

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

April 8, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District was called to order by President Cortichiato 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 President Cortichiato. **PLEDGE**

DIRECTORS PRESENT: President Donald J. Cortichiato
Vice-President Charles F. Cordell
Director Ronald R. Kicinski
Director Stan G. Rajtora
Director David C.H. Saint-Amand **ROLL CALL**

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Jim Worth, Attorney;
Don Zdeba, General Manager;
Renee Morquecho, Chief Engineer;
Ty Staheli, Chief Financial Officer;
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, April 5, 2019.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

**CONFLICT OF
INTEREST**

None.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

**PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

**CONSENT
CALENDAR**

MOTION: was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Director Saint-Amand to approve the Minutes of the March 11, 2019 Regular Board Meeting and to approve payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$548,956.17. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Cordell, Cortichiato, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None.)

President Cortichiato thanked all the employees involved with the Home & Leisure Show.

ADMINISTRATION/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ADMIN/EXEC

Director Kicinski reported that the committee recommended supporting and voting for Brent Hastey, Fred R. Bockmiller, and John Bruce Rupp to ACWA-JPIA Executive Committee and to authorize President Cortichiato to vote on behalf of the Board of Directors at the May 7th, 2019 Spring Conference.

ACWAJPIA EXEC
COMMITTEE

MOTION: was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Vice-President Cordell to vote for Brent Hastey, Fred R. Bockmiller, and John Bruce Rupp to the ACWA-JPIA Executive Committee and authorizing President Cortichiato to vote on behalf of the Board of Directors at the ACWAJPIA Spring Conference. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Cordell, Cortichiato, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None.)

GENERAL MANAGER COMPENSATION

**GM
COMPENSATION**

This item was deferred until after Closed Session.

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (IWVGA)

IWVGA

Director Kicinski reported on items at the April 4th Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) Meetings:

PAC

- ✓ Timing of things. Groundwater Sustainability Plan scheduled to be completed by January.
- ✓ Presented three options for an IWVGA Logo.
- ✓ Shallow well mitigation correspondence.

TAC

- ✓ Discussion on modeling. Decisions need to be made as to what the last two model runs will be. This will depend on the allocations.
- ✓ Presentation on the two model runs that have been made and discussion on the impact of wells.

Director Kicinski reported that the draft IWVGA agenda was included in the Board Packet. Items on the agenda include monthly financials, expenditures, General Manager position, and approval for the Indian Wells Valley Water District to maintain local financial responsibilities for the IWVGA beyond 2019. Director Kicinski thanked Chief Financial Officer Ty Staheli for all the work put in to the financials for the IWVGA.

Director Rajtora reported that at the last IWVGA meeting it was noted that they're behind schedule. It was reiterated more forcefully at the PAC meeting. Director Rajtora made the following suggestions:

- ✓ More IWVGA discussion regarding where they are and what are they going to do.
- ✓ It was proposed that the General Manager be hired next year. Director Rajtora suggested the District advise the IWVGA to hire the General Manager by October for a transition period before the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) is approved in January.

- ✓ The topic of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) releasing water has been brought up at several TAC, PAC, and IWVGA meetings. Although ignored by those at the IWVGA meeting, it was taken well at the TAC, who had information. The IWVGA needs to discuss what to do to capture the released water and how will it be monitored.

Director Kicinski commented that Kern County developed a catch basin years back when such an event happened. The amount of water released came from LADWP.

Public Sophia (Sam) Merk commented that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Manager has approved LADWP to release water. Pat Farris commented on water importation. Ms. Farris suggested locating water in faults.

**GENERAL
MANAGER AND
STAFF UPDATE**

GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE

Don Zdeba updated the safety record to 1,546 consecutive days without a recordable injury.

**SAFETY,
PRODUCTION &
NEW SERVICES**

Metered water production at the wells for the month of March was 106,626,000 gallons (327.2 acre-feet). The number the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is using for comparison is metered water through the distribution system, or consumption, and non-revenue water which is water lost to leaks, flushing activities, blow-offs, etc. For the month of March, the number is 82,830,000 gallons (254.2 acre-feet). The conservation results for March were reported to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) on April 3rd. Consumption was down 25.2% compared to March 2013. The 20% conservation target established by the Board of Directors took effect last June 1st. Since that time, the cumulative result is 19.9%.

For the month of March, the District's reported R-gpcd was 68.3. This is 20.6% lower than March 2018, 7.4% lower than March 2017, 26.5% lower than 2016, and 42.6% lower than 2015.

There were seven new connections during the month of March resulting in \$33,803 in capital facility fees. There have been 42 new connections during this fiscal year that began July 1st. The new connections have contributed \$192,052.05 in additional revenue.

Don Zdeba reported that he attended the Community Collaborative meeting at City Hall April 2nd. The following items were reported:

**PUBLIC
OUTREACH**

- ✓ Update on the April TAC and PAC meetings being held in City Council Chambers.
- ✓ Presentation (Stanford Groundwater Architecture Project) of the Hydrological Conceptual Model on March 20th.
- ✓ Signing of the agreement with the Capitol Core Group to identify and provide the cost for acquiring a source of water to import.
- ✓ District's summer watering schedule becoming effective April 1st per Ordinance No. 103.
- ✓ IWVGA postcards providing basic information about Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), when and where meetings are

held, and contact information have been mailed out to customers within the Indian Wells Valley, including San Bernardino County. Residents of Trona will receive this information in their May 1st billing.

The District had a booth at the 2019 Home & Leisure Show at the Fairgrounds on March 23rd and 24th. The theme coincided with "Fix a Leak Week." There was a very good turnout on Saturday. Items distributed were low-flow shower heads, hose nozzles, home audit kits, moisture meters, etc.

Don Zdeba specifically thanked all the employees involved with the Home & Leisure Show: Lauren Duffy, Rose Koch, Gabe Smith, Joe Rivera, John Svika, Rob Cunningham, and John Pearl.

BOARD
WORKSHOP
UPDATE

The following update was given on items assigned at the March 23rd, 2019 Special Board Workshop:

Update 1997 General Plan: Update the 1997 General Plan (Plan), which will include distribution line expansion for disadvantaged communities, water haulers, and shallow wells. Plan will identify the areas, pros and cons, prioritize the areas, cost of line expansion to each area, and funding sources. Jim Worth will define Disadvantaged Communities (DAC).

Update: Staff is awaiting Krieger & Stewart to provide a proposal to update the 1997 General Plan. Could be as soon as next week. The general plan will be done next fiscal year. Jim Worth will provide definitions for disadvantaged communities and economically distressed areas which will be included in the new general plan.

Conservation: Director Kicinski, as District Representative for the IWVGA, will report to the IWVGA under General Conservation the idea of converting evaporative coolers to air conditioning units. Director Cordell will contact Ferguson, as well as other vendors, to give the Board of Directors a presentation.

Update: Director Cordell will contact Ferguson to schedule a public presentation on converting to air conditioning from evaporative coolers for the June 10th Regular Board Meeting.

WSIP

Renee Morquecho reported that with regards to Well 35, staff has completed the hydraulic calculations needed to size the pump and the electrical gear, which is now under review by Krieger & Stewart. Staff expects to bid out the Well 35 project by May 1st. Other items may be bid separately such as the Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) station at the Bowman tanks and the electric control valves for Wells 18 and 33.

FINANCIAL
STATUS

Ty Staheli reported that through March Fiscal Year 2019, budget for revenues is \$8,340,300 and \$8,143,548 has been received. For expenditures there is a budget of \$8,938,566 and \$9,101,712 has been spent. This is overall negative by approximately \$359,898.

SOLAR
PRODUCTION

Ty Staheli reviewed the report provided by ENGIE Services for July to February 2019 with the Board of Directors. The guaranteed savings during that time was \$302,446.71 and actual savings was \$316,883.34.

More than 4,000 Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI) registers have been installed. WaterSmart system should be live in-house on Wednesday, April 10th. The IWater Agreement has been signed for the software that will allow staff to automate the register switch out within our financial system. The tablet has been received. AMI PROJECT

Ty Staheli reported on the following conservation items: CONSERVATION

- ✓ State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Water Waster Report - For March, there were three water waste reports received. Three contacts were made. There were no formal Second Notice and no Third Notices with penalties.
- ✓ Cash for Grass - One hundred and forty-five (145) yards have been completed resulting in removal of 173,933.5 square feet of turf (\$173,933.50). There are 20 yards (47,308 square feet) in the process of being converted. There are eight yards (\$24,000) that are pre-approved and are awaiting notice for pre-inspection. There are two pending applications. There is approximately \$126,759 Cash for Grass funds available from the revised \$382,000 budget. Approximately 29.9 acre-feet of water per year will be saved from yards that have been converted.

Photos were shown of the new bulk station. The box was installed on March 28th. The rates are scheduled to take effect May 1st. A pamphlet will be distributed to bulk haulers on how to operate the station. A hands-on soft opening is being considered. The District will provide the initial 12-1/2' hose and fitting. The bulk hauler will be responsible for purchasing subsequent hoses and fittings which are available locally. Their account will need to be front loaded. BULK STATION

Don Zdeba reported that for the month of March, seven services were repaired and 23 were replaced. The NO-DES truck made 12 runs and filtered 55,650 gallons. Year-to-date, the NO-DES truck has filtered 5,020,375 gallons. No valves were turned. OPERATIONS

BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

BOARD COMMENTS

Director Kicinski commended staff for their effort for working the Home & Leisure Show. Director Kicinski also thanked the Finance Department for GSA financials.

Vice-President Cordell concurred with Pat Farris in regards to doing more research rather than looking for imported water.

With no further Board or public comments, President Cortichiato recessed the meeting and adjourned to Closed Session at 7:14 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

CLOSED SESSION

The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 7:23 p.m.

The meeting was recalled to Open Session at 8:58 p.m.

MOTION: was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Director Saint-Amand to amend a portion of the Employment Contract of the General Manager by increasing the General Manager's annual salary by 10%, retroactive April 1, 2019. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Cordell, Cortichiato, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None.)

There was no further action taken that would require disclosure under the Brown Act.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Koch
Recording Secretary

APPROVED: _____