December 9, 2022. **AGENDA DECLARATION**

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION
President Saint-Amand stated his opinions shared during this meeting are his own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of his employer, nor the Board. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS
The Board heard public comment from Mike Neel and Renee Westa-Lusk. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

COST OF SERVICE STUDY
Mark Hildebrand, of Hildebrand Consulting, provided a presentation on updates made to the District's Rate Study. Report included in Board packet. **COST OF SERVICE STUDY**

Board members asked questions for further clarification of the Rate Study.

The Board heard public comment from Judie Decker, Renee Westa-Lusk, and Mike Neel.

Director Rajtora requested several minor, clarifying changes be made throughout the report.

Director Griffin requested the Board collaborate with the City of Ridgecrest to potentially use the wastewater for special events instead of using potable water.

MOTION: was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Vice President Boyd to accept the Water Rate Study as presented with recommended clarifications as mentioned by the Board, and authorizing staff to do all things necessary to notice and arrange required publication for the February 27, 2023, Public Hearing on the Rate Study according to Proposition 218 and other applicable laws. Motion was carried. (Ayes: Boyd, Kicinski, Griffin, Saint-Amand. Nays: Rajtora. Absent: None)

President Saint-Amand recessed the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

President Saint-Amand recalled the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Vice President Boyd approving the Minutes of the November 14, 2022, Special Board Meeting, Payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$1,675,669.07, and Resolution No. 22-15: AB 361 Finding. Motion was carried, unanimously by the following roll call vote:

President Saint-Amand:	Aye
Director Kicinski:	Aye
Director Griffin:	Aye
Director Rajtora:	Aye
Vice President Boyd:	Aye

CHANGING OF BOARD MEETING TIMES

ADMIN/EXEC CM: CHANGE BM TIMES

At the November Special Board meeting, Director Griffin requested an agenda item to discuss the possibility of moving the Closed Session portion of the Board meetings to precede Open Session.

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Vice President Boyd approving Resolution No.22-16 with the revision that Closed Session begin at 4:30 p.m. preceding Open Session at 6:00 p.m. Motion was carried, unanimously by the following roll call vote:

President Saint-Amand:	Aye
Director Kicinski:	Aye
Director Griffin:	Aye
Director Rajtora:	Aye
Vice President Boyd:	Aye

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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President Saint-Amand opened nominations for Board President and Vice-President. Director Kicinski nominated Vice President Boyd for President for the 2023 calendar year.

With no other nomination for President, the nomination for the position of President was closed.

MOTION: was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Director Griffin, appointing Vice President Boyd as Board President for the 2023 calendar year. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Kicinski, Griffin, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Abstain: Boyd.)

President Saint-Amand opened nominations for Board Vice-President. Vice President Boyd nominated Director Kicinski for Vice-President for the 2023 calendar year.

MOTION: was made by Vice President Boyd and seconded by Director Griffin, appointing Director Kicinski as Vice-President for the 2023 calendar year. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Kicinski, Griffin, Saint-Amand. Nays: None.)

2023 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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President Saint-Amand asked the Directors to notify incoming President Boyd, Don Zdeba, and Lauren Smith of their Committee preferences no later than Friday, December 16th.

JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT REPRESENTATIVE

JPA REPS

President Saint-Amand opened nominations for primary and alternate representatives for the Joint Powers Agreement related to the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority for a two-year term.

Director Kicinski nominated Director Griffin as primary representative Joint Powers Agreement related to the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority for a two-year term.

MOTION: was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Director Rajtora, appointing Director Griffin as primary representative for the Joint Powers Agreement related to the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority for a two-year term. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Kicinski, Griffin, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None.)

Director Griffin nominated Director Kicinski as alternate representative Joint Powers Agreement related to the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority for a two-year term.

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Director Rajtora, appointing Director Kicinski as alternate representative for the Joint Powers Agreement related to the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority for a two-year term. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Kicinski, Griffin, Saint-Amand. Nays: None.)

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (IWVGA)

IWVGA

Director Rajtora commented on the November 9, 2022, Board meeting and upcoming December agenda of the IWVGA including:

- Next IWVGA Board Meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2022
- Imported Water Pipeline Alignment Study is still in progress. A brief was provided to the IWVGA Board by Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
- Recycled Water Study is essentially completed, and the draft report is due by the end of the year
- Upcoming discussion on budget amendments

- Board discussion on 2023 Board rotation
- Contract renewal for Regional Government Services (RGS) and Capitol Core Services (CCS)
- Request to increase auditors funding
- Water year 2022 Annual Report was released

Don Zdeba provided a recap on the December 6th Joint Special Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting. Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group provided a matrix regarding the Imported Water Pipeline Alignment and requested comments on the weighted scoring.

Jim Worth reported on recent actions regarding the Comprehensive Adjudication, including:

**COMPREHENSIVE
ADJUDICATION**

- Update on the Case Management Conference held on December 2, 2022
- Hearing was held on December 9th regarding the mailers sent to parcel owners in the valley and how to proceed with the returned envelopes, roughly 4,000 parcels. Commencing early January, the notice of the lawsuit will be republished, Providence Strategic Consulting will launch a digital campaign that targets roughly 55,000 people, and a mailer will be included in District customer's bills
- The next Case Management Conference is scheduled for March 17, 2023
- Waiver of the initial appearance fee has been continued until February 28, 2023
- The Judge has continued the stay on discovery, as well as initial disclosures

The Case Management Conference documents will be uploaded to the District website per Board and public request.

The Board heard public comment from Judie Decker and Renee Westa-Lusk.

GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE

**GENERAL
MANAGER AND
STAFF UPDATE
SAFETY,
PRODUCTION &
NEW SERVICES**

Don Zdeba updated the safety record to 600 consecutive days without a recordable injury.

Metered water production at the wells for the month of November was 126,941,000 gallons (389.6 acre-feet). The number the State Water and non-revenue water, which is water lost to leaks, flushing activities, blow-offs, etc. For the month of November, the number is 136,114,000 gallons (417.7 acre-feet). Since June there has been a requirement from the State Board to submit a preliminary report with consumption, population, and R-gpcd by the third business day of the month. The preliminary report, as well as the full report were submitted December 2nd. The full report is still required by the 28th of the month.

The conservation results for November show consumption down 26.7% compared to November 2013. The 20% conservation target established by the Board of Directors took effect June 2016. Through November the cumulative result is at 23.6%.

In response to Governor Newsom's request for a voluntary 15% reduction to address current drought conditions, SWRCB is also comparing current water consumption to the same month in 2020. Comparing November 2020 to November 2022, there is an 8.8% reduction in consumption.

Comparing the November conservation results in recent years, 2021 was 27.5% lower than the 2013 baseline year, 2020 was 16.5% lower, 2019 was 12.5% lower, and 2018 was 10.5% lower. The residential gallons for capita per day (R-gpcd) for the month of November was 112.6.

There was one new connection added during the month contributing \$5,086 in Capital Facility Fees. There have been six new connections during this current fiscal year which began on July 1st. The new connections have contributed \$27,062 in Capital Facility Fees.

Mr. Zdeba did attend the Community Collaborative at City Hall on December 6th. He shared information about the 30-inch transmission line failure on Inyokern Road, mentioned the Board would be considering recommendation for a new rate structure at the December 12th meeting, and shared that interest in the Junior Associate Board Member pilot program was disappointing resulting in the program being shelved. PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) once again awarded the IWWWD the Region 7 Outreach Recognition Award for 2022. Region 7 includes all of Tulare and Kern Counties. There are approximately 61 municipal, irrigation, and conservation district members in this region. This is the seventh time in the last ten years the District has received this award. The District previously received it in 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2021. The award was presented at the Fall ACWA Conference on December 1st. Vice President Boyd was present and accepted the award on behalf of the District.

Staff continues to work with Providence Strategic Consulting to promote WaterSmart. As of this morning, there are 1,555 active accounts accounting for 12.0% of customers. The percentage has not changed since last month's report. There were 618 customer alerts issued in November and 13,232 in the past twelve months.

The Board discussed and unanimously agreed to schedule the January 2023 Annual Board Workshop for January 24, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. The Board was asked to submit items they wish to have on the agenda to incoming President Boyd, Don Zdeba, and Lauren Smith for review no later than January 17, 2023. JANUARY 2023 ANNUAL BOARD WORKSHOP

All the equipment from the well was pulled and the well was brushed. Staff decided not to use the old, rebuilt pump from Well 34, instead keep it as a spare, as intended. The design has been sent to Layne. Staff expects a cost this week for the new pump and all the equipment that needs to be replaced. WELL 31 REHAB

Canyon Springs Enterprise (CSE) is currently working on the underground piping that runs across Jarvis Avenue. This week, CSE will begin working on the electrical. Work on the inlet/outlet piping on the College Tank is taking place, with chlorination scheduled for this week. A shutdown needs to occur to switch over to the new piping at Cerro Coso Community College, which will take place during the school's holiday closure on December 20th. A shutdown is also scheduled for December 28th at the Gateway Tank site to complete installation of a valve in the altitude vault, and inlet/outlet piping. BOOSTER STATIONS AND TANKS PROJECT

Ty Staheli reported that the estimated year-to-date revenues as of November 30, 2022, are \$7,061,420 and expenses are \$7,405,368. Expenditures exceeded revenues by \$343,948, which is less than budget. FINANCIAL STATUS

by \$136,260.

Mr. Staheli reviewed the report provided by ENGIE Services for July 2022 through November 2022 with the Board. For November, the actual savings was \$41,171.70 and the guaranteed savings \$36,739.56. The total saving this fiscal year is \$243,506.29. At the Well 35 site, the actual savings for November was \$1,259.64 and guaranteed was \$1,458.10. The total savings since the Well 35 site went online January of this year is \$22,534.18.

SOLAR
PRODUCTION

Mr. Staheli reported on the following conservation items:

CONSERVATION

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Water Waster Report - So far in 2022, there have been a total of 91 water waste reports received with 91 contacts made. There has been five formal Second Notices and zero penalties issued.

Jason Lillion reported that on Thursday December 1st a leak was discovered on Inyokern Rd. The leak did not present itself as a severe enough leak to be excavated that evening. On the morning of Friday December 2nd, the leak was excavated, and water was found to be spraying from a longitudinal crack that ran the entire length of the exposed pipe. The exterior cement was chipped away to inspect the underlying metal. Upon doing so the pipe itself fell apart. Shortly after this a hole measuring approximately 1' x 1.5' burst open. WEKA Inc., a pipeline construction contractor, was approached to excavate a 20' section of the pipeline for removal and replacement. The contractor arrived at 8:00 a.m., Saturday December 9th. The pipe was exposed approximately 15 feet on either side of the hole. The crack was observed to continue to run longitudinal to the pipe the entire length to the next joint on the East side of the hole. When the outside cement was removed at the proposed cutline the pipe was found to be completely corroded. The cement was then chipped away from the next section of pipe, and that pipe was found to be corroded as well. All efforts to replace a 20' section was terminated. The District now waits for a corrosion control specialist to measure the corrosion on all areas of the pipe, so that we can better understand the magnitude of damage and plan a repair. Staff is working with K&S to develop potential work arounds to allow the District to operate the A-zone wells currently rendered inoperable. The District is currently utilizing the Bowman and Springer PRV (pressure relief valves) to their fullest potential and staff is managing the system to their best ability.

INYOKERN RD
TRANSMISSION
MAIN

Plant 2 is currently offline but has been returned to a standby status due to the issues of the Inyokern Rd transmission line. The plants will not be able to run overnight due to temperature issues associated with the pneumatic valves. Prior to Pureflow's installation of the underdrains, Staff is attempting to install some of the laterals to save on costs, which may be needed to purchase media loss. Staff is working to reclaim as much as possible through screening efforts.

ARSENIC
TREATMENT

Mr. Lillion reported for the month of November, 11 services were repaired and 13 were replaced. The NO-DES truck made one run in November, filtering 3,600 gallons. Since inception, the NO-DES truck has filtered 8,597,835 gallons. 17 valves were exercised, 756 year-to-date.

OPERATIONS

BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

**BOARD
COMMENTS**

The Board collectively wished the public, staff & their families a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Director Griffin thanked Don Zdeba for his years of service as the General Manager and expressed gratitude to have worked with him.

Vice President thanked the staff for all their work.

President Saint-Amand commented it was an honor to serve as Board President for 2022 and thanked staff for all their hard work.

With no further Board or Public comments, President Saint-Amand recessed the meeting and adjourned to Closed Session at 9:54 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

**CLOSED
SESSION**

The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 10:00 p.m.

Closed Session was adjourned at 11:03 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 11:06 p.m.

No action was taken which would require disclosure under the Brown Act.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Smith
Recording Secretary

APPROVED: January 9, 2023